

JAN 19 2007

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that suicide is a serious  
2 public health tragedy affecting many people in Hawaii. More  
3 children and young adults die from suicide each year than from  
4 cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, and chronic  
5 lung disease combined. Nationally, over four thousand youths  
6 take their lives annually, making suicide the seventh leading  
7 cause of death across the country and the second leading cause  
8 of death among persons fifteen to twenty-four years old.

9           In Hawaii, suicide is the number one cause of injury  
10 related death, surpassing death rates from motor vehicle  
11 accidents, which average one death every three days. In  
12 addition, one thousand four hundred attempted suicides are  
13 serious enough that medical treatment is required.

14           Rates of youth suicide have been on the rise in the last  
15 decade among both females and males, and among all ethnic  
16 groups. In Hawaii, males are more likely than females to commit  
17 suicide. Among all of the ethnic groups, native Hawaiian youths



1 are more likely to attempt or commit suicide. According to the  
2 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Hawaii youth reported the highest  
3 rates of suicidal ideation in the nation on three to five  
4 questions pertaining to suicide and depression on the survey.

5 Research demonstrates that youth suicide is linked to  
6 underlying mental health problems that can be addressed through  
7 early intervention and prevention strategies. Intervention and  
8 prevention strategies have been listed as a national health  
9 priority to deal with rising rates of youth suicide. In  
10 addition, Congress passed federal legislation in 2004, and  
11 appropriated \$82,000,000 over the three years, for statewide  
12 programs designed to help prevent youth suicide. Many states  
13 have already developed comprehensive statewide youth suicide and  
14 early intervention and prevention strategies that seek to  
15 provide effective early intervention and prevention services.

16 The purpose of this Act is to preserve and protect the  
17 lives of our children and young adults by establishing a youth  
18 suicide early intervention and prevention program for Hawaii.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
21 and to read as follows:



1           "§321- Youth suicide early intervention and prevention  
2 program. (a) There is established within the department of  
3 health a statewide youth suicide early intervention and  
4 prevention program with a primary focus on persons between the  
5 ages of ten and twenty-four. The program shall be administered  
6 by the department to:

7           (1) Create public awareness of issues relating to youth  
8           suicide prevention;

9           (2) Build community networks concerning youth suicide  
10           prevention; and

11           (3) Carry out training programs on suicide prevention for  
12           law enforcement personnel, providers of health care,  
13           school and University of Hawaii employees, and other  
14           persons who have contact with individuals at risk of  
15           suicide.

16           (b) The department shall provide appropriate research,  
17 training, and technical assistance for the following:

18           (1) Providing oversight on youth suicide early  
19           intervention and prevention strategies;

20           (2) Identifying and understanding causes and associated  
21           risk factors of youth suicide;

- 1        (3) Analyzing the efficacy of new and existing youth  
2        suicide early intervention techniques and  
3        technologies;
- 4        (4) Examining trends in youth suicidal behaviors and  
5        nonfatal suicidal attempts;
- 6        (5) Evaluating and disseminating outcomes and best  
7        practices of mental and behavioral health services at  
8        institutions of higher education; and
- 9        (6) Other activities deemed appropriate by the director of  
10       health.
- 11       (c) Research, training, and technical assistance resources  
12 shall be provided to the following:
- 13       (1) Political subdivisions of the State;  
14       (2) Native Hawaiian health and community organizations;  
15       (3) Institutions of higher education;  
16       (4) The department of education;  
17       (5) Public organizations;  
18       (6) Private nonprofit organizations; and  
19       (7) Health and social service organizations;
- 20 provided that specialized training shall be specifically  
21 provided to the department of education personnel who confront



1 the challenge of early identification of students at risk of  
2 suicide or who have daily contact with students.

3 (d) The department of health shall develop and submit  
4 proposals for funding from federal agencies and private  
5 organizations to support the purposes of this section.

6 (e) The department of health shall adopt rules in  
7 accordance with chapter 91 to implement the purposes of this  
8 section."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and  
12 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
13 year 2008-2009, for the establishment and administration of a  
14 suicide prevention program.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
16 of health for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
19 except that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY: Arvid Ylke



**Report Title:**

Suicide Prevention Program; Youth; Early Intervention

**Description:**

Establishes a youth suicide early intervention and prevention program. Makes appropriations.

