
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 the Prevent Suicide
2 Hawaii Task Force is a partnership of state, public, and private
3 agencies and community groups working in collaboration to
4 provide leadership, develop strategies, coordinate activities,
5 and monitor progress of suicide prevention efforts the State.
6 The task force includes the department of health's injury
7 prevention and control section in planning and implementing
8 these activities.

9 Similar island task forces coordinate culturally
10 appropriate activities for west Hawaii island, east Hawaii
11 island, and the counties of Maui and Kauai. The statewide task
12 force and the island task forces provide leadership for suicide
13 prevention activities statewide, including for National Suicide
14 Prevention Week and for suicide prevention conferences. Other
15 task force activities include the statewide Prevent Suicide
16 Hawaii Listserv that provides information to two hundred members



1 on a regular basis and the bi-monthly meeting of the task force
2 to address suicide prevention issues statewide.

3 The legislature also finds, that from 2010 to 2014, Hawaii
4 county had nine hundred fifty-two nonfatal suicide attempts and
5 one hundred eighty deaths due to suicide. That means that 96.1
6 people per 100,000 on the island of Hawaii attempt and die from
7 suicide, well above the next highest rate in the State of 76.6
8 people per 100,000 on Kauai. Maui's rate was 76, and Honolulu's
9 was 53.1. The state average is 62.6 suicide deaths per 100,000
10 people.

11 The causes of the disparity between Hawaii island and the
12 rest of the state are difficult to determine. But, as is the
13 case with many other health-related issues, socioeconomic
14 factors, the shortage of mental health-care providers on the
15 island, and the large geographic distances clients must travel
16 to seek care all play a role.

17 But recent efforts to train members of the community have
18 provided another avenue for people in crisis to find help, and
19 members of the East Hawaii Suicide Prevention Task Force have
20 partnered with other agencies to provide a number of different
21 training programs aimed at youth, adults, and emergency



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1 responders. Those training sessions have prepared approximately
2 eight hundred Hawaii island residents to reach out to people who
3 are considering suicide and get them the help they need.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
5 department of health, on behalf of the Prevent Suicide Hawaii
6 Task Force, to provide to the legislature information related to
7 the task force's expenses and communications and to evaluate and
8 recommend potential legislative action to improve and expand
9 suicide prevention training for professionals.

10 SECTION 2. The department of health shall evaluate the
11 following issues and provide a report to the legislature no
12 later than December 1, 2017:

13 (1) The total costs associated with planning and
14 implementing the duties and activities of the Prevent
15 Suicide Hawaii Task Force for fiscal year 2014-2015
16 and for the months of July, August, and September of
17 2015;

18 (2) Information developed and distributed on the Prevent
19 Suicide Hawaii Listserv, including the groups targeted
20 and the costs to manage and update the listserv; and



1 (3) The effectiveness of the statewide suicide crisis
2 hotline and the potential alternative of establishing
3 individual county hotlines.

4 SECTION 3. The department of health shall evaluate
5 potential action to improve and expand training in suicide
6 assessment, treatment, and management for professionals,
7 including a process to approve empirically supported training,
8 shall prepare cost and revenue estimates for providing a
9 training program that includes online training, and shall submit
10 a report to the legislature, including any proposed legislation,
11 no later than November 1, 2016.

12 The report shall identify potential federal and state
13 funding amounts and sources, and elements and costs that could
14 be funded through existing funded programs and new resources.

15 In preparing the report, the department may consult with:

16 (1) A chemical dependency professional certified pursuant
17 to section 321-193(10), Hawaii Revised Statutes;

18 (2) A marriage and family therapist licensed pursuant to
19 section 451J-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

20 (3) A mental health counselor licensed pursuant to section
21 453D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes;



- 1 (4) An occupational therapy counselor licensed pursuant to
2 section 457G-1.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 3 (5) A psychologist licensed pursuant to section 465-2,
4 Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 5 (6) A social worker or clinical social worker licensed
6 pursuant to section 467E-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 7 (7) A registered social worker associate--advanced or
8 social worker associate--independent clinical;
- 9 (8) A chiropractor licensed pursuant to section 442-2,
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 11 (9) A naturopath licensed pursuant to section 455-2,
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 13 (10) A practical nurse, registered nurse, or advanced
14 registered nurse practitioner licensed pursuant to
15 chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 16 (11) An osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed pursuant
17 to section 453-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 18 (12) An osteopathic physician assistant licensed pursuant
19 to section 453-5.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes;



1 (13) A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant
2 licensed pursuant to section 461J-6, Hawaii Revised
3 Statutes;

4 (14) A physician licensed pursuant to section 461J-7.5,
5 Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

6 (15) A physician assistant licensed pursuant to section
7 453-5.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

8 The department shall also consult with public and private
9 institutions and professional associations that are considered
10 experts in suicide assessment, including screening and referral,
11 suicide treatment, and suicide management.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Suicide Prevention; Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force; Report

Description:

Requires DOH to examine activities of the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force and evaluate the potential to establish a training program for professionals. Requires reports to the Legislature.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

