



GOV. MSG. NO **882**

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

June 4, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

This is to inform you that on June 4, 2007, the following bill was signed into law:

HB55 HD1 SD2 CD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO YOUTH  
SUICIDE PREVENTION.  
(ACT 124)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE

Approved by the Governor

on JUN 4 2007

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2007  
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 124

H.B. NO. 55  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 2  
C.D. 1

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that more children and  
2 young adults die from suicide each year than from cancer, heart  
3 disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, and chronic lung disease  
4 combined. Nationally, over four thousand youths take their  
5 lives annually, making suicide the third largest cause of death  
6 of persons between the ages of ten and twenty-four.

7           In Hawaii, suicide is the second leading cause of death  
8 among persons who are fifteen to twenty-four years old. Rates  
9 of youth suicide have been on the rise in the last decade among  
10 both females and males and among all ethnic groups. In Hawaii,  
11 males are more likely than females to commit suicide, and native  
12 Hawaiian youths are the most likely ethnic group to attempt or  
13 commit suicide.

14           Research demonstrates that youth suicide is linked to  
15 underlying mental health problems that can be addressed through  
16 early intervention and prevention strategies. The legislature  
17 notes that such intervention and prevention strategies have been  
18 listed as a national health priority in dealing with rising

HB55 CD1 HMS 2007-4173



1 rates of youth suicide. Furthermore, Congress passed federal  
2 legislation in 2004, and appropriated \$82,000,000 over the next  
3 three years, for statewide programs designed to help prevent  
4 youth suicide. Many states have already developed comprehensive  
5 statewide youth suicide early intervention and prevention  
6 strategies that seek to provide effective early intervention and  
7 prevention services.

8 Suicide is a serious public health tragedy affecting  
9 children and young adults in Hawaii. The legislature declares  
10 that preserving and protecting the lives of children and young  
11 adults is a priority for the State. The legislature further  
12 finds and declares that preventing youth suicide is necessary  
13 for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the  
14 State. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the  
15 establishment of a youth suicide early intervention and  
16 prevention program for Hawaii.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
19 and to read as follows:

20 "§321- Youth suicide early intervention and prevention  
21 program. (a) The department of health may establish and  
22 operate a statewide youth suicide early intervention and



1 prevention program that focuses upon, but is not necessarily  
2 limited to persons between the ages of ten and twenty-four to:

3 (1) Create public awareness for issues relating to youth  
4 suicide prevention;

5 (2) Build community networks concerning youth suicide  
6 prevention; and

7 (3) Carry out suicide prevention training programs for law  
8 enforcement personnel, health care providers, school  
9 and University of Hawaii employees, and other persons  
10 who have contact with individuals at risk of suicide.

11 (b) The department of health may provide appropriate  
12 research, training, and technical assistance to carry out the  
13 purposes of this section, including:

14 (1) Providing oversight of youth suicide early  
15 intervention and prevention strategies;

16 (2) Identifying and understanding causes and associated  
17 risk factors of youth suicide;

18 (3) Analyzing the efficacy of new and existing youth  
19 suicide early intervention techniques and  
20 technologies;

21 (4) Examining trends in youth suicidal behaviors and  
22 nonfatal suicide attempts;



- 1        (5) Evaluating and disseminating outcomes and best
- 2            practices of mental and behavioral health services at
- 3            institutions of higher education; and
- 4        (6) Other activities deemed appropriate by the director of
- 5            health.
- 6        (c) Research, training, and technical assistance resources
- 7 may be provided, but shall not be limited to:
- 8        (1) Political subdivisions of the state;
- 9        (2) Native Hawaiian health and community organizations;
- 10       (3) Institutions of higher education;
- 11       (4) The department of education;
- 12       (5) Public organizations;
- 13       (6) Private nonprofit organizations; and
- 14       (7) Health and social service organizations.
- 15       (d) The department of health may develop and submit
- 16 proposals for funding from federal agencies and private
- 17 organizations to support the purposes of this section.
- 18       (e) The department of health may adopt rules in accordance
- 19 with chapter 91 to implement the purposes of this section."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007;  
provided that this Act shall be repealed on June 30, 2009.



H.B. NO. 55  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 2  
C.D. 1

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APPROVED this 4 day of JUN , 2007



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII