
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DRUG ABUSE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that drug overdose deaths
2 have skyrocketed among teens and young adults in the United
3 States, with rates tripling or quadrupling in one out of every
4 three states during the past decade, according to a November
5 2015 report by the Trust for America's Health. The report,
6 entitled "Reducing Teen Substance Misuse: What Really Works",
7 noted that the death rate for drug overdoses more than doubled
8 in eighteen states, including Hawaii, and that many young people
9 who are addicted to prescription drugs switch to heroin because
10 it is often cheaper and easier to access. The report also
11 stated that prescription painkillers were responsible for more
12 than half of the nation's drug overdose deaths in 2013,
13 accounting for 22,700 fatalities, and that young adults ages
14 nineteen to twenty-five are particularly at risk for a fatal
15 overdose. The legislature finds that these statistics point to
16 the need for an increased focus on early drug intervention to
17 prevent illegal drug use and addiction among young people.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
2 heroin and opioid abuse task force.

3 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a heroin and opioid
4 abuse task force to examine the increasing threat of heroin and
5 opioid abuse in Hawaii and potential responses to that threat.

6 (b) The task force shall be composed of the following:

7 (1) The attorney general, or the attorney general's
8 designee;

9 (2) The director of health, or the director's designee;

10 (3) The prosecuting attorney of the city and county of
11 Honolulu, or the prosecuting attorney's designee;

12 (4) A police chief chosen by the state Law Enforcement
13 Coalition, or the police chief's designee;

14 (5) A member of the senate to be selected by the senate
15 president; and

16 (6) A member of the house or representatives to be
17 selected by the house speaker.

18 (c) Representatives from the following organizations shall
19 also be invited to serve on the task force:

20 (1) The Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii; and

21 (2) The Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii.



1 (d) The members of the task force shall elect a
2 chairperson from among themselves.

3 (e) The duties of the task force shall be to review, in
4 consultation with relevant experts as necessary, and make
5 recommendations relating to:

6 (1) Amending statutes, including those pertaining to
7 penalties, relating to the distribution of heroin;

8 (2) Amending statutes, including those pertaining to
9 penalties, relating to the distribution of fentanyl;

10 (3) Requiring insurance companies to use uniform
11 evaluation criteria for substance abuse treatment and
12 removing prior authorization requirements;

13 (4) Mandating greater use of the State's prescription drug
14 monitoring program and upgrading its technology; and

15 (5) Continuing medical education relating to prescribing
16 schedule II, III, and IV drugs, as defined in chapter
17 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

18 (f) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
19 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
20 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
21 the regular session of 2017.



1 (g) The task force shall cease to exist upon adjournment
2 of the regular session of 2017.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

4

INTRODUCED BY: Cindy Evans

JAN 13 2016



H.B. NO. 1540

Report Title:

Heroin and Opioids; Abuse; Prevention; Task Force; Established

Description:

Establishes the Heroin and Opioid Abuse Task Force to develop recommendations for the prevention of and response to abuse of heroin and opioids. Requires a report.

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