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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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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, gaps in care for individuals at risk of suicide exist  
18 and that 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 House of Representatives of the  
27 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
28 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is  
29 requested to develop protocols for hospitals in the State to  
30 improve the treatment of patients contemplating suicide; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the hospital protocols  
2 developed by the Department of Health are requested to include  
3 the following features:

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- 5 (1) Hospitals to provide one-on-one suicide counseling to  
6 suicide patients or patients who have attempted  
7 suicide;
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- 9 (2) Hospitals to provide access to trained suicide  
10 counselors who are available twenty-four hours a day,  
11 seven days a week;
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- 13 (3) Patients contemplating or who have attempted suicide  
14 and are admitted to an emergency room will receive  
15 suicide counseling in the emergency room;
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- 17 (4) Patients contemplating or who have attempted suicide  
18 will not be discharged if the patient is homeless;
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- 20 (5) Patients contemplating or who have attempted suicide  
21 will not be discharged to a jail, prison, or other  
22 correctional facility if the patient is not a threat  
23 to others; and
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- 25 (6) Other protocols to ensure that patients contemplating  
26 or who have attempted suicide are treated with  
27 respect, compassion, and dignity; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
30 requested to submit a written report of its recommended hospital  
31 protocols, including any proposed legislation, to the  
32 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
33 the Regular Session of 2023; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 11 2022

