

MAR 11 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

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 Senate of the Thirty-first
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
28 that the Department of Health is requested to develop protocols
29 for hospitals in the State to improve the treatment of patients
30 contemplating suicide; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the hospital protocols
33 developed by the Department of Health are requested to include
34 the following features:
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- (1) Hospitals to provide one-on-one suicide counseling to suicide patients or patients who have attempted suicide;
- (2) Hospitals to provide access to trained suicide counselors who are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week;
- (3) Patients contemplating or who have attempted suicide and are admitted to an emergency room will receive suicide counseling in the emergency room;
- (4) Patients contemplating or who have attempted suicide will not be discharged if the patient is homeless;
- (5) Patients contemplating or who have attempted suicide will not be discharged to a jail, prison, or other correctional facility if the patient is not a threat to others; and
- (6) Other protocols to ensure that patients contemplating or who have attempted suicide are treated with respect, compassion, and dignity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to submit a written report of its recommended hospital protocols, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

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

OFFERED BY: 

