
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 task force stated in a 2018
5 report to the legislature that suicide was the most common cause
6 of fatal injuries among residents in the State between 2012-
7 2016, accounting for one-quarter of all fatal injuries. The
8 legislature also finds that one person dies by suicide in the
9 State every two days. Furthermore, the State's inmate suicide
10 rate is the seventh highest in the nation, according to the
11 federal Bureau of Justice Statistics. The legislature is
12 concerned with the health, safety, and welfare of all of the
13 people of the State, including inmates, military personnel,
14 veterans, and visitors. The legislature finds that suicide
15 prevention issues must be addressed within the State's
16 correctional system.



1 The purpose of this Act is to establish a suicide
2 prevention task force to examine, evaluate, and determine
3 methods to improve education, awareness, support services, and
4 inmate outreach to best prevent suicides in state correctional
5 facilities.

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

12 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members,
13 who shall serve until January 1, 2026:

14 (1) The director of health or the director's designee, who
15 shall serve as a co-chair of the task force;

16 (2) The director of public safety or the director's
17 designee, who shall serve as a co-chair of the task
18 force;

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

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



- 1 (5) One member of the senate to be appointed by the
2 president of the senate;
- 3 (6) One member of the house of representatives to be
4 appointed by the speaker of the house of
5 representatives;
- 6 (7) One member from the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
7 school of medicine's department of psychiatry, to be
8 appointed by the dean of the school; and
- 9 (8) One member from the alcohol and drug abuse division of
10 the department of health.
- 11 (c) The co-chairs of the task force shall invite the
12 following representatives to serve as task force members:
- 13 (1) The president of the American Foundation for Suicide
14 Prevention, Hawaii Chapter;
- 15 (2) The chair of the board of the American Foundation for
16 Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter;
- 17 (3) The community liaison of the American Foundation for
18 Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter; and
- 19 (4) One member to be appointed by the director or
20 president of Mental Health America of Hawaii.



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

3 (e) Any vacant position on the task force shall be filled
4 in the manner provided for the position's original appointment.

5 (f) The initial meeting of the task force shall occur no
6 later than thirty days after the effective date of this Act,
7 during which the members shall elect two vice chairs, and any
8 other necessary officers from among the appointed members. A
9 majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a
10 quorum to do business.

11 (g) The task force shall meet no less than quarterly. The
12 task force 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 (h) To ensure that task force meetings are time- and cost-
16 efficient, the task force may meet virtually using virtual
17 meeting software.

18 (i) Members of the task force shall receive no
19 compensation for their duties as members of the commission. No
20 member of the task force shall be subject to section 84-17,
21 Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that member's



1 participation on the task force. The task force shall be exempt
2 from chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

3 (j) No employee of the state serving as a member of the
4 task force shall attend meetings of the task force during work
5 hours; provided that the employee may attend meetings of the
6 task force during the employee's meal breaks or periods in which
7 the employee is using compensatory time off.

8 (k) The task force shall submit an interim report of its
9 findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than
10 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
11 2022. The task force shall submit a final report of its
12 findings and recommendations, which shall include a strategic
13 plan to reduce the number of suicides in Hawaii's correctional
14 facilities, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
15 to the convening of the regular session of 2026.

16 (l) The task force shall terminate on July 1, 2026.

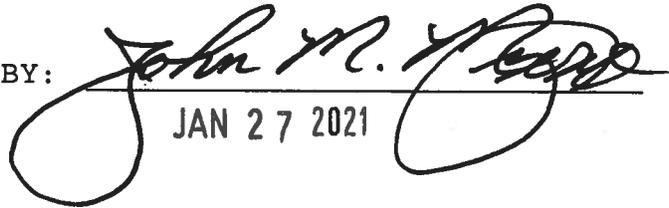
17 SECTION 3. It is not the intent of the legislature for
18 this Act to jeopardize the receipt of any federal aid. If this
19 Act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that
20 are a prescribed condition for the allocation of federal funds
21 to the State, this Act shall be deemed void.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021, and
2 shall repealed on January 1, 2026.

3

INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 27 2021



H.B. NO. 1309

Report Title:

Department of Health; Suicide Prevention Task Force; Corrections

Description:

Establishes a suicide prevention task force to examine, evaluate, and determine methods to reduce suicides within state correctional system.

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