
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. According to the World Health Organization,
3 suicide claims approximately one million lives worldwide each
4 year. The prevent suicide Hawaii taskforce stated in a report
5 to the 2018 Hawaii legislature that suicide was the most common
6 cause of fatal injuries among Hawaii residents between 2012-
7 2016, accounting for one-quarter of all fatal injuries; one
8 person dies by suicide in Hawaii every two days. Furthermore,
9 Hawaii's inmate suicide rate is the seventh highest in the
10 nation, according to the federal Bureau of Justice. The
11 legislature is concerned with the health, safety, and welfare of
12 all of the people of Hawaii, including inmates, military
13 personnel, veterans, and visitors. The legislature finds that
14 suicide prevention issues must be addressed within Hawaii's
15 correctional system.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a suicide
17 prevention commission to examine, evaluate, and determine



1 methods to improve education, awareness, support services, and
2 inmate outreach to best prevent suicides in Hawaii's
3 correctional facilities.

4 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a suicide prevention
5 commission to be placed within the department of health for
6 administrative purposes. The suicide prevention commission
7 shall examine, evaluate, and determine methods to improve
8 education, awareness, support services, and inmate outreach to
9 best prevent suicides in Hawaii's correctional facilities.

10 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members,
11 who shall serve until January 1, 2025:

12 (1) The director of health or the director's designee, who
13 shall serve as a co-chair of the commission;

14 (2) The director of public safety or the director's
15 designee, who shall serve as a co-chair of the
16 commission;

17 (3) One member to be appointed by the governor;

18 (4) Two members who are former inmates and have attempted
19 suicide, to be appointed by the governor;

20 (5) One member of the senate to be appointed by the
21 president of the senate;



- 1 (6) One member of the house of representatives to be
2 appointed by the speaker of the house of
3 representatives;
- 4 (7) One member from the department of health's injury
5 prevention and control section who is also a member of
6 the prevent suicide Hawaii task force, to be appointed
7 by the director of health;
- 8 (8) One member to be appointed by the dean of the
9 University of Hawaii, John A. Burns school of medicine
10 from its department of psychiatry;
- 11 (9) One member to be appointed by the Substance Abuse and
12 Mental Health Services Administration of the United
13 States Department of Health and Human Services;
- 14 (10) The president of the American Foundation for Suicide
15 Prevention, Hawaii Chapter;
- 16 (11) The chair of the board of the American Foundation for
17 Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter;
- 18 (12) The community liaison of the American Foundation for
19 Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter; and
- 20 (13) One member to be appointed by the director or
21 president of Mental Health America of Hawaii.



1 All appointees shall have expertise related to suicide
2 prevention and education or awareness of suicide prevention.

3 Any vacant position on the commission shall be filled in
4 the manner provided for the position's original appointment.

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

11 (d) The commission shall meet no less than quarterly. The
12 commission may hold additional public meetings as it deems
13 necessary. The co-chairs, at the request of a majority of
14 members, may request special meetings.

15 (e) Members of the commission shall receive no
16 compensation for their services.

17 (f) The commission shall submit a report to the
18 legislature of its findings and recommendations, which shall
19 include a strategic plan to reduce the number of suicides in
20 Hawaii's correctional facilities, no later than twenty days
21 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2020.



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1 (g) The commission shall terminate on January 1, 2025.

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

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,
8 and shall repealed on January 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Tom Scaler
Fong H. Kukh
Lyn DeLozier
Iss
S. Q. Gil
Tim Wilkerson
Colin K. By
Blakesland
Alla A. Seletti

John M. Pappas
Tom B...
...
...
Rick Cabonilla
...
...
...
...
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Alan
Ma. Ald
Amy Remso
Bird Kohari
Rebel
Alan

JAN 24 2019



H.B. NO. 1416

Report Title:

Suicide Prevention Commission; Department of Health

Description:

Establishes a Suicide Prevention Commission to develop a strategic plan to reduce suicides within Hawaii's correctional system.

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