
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 in Hawaii, on
2 average, one person dies by suicide every two days. Suicide is
3 the fourth leading cause of death for children between the ages
4 of ten and fourteen and is the leading cause of death for young
5 people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four. In Hawaii,
6 suicide accounts for twenty-five per cent of all fatal injuries.

7 Suicide rates vary by area, with neighbor island and rural
8 communities seeing higher rates than urban areas. For the
9 period from 2013 to 2015, the statewide suicide rate was 12.9
10 deaths for every one hundred thousand individuals. For the same
11 time period, for every one hundred thousand people, the counties
12 of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui had 20.4, 15.9, and 14.6 suicide
13 deaths, respectively. The city and county of Honolulu's suicide
14 rate, at 10.3 deaths for every one hundred thousand people, was
15 slightly lower than the state average.

16 According to the department of health, the percentage of
17 teenagers in Hawaii who plan to commit suicide and the



1 percentage of teenagers who attempt suicide are among the
2 highest in the nation. For the period from 2005 to 2013, the
3 percentage of high school-aged children with suicide ideation in
4 Hawaii ranged from sixteen to twenty per cent. For the same
5 time period, the percentage of high school-aged children treated
6 for a suicide attempt never dipped below three per cent.

7 The legislature further finds that suicide attempts, like
8 suicide deaths, have harmful, lasting, and profound impacts on
9 families and communities. For every person that dies by
10 suicide, more than thirty others attempt suicide. The
11 legislature is concerned with the health, safety, and welfare of
12 all the people of Hawaii, including military personnel,
13 veterans, and visitors.

14 The purpose of this Act is to establish the prevent suicide
15 Hawaii task force under the department of health.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the prevent suicide
17 Hawaii task force, to be placed within the department of health
18 for administrative purposes. The prevent suicide Hawaii task
19 force shall:

- 20 (1) Undertake a study to develop general and specific
21 policies and procedures necessary to improve the



1 manner in which suicide prevention is conducted in the
2 State. Specifically, the task force shall consider
3 the goals, themes, and formal objectives of the
4 strategic plan to reduce suicides in Hawaii by at
5 least twenty-five percent by 2025 for the purpose of
6 developing action items to develop proposed
7 legislation to be submitted to the legislature prior
8 to each regular session;

9 (2) Monitor implementation of the strategic plan, as well
10 as submit annual reports to the legislature on the
11 progress, challenges, and recommendations for
12 adjustments; and

13 (3) Examine, evaluate, and determine methods to improve
14 education, awareness, support services, and outreach
15 to best prevent suicides in Hawaii.

16 (b) The prevent suicide Hawaii task force shall consist of
17 the following members:

18 (1) One representative from the United States Army to be
19 invited by the governor;

20 (2) One representative from the United States Navy to be
21 invited by the governor;



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- 1 (3) One representative from the United States Marine Corps
2 to be invited by the governor;
- 3 (4) One representative from the United States Air Force to
4 be invited by the governor;
- 5 (5) One representative from the United States Coast Guard
6 to be invited by the governor;
- 7 (6) The suicide prevention program manager for the United
8 States Army Reserve in Hawaii, to be invited by the
9 governor;
- 10 (7) One representative from the Substance Abuse and Mental
11 Health Services Administration of the United States
12 Department of Health and Human Services, to be invited
13 by the governor;
- 14 (8) One representative from the department of education,
15 to be appointed by the superintendent of education;
- 16 (9) One representative from the department of public
17 safety, to be appointed by the director of public
18 safety;
- 19 (10) One representative of the department of human
20 services, to be appointed by the director of human
21 services;



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- 1 (11) One representative from the judiciary, to be appointed
2 by the chief justice of the Hawaii supreme court;
- 3 (12) The suicide prevention coordinator for the department
4 of health;
- 5 (13) One member from the department of health's injury
6 prevention and control section, to be appointed by the
7 director of health;
- 8 (14) One member from the department of psychiatry of the
9 John A. Burns school of medicine, to be appointed by
10 the dean of the John A. Burns school of medicine;
- 11 (15) One member from each county, to be appointed by the
12 governor;
- 13 (16) One member from the Youth Suicide Prevention
14 Leadership Council, to be appointed by the president
15 of the senate;
- 16 (17) One member from the Youth Suicide Prevention
17 Leadership Council, to be appointed by the speaker of
18 the house of representatives;
- 19 (18) The president of the American Foundation for Suicide
20 Prevention Hawaii Chapter;



(19) The board chair of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter;

(20) The community liaison of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter;

(21) One member to be appointed by the executive director of Mental Health America of Hawaii;

(22) Two members who are survivors of suicide, to be appointed by the governor;

(23) One member to be appointed by the president of the senate; and

(24) One member to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

To the extent possible, all appointees shall have expertise in fields or disciplines related to suicide prevention and education or awareness of suicide prevention.

Any vacancies in the task force shall be filled in the manner provided for by the original appointments.

(c) Upon the initial meeting of the task force, to occur no later than thirty days after the effective date of this Act, its members shall elect a chair and vice chair and any other



1 necessary officers from among the appointed members. A majority
2 of the task force shall constitute a quorum to do business.

3 (d) The chair shall seek to maintain a balanced
4 representation of interests and the inclusion of all interested
5 community members and may select additional task force members
6 at the chair's discretion.

7 (e) All meetings of the task force shall be public. The
8 task force shall meet no less than quarterly. At the discretion
9 of the chair or by the request of a majority of its members, the
10 task force may hold additional public meetings as it deems
11 necessary.

12 (f) Members of the prevent suicide Hawaii task force shall
13 serve on a voluntary basis and shall not be compensated for
14 their services.

15 (g) The prevent suicide Hawaii task force shall submit an
16 annual report of its recommendations, including any proposed
17 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
18 to the convening of each regular session of the legislature
19 until it ceases to exist pursuant to subsection (h).

20 (h) The task force shall cease to exist on January 1,
21 2026.

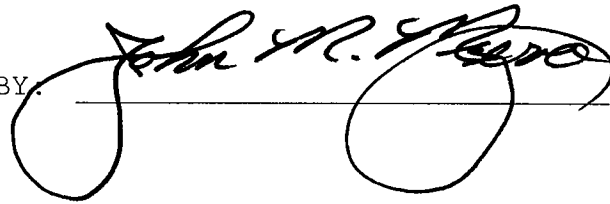


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1 SECTION 3. It is not the intent of the legislature for
2 this Act to jeopardize the receipt of any federal aid. If this
3 Act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that
4 are a prescribed condition for the allocation of federal funds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

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
7

INTRODUCED BY.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Flinn", is written over a horizontal line.

JAN 25 2022



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Report Title:

Prevent Suicide Hawaii Taskforce

Description:

Establishes the prevent suicide Hawaii task force to develop annual recommendations to the legislature to reduce suicide by twenty-five per cent by 2025. Dissolves the task force on 1/1/2026.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

