

MAR 06 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PREVENT SUICIDE HAWAII TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND A
STRATEGIC PLAN TO REDUCE YOUTH SUICIDES IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that suicide is a major
2 health concern that claimed more than forty-eight thousand
3 American lives in 2018 and was the tenth leading cause of death
4 in the United States in 2018; and

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6 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, suicide was the ninth leading cause of
7 death in 2017; and

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9 WHEREAS, every two days, one person in Hawaii falls victim
10 to suicide; and

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12 WHEREAS, the youth suicide rate in Hawaii is higher than
13 the national average; and

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15 WHEREAS, suicide was the leading cause of death for Hawaii
16 youth fifteen to nineteen years of age; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force is a
19 partnership of state, public, and private agencies and community
20 groups working in collaboration to provide leadership, develop
21 strategies, coordinate activities, and monitor progress of
22 suicide prevention efforts in the State; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force released The
25 Hawaii Suicide Prevention Strategy in 2017 with the goal of
26 reducing Hawaii suicides by twenty-five percent by 2025; and

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28 WHEREAS, The Youth Suicide Prevention Leadership Council
29 was formed in April of 2015 to:

- 30 (1) Provide a youth voice for statewide suicide
31 prevention;
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- 1 (2) Provide leadership development and training for youth
2 on suicide prevention as well as general community
3 leadership skills;
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- 5 (3) Provide civic engagement and community service
6 opportunities for youth; and
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- 8 (4) Connect council members with adults who will support
9 them as leaders in their home communities; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force and the
12 Youth Suicide Prevention Leadership Council are valuable allies
13 in the effort to save lives from suicide; and

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15 WHEREAS, the Legislature is concerned about the health,
16 safety, and welfare of the youth of Hawaii; now, therefore,

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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
19 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
20 Representatives concurring, that the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task
21 Force, in collaboration with the Youth Suicide Prevention
22 Leadership Council, is requested to recommend a strategic plan
23 to reduce youth suicides in Hawaii; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task
26 Force, in the course of developing its recommendations, is
27 requested to examine, evaluate, and determine methods to improve
28 education, awareness, support services, and outreach to best
29 prevent youth suicides in Hawaii; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task
32 Force is requested to submit a report of its findings and
33 recommendations including any proposed legislation, to the
34 Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
35 the Regular Session of 2021; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and to the
39 Director of Health, who in turn is requested to transmit copies
40 to the Administrator of the Hawaii Chapter of the Veterans
41 Administration; Suicide Prevention Program Manager for the Army
42 Suicide Prevention Task Force; Executive Director of the Pacific



S.C.R. NO. 197

1 Regional Behavioral Health Alliance; Dean of the John A. Burns
2 School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; Chair
3 of the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force; Chair of the Hawaii
4 Youth Leadership Council for Suicide Prevention; Chair of the
5 Board, President, and Community Liaison of the American
6 Foundation for Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter; and President
7 of the Board of Directors of Mental Health America of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

Dan Betts 67

