
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that suicide is a major
2 health concern that claims approximately one million lives
3 worldwide each year. In Hawaii, suicide was the most common
4 cause of fatal injuries among Hawaii residents between 2010-
5 2014, accounting for one-quarter of all fatal injuries. One
6 person dies by suicide in Hawaii every two days. The
7 legislature is concerned with the health, safety, and welfare of
8 all the people of Hawaii, including military personnel,
9 veterans, and visitors.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish a suicide
11 prevention task force to reduce suicides in Hawaii by twenty
12 five per cent by year 2025.

13 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a suicide prevention
14 task force, to be placed within the department of health for
15 administrative purposes. The suicide prevention task force
16 shall examine, evaluate, and determine methods to improve



1 education, awareness, support services, and outreach to best
2 prevent suicides in Hawaii.

3 (b) The suicide prevention task force shall consist of the
4 following members who shall serve until January 1, 2018:

5 (1) The suicide prevention coordinator for the department
6 of health;

7 (2) One member to be appointed by the governor;

8 (3) Two members who are survivors of suicide, to be
9 appointed by the governor;

10 (4) One member to be appointed by the president of the
11 senate;

12 (5) One member from the Hawaii Youth Leadership Council
13 for Suicide Prevention, to be appointed by the
14 president of the senate;

15 (6) One member to be appointed by the speaker of the house
16 of representatives;

17 (7) One member from the Hawaii Youth Leadership Council
18 for Suicide Prevention, to be appointed by the speaker
19 of the house of representatives;

20 (8) One member from the department of health's injury
21 prevention and control section and who is a member of



1 the prevent suicide Hawaii task force, to be appointed
2 by the director of health;

3 (9) One member to be appointed by the dean of the
4 University of Hawaii, John A. Burns school of
5 medicine, from its department of psychiatry;

6 (10) One member to be appointed by the substance abuse and
7 mental health services administration of the United
8 States Department of Health and Human Services;

9 (11) The suicide prevention program manager for the United
10 States Reserves in Hawaii;

11 (12) The president of the American Foundation for Suicide
12 Prevention Hawaii Chapter;

13 (13) The board chair of the American Foundation for Suicide
14 Prevention Hawaii Chapter;

15 (14) The community liaison of the American Foundation for
16 Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter; and

17 (15) One member to be appointed by the director or
18 president of Mental Health America Hawaii.

19 All appointees shall have expertise in fields or
20 disciplines related to suicide prevention and education or
21 awareness of suicide prevention.



1 Any vacancies in the task force shall be filled in the
2 manner provided for the original appointments.

3 (c) Upon the initial meeting of the task force, to occur
4 no later than thirty days after the passage of this Act, its
5 members shall elect a chair and vice chair and any other
6 necessary officers from among the appointed members. A majority
7 of the task force shall constitute a quorum to do business.

8 (d) The task force shall meet no less than quarterly. The
9 task force may hold additional public meetings as it deems
10 necessary. The chair, at the request of a majority of members,
11 may request special meetings.

12 (e) Members of the suicide prevention task force shall
13 receive no compensation for their services.

14 (f) The suicide prevention task force shall submit a
15 report of its recommendations to the legislature, which shall
16 include a strategic plan to reduce suicide in Hawaii by twenty-
17 five per cent by year 2025, using the calendar year 2016 as the
18 basis year, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
19 the regular session of 2018.

20 (g) The suicide prevention task force shall terminate on
21 January 1, 2018.



1 SECTION 3. It is not the intent of the legislature for
 2 this Act to jeopardize the receipt of any federal aid. If this
 3 Act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that
 4 are a prescribed condition for the allocation of federal funds
 5 to the State, this Act shall be deemed void.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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INTRODUCED BY: Steve A. Beotti

Carl St. Murphy

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Steve P. [Signature]

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Richard [Signature]

Jacob [Signature]

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H.B. NO. 559

Report Title:

Suicide Prevention Task Force

Description:

Establishes a suicide prevention task force to develop a strategic plan to reduce suicide in Hawaii by 25% by 2025.

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

