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# 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 Hawaii residents between 2010-  
5 2014, accounting for one-quarter of all fatal injuries. One  
6 person dies by suicide in Hawaii every two days. The  
7 legislature is concerned with the health, safety, and welfare of  
8 all the people of Hawaii, including military personnel,  
9 veterans, and visitors.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish the Prevent Suicide  
11 Hawaii Taskforce under the Department of Health.

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- prevent suicide Hawaii taskforce (a) There is  
16 established the prevent suicide Hawaii taskforce, to be placed



1 within the department for administrative purposes. The prevent  
2 suicide Hawaii taskforce shall:

- 3       (1) Undertake a study to develop both general and specific  
4       policies and procedures necessary to improve the  
5       manner in which suicide prevention is conducted in the  
6       State, in particular, the taskforce shall consider the  
7       goals, themes, and formal objectives of the prevent  
8       suicide Hawaii taskforce strategic plan to reduce  
9       suicides in Hawaii by at least twenty-five percent by  
10       2025 for the purpose of developing action items to  
11       produce proposed legislation to deliver annually to  
12       the legislature;
- 13       (2) Monitor implementation of the strategic plan, as well  
14       as provide annual updates to the legislature on the  
15       progress, challenges, and recommendations for  
16       adjustments; and
- 17       (3) Examine, evaluate, and determine methods to improve  
18       education, awareness, support services, and outreach  
19       to best prevent suicides in Hawaii.



1        (b) The prevent suicide Hawaii taskforce shall consist of  
2 the following members, or in their absence the appointing  
3 official's designee:

4        (1) The suicide prevention coordinator for the department  
5 of health;

6        (2) A representative from the department of education, to  
7 be appointed by the director of education;

8        (3) A representative from the department of public safety,  
9 to be appointed by the director of public safety;

10       (4) A representative from the department of human  
11 services, to be appointed by the director of human  
12 services;

13       (5) A representative from the judiciary, to be appointed  
14 by the chief justice of the Hawaii supreme court;

15       (6) One member from each county, to be appointed by the  
16 governor;

17       (7) Two members who are survivors of suicide, to be  
18 appointed by the governor;

19       (8) One representative from the United States Army to be  
20 appointed by the Governor;



- 1        (9) One representative from the United States Navy to be  
2        appointed by the Governor;
- 3        (10) One representative from the United States Marine Corps  
4        to be appointed by the Governor;
- 5        (11) One representative from the United States Air Force to  
6        be appointed by the Governor;
- 7        (12) One representative from the United States Coast Guard  
8        to be appointed by the Governor;
- 9        (13) One member to be appointed by the president of the  
10       senate;
- 11       (14) One member to be appointed by the speaker of the house  
12       of representatives;
- 13       (15) One member from the Hawaii Youth Leadership Council  
14       for Suicide Prevention, to be appointed by the  
15       president of the senate;
- 16       (16) One member from the Hawaii Youth Leadership Council  
17       for Suicide Prevention, to be appointed by the speaker  
18       of the house of representatives;
- 19       (17) One member from the department of health's injury  
20       prevention and control section, to be appointed by the  
21       director of health;



- 1        (18) One member to be appointed by the dean of the  
2        University of Hawaii, John A. Burns school of  
3        medicine, from its department of psychiatry;
- 4        (19) One member to be appointed by the substance abuse and  
5        mental health services administration of the United  
6        States Department of Health and Human Services;
- 7        (20) The suicide prevention program manager for the United  
8        States Reserves in Hawaii;
- 9        (21) The president of the American Foundation for Suicide  
10       Prevention Hawaii Chapter;
- 11       (22) The board chair of the American Foundation for Suicide  
12       Prevention Hawaii Chapter;
- 13       (23) The community liaison of the American Foundation for  
14       Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter; and
- 15       (24) One member to be appointed by the director or  
16       president of Mental Health America Hawaii.
- 17       All appointees shall have expertise in fields or  
18       disciplines related to suicide prevention and education or  
19       awareness of suicide prevention.
- 20       Any vacancies in the taskforce shall be filled in the  
21       manner provided for the original appointments.



1        (c) Upon the initial meeting of the taskforce, to occur no  
2 later than thirty days after the passage of this Act, Session  
3 Laws of Hawaii 2018, its members shall elect a chair and vice  
4 chair and any other necessary officers from among the appointed  
5 members. A majority of the taskforce shall constitute a quorum  
6 to do business.

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

11       (e) All meetings of the task force shall be public. The  
12 taskforce shall meet no less than quarterly. The taskforce may  
13 hold additional public meetings as it deems necessary. The  
14 chair, at the request of a majority of members, may request  
15 special meetings.

16       (f) Members of the prevent suicide Hawaii taskforce shall  
17 receive no compensation for their services.

18       (g) The prevent suicide Hawaii taskforce shall submit an  
19 annual report of its recommendations to the legislature no later  
20 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session  
21 of the legislature."



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

6           SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

7           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Prevent Suicide Hawaii Taskforce; Department of Health

**Description:**

Establishes the Prevent Suicide Hawaii Taskforce under the Department of Health to develop annual recommendations to the Legislature to reduce suicide. (HB2278 HD1)

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

