
HOUSE 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
32



H.R. NO. 99

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

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

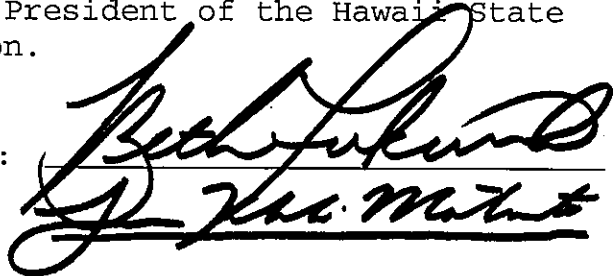
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 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy is requested to be
 15 distributed annually and included in all student and teacher
 16 handbooks and on the school website; and

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

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

29
 30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 31 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,
 32 the Director of Health, the President of the Hawaii Association
 33 of School Psychologists, and the President of the Hawaii State
 34 Parent Teacher Student Association.

OFFERED BY:



MAR 11 2016

