
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE A
STATEWIDE SUICIDE EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION
PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, more children and young adults die from suicide
2 each year than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects,
3 stroke, and chronic lung disease combined; and
4

5 WHEREAS, nationally, over four thousand youths take their
6 lives annually, making suicide the third largest cause of death
7 among those who are between ten and twenty-four years of age;
8 and
9

10 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, suicide is the second leading cause of
11 death among those who are fifteen to twenty-four years of age;
12 and
13

14 WHEREAS, the rates of youth suicide have been on the rise
15 in the last decade among both females and males and among all
16 ethnic groups; and
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18 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, males are more likely than females to
19 commit suicide, and native Hawaiian youths are the most likely
20 ethnic group to attempt or commit suicide; and
21

22 WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that youth suicide is
23 linked to underlying mental health problems; and
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25 WHEREAS, early intervention and prevention strategies have
26 been listed as a national health priority to deal with the
27 rising rates of youth suicide; and
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29 WHEREAS, Congress passed legislation in 2004 and
30 appropriated \$82,000,000 over the next three years for statewide
31 programs designed to help prevent youth suicide, and many states



1 have already developed comprehensive statewide youth suicide and
2 early intervention and prevention strategies to provide
3 effective early intervention and prevention services; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives finds and declares
6 that suicide is a serious public health tragedy affecting not
7 only children and young adults, but all adults in Hawaii, and
8 preserving and protecting the lives of all people is a priority
9 for the State; now, therefore,
10

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
13 of 2006, that the Department of Health is requested to establish
14 and operate a statewide suicide early intervention and
15 prevention program for people of all ages; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program shall operate to:
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- 19 (1) Create public awareness of issues relating to suicide
20 prevention;
- 21
- 22 (2) Build community networks concerning suicide
23 prevention; and
24
- 25 (3) Carry out training programs for suicide prevention for
26 law enforcement personnel, providers of health care,
27 Department of Education, and University of Hawaii
28 employees, and other persons who have contact with
29 individuals at risk of suicide; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
32 requested to provide appropriate research, training, and
33 technical assistance for the program, including:
34

- 35 (1) Providing oversight on suicide early intervention and
36 prevention strategies;
37
- 38 (2) Identifying and understanding causes and associated
39 risk factors of suicide;
40



- 1 (3) Analyzing the efficacy of new and existing suicide
- 2 early intervention techniques and technologies;
- 3
- 4 (4) Examining trends in suicidal behaviors and nonfatal
- 5 suicidal attempts;
- 6
- 7 (5) Evaluating and disseminating outcomes and best
- 8 practices of mental and behavioral health services at
- 9 institutions of higher education; and
- 10
- 11 (6) Other activities deemed appropriate by the Director of
- 12 Health; and
- 13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 15 requested to provide research, training, and technical
 16 assistance to achieve the purposes of the program, to the
 17 following entities:

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- 19 (1) The counties;
- 20
- 21 (2) Native Hawaiian health and community organizations;
- 22
- 23 (3) Institutions of higher education;
- 24
- 25 (4) The Department of Education;
- 26
- 27 (5) Public organizations;
- 28
- 29 (6) Private nonprofit organizations; and
- 30
- 31 (7) Health and social service organizations; and
- 32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 34 requested to develop and submit proposals for funding from
 35 federal agencies and private organizations to support the
 36 operations of the program; and

37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 39 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, the



1 Superintendent of Education, the President of the University of
2 Hawaii, and the Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
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5

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