
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP PROTOCOLS FOR
HOSPITALS IN THE STATE TO IMPROVE THE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS
CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE.

1 WHEREAS, suicide is the second leading cause of death among
2 fifteen to thirty-four year olds and tenth leading cause of
3 death overall in the United States; and
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5 WHEREAS, despite improvements in overall health and health
6 care, the national suicide rate has risen approximately twenty-
7 seven percent in the last fifteen years; and
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9 WHEREAS, health care organizations have a unique
10 opportunity to help prevent suicide, since people at risk of
11 suicide are often seen in health care settings and the majority
12 of those who die by suicide were seen by a professional in the
13 year prior to their death, yet were not diagnosed with a mental
14 health disorder; and
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16 WHEREAS, care for people with suicide risk is highly
17 variable, and gaps in care for individuals at risk of suicide
18 exist. A study to develop recommendations is needed to close
19 those gaps; and
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21 WHEREAS, suicide prevention in health care systems should
22 be treated similarly to heart attack prevention, with an
23 emphasis on targeted preventive interventions for individuals
24 with elevated risk levels; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
28 that the Department of Health is requested to develop protocols
29 for hospitals in the State to improve the treatment of patients
30 contemplating suicide; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
33 requested to receive input from and consult with hospitals in



1 the State, including Kahi Mohala, in developing the hospital
2 protocols; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the hospital protocols
5 developed by the Department of Health are requested to include
6 the following features:

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8 (1) Hospitals to provide one-on-one suicide counseling to
9 suicide patients or patients who have attempted
10 suicide;
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12 (2) Hospitals to provide access to trained suicide
13 counselors who are available twenty-four hours a day,
14 seven days a week;
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16 (3) Patients contemplating or who have attempted suicide
17 and are admitted to an emergency room will receive
18 suicide counseling in the emergency room;
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20 (4) Patients contemplating or who have attempted suicide
21 will not be discharged if the patient is homeless;
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23 (5) Patients contemplating or who have attempted suicide
24 will not be discharged to a jail, prison, or other
25 correctional facility if the patient is not a threat
26 to others; and
- 27
28 (6) Other protocols to ensure that patients contemplating
29 or who have attempted suicide are treated with
30 respect, compassion, and dignity; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
33 requested to submit a written report of its recommended hospital
34 protocols, including any proposed legislation, to the
35 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
36 the Regular Session of 2023; and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

