

JAN 26 2022

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 that claims approximately one million lives
3 worldwide each year. In Hawaii, suicide was the most common
4 cause of fatal injuries among residents between 2010 and 2014,
5 accounting for one-quarter of all fatal injuries. One person
6 dies by suicide in Hawaii every two days. The legislature is
7 concerned with the health, safety, and welfare of all the people
8 of Hawaii, including military personnel, veterans, and visitors.

9 The legislature further finds that the Prevent Suicide
10 Hawaii Task Force is a partnership of state, public, and private
11 agencies and community groups working in collaboration to
12 provide leadership, develop strategies, coordinate activities,
13 and monitor progress of suicide prevention efforts in the State.
14 The Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force provides leadership for
15 suicide prevention activities statewide, including National
16 Suicide Prevention Week and suicide prevention conferences. The
17 prevent suicide Hawaii task force is a valuable ally in the



1 effort to save lives from suicide. Pursuant to House Concurrent
2 Resolution No. 66, Senate Draft 1 (2016), the prevent suicide
3 Hawaii task force prepared and submitted to the legislature, in
4 December of 2017, a strategic plan to reduce suicides in the
5 State by at least twenty-five per cent by 2025 (strategic plan).

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to formally
7 recognize and codify the prevent suicide Hawaii task force, to
8 be placed within the department of health for administrative
9 purposes, for purposes of monitoring and implementing its
10 strategic plan to reduce suicides in Hawaii by at least twenty-
11 five per cent by 2025.

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

15 "§321- Suicide prevention Hawaii task force;
16 established. (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 examine, evaluate, and determine methods to improve
20 education, awareness, support services, and outreach to best
21 prevent suicides in Hawaii. The task force shall also monitor



1 and implement the strategic plan formulated pursuant to House
2 Concurrent Resolution No. 66, Senate Draft 1 (2016).

3 (b) The prevent suicide Hawaii task force shall, in
4 addition to any interested members of the public, consist of the
5 at least the following members:

6 (1) The current chair of the prevent suicide Hawaii task
7 force, who shall continue to serve as chair of the
8 task force until a successor is elected;

9 (2) The suicide prevention coordinator for the department
10 of health;

11 (3) One at-large member from each county, to be appointed
12 by the governor;

13 (4) One member to be appointed by the president of the
14 senate;

15 (5) One member from the Hawaii Youth Leadership Council
16 for Suicide Prevention, to be appointed by the
17 president of the senate;

18 (6) One member to be appointed by the speaker of the house
19 of representatives;



1 (7) One member from the Hawaii Youth Leadership Council
2 for Suicide Prevention, to be appointed by the speaker
3 of the house of representatives;

4 (8) One member from the department of health's injury
5 prevention and control section, to be appointed by the
6 director of health;

7 (9) One member to be appointed by the dean of the
8 University of Hawaii, John A. Burns school of
9 medicine, from its department of psychiatry;

10 (10) One member to be appointed by the substance abuse and
11 mental health services administration of the United
12 States Department of Health and Human Services;

13 (11) One member from the department of education to be
14 appointed by the superintendent of education;

15 (12) One member from the department of public safety to be
16 appointment by the director of public safety;

17 (13) One member from the department of human services to be
18 appointed by the director of human services; and

19 (14) One member from the judiciary to be appointed by the
20 chief justice.



1 (c) In addition to the members listed in subsection (b),
2 the chair of the suicide prevention Hawaii task force shall
3 invite the following members to participate:

4 (1) The suicide prevention program manager for the United
5 States Reserves in Hawaii;

6 (2) The president of the American Foundation for Suicide
7 Prevention Hawaii Chapter;

8 (3) The board chair of the American Foundation for Suicide
9 Prevention Hawaii Chapter;

10 (4) The community liaison of the American Foundation for
11 Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter;

12 (5) One member to be appointed by the director or
13 president of Mental Health America Hawaii; and

14 (6) One member from each branch of the military.

15 (d) Notwithstanding section 26-34, any vacancies in the
16 task force shall be filled in the manner provided for the
17 original appointments, or be filled by the chair of the task
18 force if there is no appointment mechanism for the vacancy or if
19 the vacancy remains for more than six months; provided that all
20 appointees shall have expertise or experience in fields or



1 disciplines related to suicide prevention and education or
2 awareness of suicide prevention.

3 (e) Upon the initial meeting of the task force, to occur
4 no later than September 1, 2022, its members shall elect a chair
5 and vice chair and any other necessary officers from among the
6 appointed members. A majority of the task force shall
7 constitute a quorum to do business.

8 (f) The task force shall meet not less than once per
9 quarter; provided that the task force may hold additional public
10 meetings as it deems necessary. The chair, at the request of
11 the majority of members, may request special meetings.

12 (g) Members of the suicide prevention task force shall
13 serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for
14 reasonable expenses necessary for the performance of their
15 duties, including travel expenses.

16 (h) Commencing with the regular session of 2023, the
17 prevent suicide Hawaii task force shall submit an annual report
18 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
19 convening of the regular session. The annual report shall
20 include updates on the implementation of the strategic plan,
21 results obtained, and any other pertinent findings and



1 recommendations of the task force, including proposed
2 legislation."

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to support
6 the operations of the department of health's emergency medical
7 services and injunction system branch (HTH 730) to prevent or
8 reduce suicide in the State; provided that the sum appropriated
9 shall be in addition to and shall not supplant any portion of
10 the base budget of the emergency medical services and injunction
11 system branch (HTH 730) and shall be included in the base budget
12 for the emergency medical services and injunction system branch
13 in future fiscal bienniums.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 health for the purposes of this Act;

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

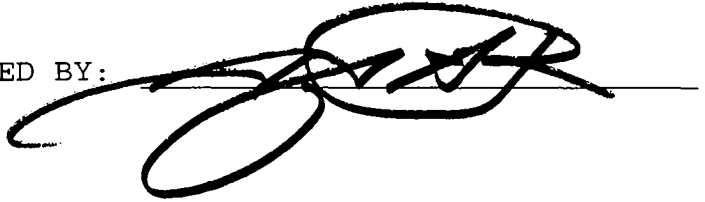
21 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a series of loops and a final 'R' or 'P' shape, written over a horizontal line.

S.B. NO. 3234

Report Title:

Suicide Prevention Task Force; Appropriation

Description:

Recognizes and formalizes the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force to implement its strategic plan to reduce suicide in Hawaii by twenty-five per cent by 2025. Appropriates funds to the Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and Injunction System Branch to support the branch operations to prevent or reduce suicide in the State.

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

