
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE
SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, suicide is the third leading cause of death among
2 young people ages ten to nineteen; and
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4 WHEREAS, protecting the health and well-being of students
5 is in line with school mandates and an ethical imperative for
6 all professionals working with youth; and
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8 WHEREAS, predicting a crisis is impossible and every school
9 needs to be prepared; and
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11 WHEREAS, in a typical high school, an estimated three
12 students will attempt suicide each year; and
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14 WHEREAS, on average one young person dies by suicide every
15 two hours in the United States; and
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17 WHEREAS, for every young person who dies by suicide, an
18 estimated one hundred to two hundred youth make suicide
19 attempts; and
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21 WHEREAS, access to school-based mental health services and
22 supports directly improves students' physical and psychological
23 safety, academic performance, cognitive performance and
24 learning, and social-emotional development; and
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26 WHEREAS, ninety per cent of suicides occur in people with
27 mental disorders and the majority of people suffering from these
28 mental disorders are not engaged in treatment; and
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30 WHEREAS, school staff play a pivotal role in recognizing
31 and referring the student to treatment that may reduce risk; and



H.C.R. NO. 148

1
 2 WHEREAS, an urgent need exists for school districts to have
 3 policies and procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of,
 4 intervene in, and respond to youth suicidal behavior; now,
 5 therefore,

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 7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 8 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 9 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Superintendent
 10 of Education is requested to provide all staff with annual
 11 professional development on risk factors, warning signs,
 12 protective factors, response procedures, referrals, postvention,
 13 and resources regarding youth suicide prevention; and

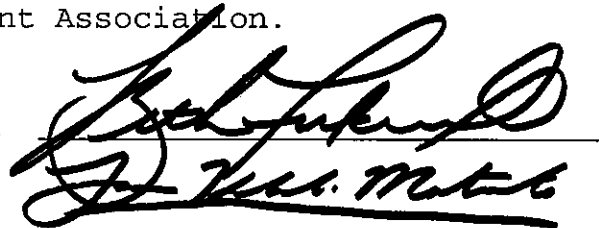
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 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy is requested to be
 16 distributed annually and included in all student and teacher
 17 handbooks and on the school website; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that developmentally-appropriate,
 20 student-centered education materials are requested to be
 21 integrated into the curriculum of all K-12 health classes; and

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 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the content of these age-
 24 appropriate materials is requested to include: (1) the
 25 importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies;
 26 (2) how to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental
 27 disorders and suicide in oneself and others; and (3) help-
 28 seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to
 29 engage school resources and refer friends for help; and

30
 31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
 33 Education, the Director of Health, the President of the Hawaii
 34 Association of School Psychologists, and the President of the
 35 Hawaii State Parent Teacher Student Association.

OFFERED BY:



MAR 11 2016

