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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that suicide accounts for  
2 twenty-five per cent of all fatal injuries in the State. The  
3 legislature also finds that in 2019, suicide was the leading  
4 cause of death for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders  
5 between the ages of fifteen to twenty-four. That same year,  
6 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders were three times less  
7 likely to receive mental health services or prescription  
8 medications for mental health treatment, compared to  
9 Non-Hispanic whites.

10           Suicide attempts, like suicide deaths, have harmful,  
11 lasting, and profound impacts on families and communities. For  
12 every person who dies by suicide, more than thirty others will  
13 attempt to take their own lives. Thus, it is important to  
14 continue the coordinated approach to preventing suicide and  
15 suicide attempts spearheaded by the prevent suicide Hawaii task  
16 force. Amending the duties of the task force to focus on Native  
17 Hawaiian and Pacific Islander suicide prevention efforts is an



1 important step toward addressing mental health needs amongst  
2 vulnerable Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities that  
3 already experience higher rates of poverty and incarceration in  
4 relation to other groups in the State.

5 The purpose of this Act is to codify the prevent suicide  
6 Hawaii task force.

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

10 **"§321- Prevent suicide Hawaii task force; established.**

11 (a) There is established the prevent suicide Hawaii task force  
12 to be placed within the department of health for administrative  
13 purposes. The prevent suicide Hawaii task force shall examine,  
14 evaluate, and determine methods to improve education, awareness,  
15 support services, and outreach to best prevent suicides in  
16 Hawaii, particularly among Native Hawaiians and Pacific  
17 Islanders. The task force shall also monitor and implement the  
18 strategic plan formulated pursuant to House Concurrent  
19 Resolution No. 66, Senate Draft 1 (2016).

20 (b) The prevent suicide Hawaii task force shall consist of  
21 at least the following members:



- 1        (1) The current chair of the prevent suicide Hawaii task  
2                    force, who shall continue to serve as chair of the  
3                    task force until a successor is elected;
- 4        (2) The suicide prevention coordinator for the department  
5                    of health;
- 6        (3) One at-large member from each county, to be appointed  
7                    by the governor;
- 8        (4) Two members from a youth leadership suicide prevention  
9                    organization, to be appointed by the president of the  
10                   senate and the speaker of the house of representatives  
11                   respectively;
- 12       (5) One member from the department of health's injury  
13                   prevention and control section, to be appointed by the  
14                   director of health;
- 15       (6) One member to be appointed by the dean of the  
16                   University of Hawaii, John A. Burns school of  
17                   medicine, from its department of psychiatry;
- 18       (7) One member to be appointed by the Substance Abuse and  
19                   Mental Health Services Administration of the United  
20                   States Department of Health and Human Services;
- 21       (8) One member from Papa Ola Lokahi;



- 1        (9) One member from the department of education, to be  
2        appointed by the superintendent of education;
- 3        (10) One member from the department of public safety, or  
4        its successor agency, to be appointed by the director  
5        of public safety or the director of the successor  
6        agency;
- 7        (11) One member from the department of human services, to  
8        be appointed by the director of human services;
- 9        (12) One member from the judiciary, to be appointed by the  
10       chief justice;
- 11       (13) One member to be appointed by the president of the  
12       senate; and
- 13       (14) One member to be appointed by the speaker of the house  
14       of representatives;
- 15       (c) In addition to the members listed in subsection (b),  
16 the chair of the suicide prevention Hawaii task force shall  
17 invite the following individuals to participate:
- 18       (1) The suicide prevention program manager for the United  
19       States Army Reserves in Hawaii;
- 20       (2) Two members from a suicide prevention organization;



1       (3) One member from a mental health advocacy organization;  
2           and

3       (4) One member from each branch of the military.

4       (d) Notwithstanding section 26-34, any vacancies in the  
5 task force shall be filled in the manner provided for the  
6 original appointments, or be filled by the chair of the task  
7 force if there is no appointment mechanism for the vacancy or if  
8 the vacancy remains for more than six months; provided that all  
9 appointees shall have expertise or experience in fields or  
10 disciplines related to suicide prevention and education or  
11 awareness of suicide prevention.

12       (e) The task force shall meet not less than once per  
13 quarter; provided that the task force may hold additional public  
14 meetings as it deems necessary. The chair, at the request of  
15 the majority of members, may request special meetings. A  
16 majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum to do  
17 business.

18       (f) Members of the suicide prevention task force shall  
19 serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for  
20 reasonable expenses necessary for the performance of their  
21 duties, including travel expenses.



1        (g) Commencing with the regular session of        , the  
2 prevent suicide Hawaii task force shall submit an annual report  
3 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
4 convening of each regular session. The annual report shall  
5 include updates on the implementation of the strategic plan,  
6 results obtained, and any other pertinent findings and  
7 recommendations of the task force, including proposed  
8 legislation."

9        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

10       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



# H.B. NO. 622 H.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Native Hawaiians; Pacific Islanders; Suicide Prevention; Task Force

**Description:**

Makes permanent the prevent suicide Hawaii task force within the Department of Health. Requires the task force to focus on reducing the suicide rate among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the State. Requires reports to the legislature. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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

