## HOUSE RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2021 AS SUICIDE PREVENTION AND ACTION MONTH.

WHEREAS, September is known nationally as "Suicide Prevention Month" and is intended to promote awareness and raise visibility of the mental health resources and suicide prevention services available in the community; and

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WHEREAS, the goal of a national month of recognition is to start a conversation about mental health and the impact of suicide to help destignatize the conversation and help connect people with the appropriate support services; and

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WHEREAS, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death among adults, and the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of ten and thirty-four in the United States; and

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WHEREAS, in the United States more than forty-eight thousand people died by suicide in 2018, with an average of one hundred thirty-two successful suicide attempts per day; and

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23 24 WHEREAS, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide is the eleventh leading cause of death in the State in 2020, and is the second leading cause of death for those ten years of age through thirty-four years of age in Hawaii; and

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WHEREAS, each and every suicide directly impacts a minimum of one hundred additional people, including family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and community members; and

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WHEREAS, the State remains committed to lowering suicide rates; and

WHEREAS, the State fully supports those who work in the fields of mental health, education, and law enforcement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, that September 2021 is designated as Suicide Prevention and Action Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all residents of Hawaii are encouraged to take the time to understand the importance of mental health education and recognize that taking care of oneself and others includes taking care of mental health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the County of Maui, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, President of the Board of Directors of Hope For The Day, and Director of Hawaii's Suicide Prevention Center.