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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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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 task force shall:

- 19 (1) Undertake a study to develop general and specific  
20 policies and procedures necessary to improve the  
21 manner in which suicide prevention is conducted in the



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

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

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

15 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

16 (1) One representative from the United States Army, to be  
17 invited by the governor;

18 (2) One representative from the United States Navy, to be  
19 invited by the governor;

20 (3) One representative from the United States Marine  
21 Corps, to be invited by the governor;



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



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



- 1 (20) The community liaison of the American Foundation for  
2 Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter;
- 3 (21) One member to be appointed by the executive director  
4 of Mental Health America of Hawaii;
- 5 (22) Two members who are survivors of suicide, to be  
6 appointed by the governor;
- 7 (23) One member who is a frontline Hawaii Psychiatric  
8 Medical Association psychiatrist serving rural and  
9 underserved communities, to be appointed by the Hawaii  
10 Psychiatric Medical Association;
- 11 (24) One member from the Hawaii Primary Care Association,  
12 to be appointed by the Hawaii Primary Care  
13 Association;
- 14 (25) One member to be appointed by the president of the  
15 senate; and
- 16 (26) One member to be appointed by the speaker of the house  
17 of representatives.

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



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

3 (c) Upon the initial meeting of the task force, to occur  
4 no later than thirty days after the effective date of this Act,  
5 its members shall elect a chair and vice chair and any other  
6 necessary officers from among the appointed members. A majority  
7 of the task force shall constitute a quorum to do business.

8 (d) The chair shall seek to maintain a balanced  
9 representation of interests and the inclusion of all interested  
10 community members and may select additional task force members  
11 at the chair's discretion.

12 (e) All meetings of the task force shall be public. The  
13 task force shall meet no less than quarterly. At the discretion  
14 of the chair or by the request of a majority of its members, the  
15 task force may hold additional public meetings as it deems  
16 necessary.

17 (f) Members of the task force shall serve on a voluntary  
18 basis and shall not be compensated for their services.

19 (g) The task force shall submit an annual report of its  
20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
21 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of



1 each regular session of the legislature until it ceases to exist  
2 pursuant to subsection (h).

3 (h) The task force shall cease to exist on January 1,  
4 2026.

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

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.





# H.B. NO. 2293 H.D. 1

**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. (HD1)

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

2022-2046 HB2293 HD1 HMSO

