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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part III, subpart F to be  
3 appropriately designated and to read as follows:  
4           "§302A- Youth suicide awareness and prevention  
5 protocol. (a) The board, in consultation with the department  
6 of health and department of human services, shall develop a  
7 youth suicide awareness and prevention training program and a  
8 model risk referral protocol for complex areas and charter  
9 schools, which shall be provided to their respective school  
10 personnel, including teachers, teacher assistants, cafeteria  
11 workers, janitorial staff, athletic coaches, administrators,  
12 administrative assistants, school safety resource officers,  
13 school nurses, counselors, and other personnel who work directly  
14 with students in kindergarten through grade twelve. The  
15 training program shall consist of at least two hours of  
16 evidence-informed instruction to increase awareness of suicide,  
17 identification of risk factors and signs, and information for



1 student referral for suicide prevention resources and support.  
2 The model risk referral protocol shall provide guidelines to  
3 complex areas and charter schools on identification of at-risk  
4 students, suicide prevention procedures, and referral sources.  
5 The training program and model risk referral protocol shall be  
6 periodically reviewed and updated as necessary.

7 (b) Each complex area shall provide to each department  
8 school under the authority of the complex area the training  
9 program and model risk referral protocol developed by the board  
10 under subsection (a) or a locally developed plan that meets the  
11 requirements of subsection (c) to department school personnel  
12 who work directly with students in kindergarten through grade  
13 twelve. The training program shall be provided at no cost to  
14 those personnel. All department school personnel who work  
15 directly with students in kindergarten through grade twelve  
16 shall be offered the training on an annual basis. The training  
17 may be offered in various formats, including electronically,  
18 through videoconferencing, or through an individual program of  
19 study of designated materials consisting of at least two hours  
20 of instruction.



1        (c) A complex area may comply with the training and  
2 protocol requirements of this section by developing a complex  
3 area plan that, at a minimum, includes:

4        (1) Conveying information on state and national data on  
5 suicide deaths and attempts, suicide methods, and at-  
6 risk populations;

7        (2) Myths and attitudes about suicide;

8        (3) Warning signs and symptoms for suicide;

9        (4) Identification of at-risk students and steps for  
10 referring students to support services;

11       (5) Protective factors for prevention of suicide;

12       (6) Safe messaging to children; and

13       (7) Protocols for implementation and mandatory training  
14 that, at a minimum, include:

15       (A) A plan to include specialized training for  
16 student support personnel, including  
17 administrators, school nurses, counselors, social  
18 workers, and psychologists;

19       (B) A safety plan for the school in the event of:



1            (i) Identification of a student as being at-risk  
2            of suicide, including a student help plan  
3            and immediate assistance; and

4            (ii) A suicide death or suicide attempt by a  
5            student enrolled in the school, including a  
6            care plan for peers and school personnel;

7            (C) The designation of one or more school personnel  
8            as the school suicide prevention responders for  
9            each department school;

10           (D) A plan for communication with a parent or legal  
11           guardian of a student identified as at-risk,  
12           including safe transfer of the student to the  
13           parent or legal guardian; and

14           (E) A plan for post-intervention for a student who  
15           has been identified as at-risk or has attempted  
16           suicide, including reentry into the classroom.

17           (d) By September 15 of each year, each complex area shall  
18           report to the department on prior school year training  
19           prevention activities completed as described by this section.

20           (e) Neither the department nor any of its agencies,  
21           boards, members, personnel, designees, agents, or volunteers



1 shall be liable in civil damages to any party for any act or  
2 omission of an act relating to the provision of, participation  
3 in, or implementation of the components of the training program  
4 or protocol required by this section unless that act or omission  
5 amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional  
6 wrongdoing.

7 (f) For the purposes of this section, "personnel" shall  
8 include employees and contracted workers.

9 (g) The board may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to  
10 include and require contracted workers to participate in and  
11 comply with the suicide awareness and prevention training  
12 program and risk referral protocol requirements under this  
13 section and section 302D- ."

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
16 and to read as follows:

17 "§302D- Youth suicide awareness and prevention  
18 protocol. (a) Each charter school shall provide a youth  
19 suicide awareness and prevention training program and risk  
20 referral protocol to school personnel who work directly with



1 students in kindergarten through grade twelve on an annual basis  
2 in accordance with section 302A- .

3 (b) By September 15 of each year, each charter school  
4 shall report to the department on prior school year training  
5 prevention activities completed as described under section  
6 302A- .

7 (c) Neither the department nor any of its agencies,  
8 boards, members, personnel, designees, agents, or volunteers  
9 shall be liable in civil damages to any party for any act or  
10 omission of an act relating to the provision of, participation  
11 in, or implementation of the components of the training program  
12 or protocol required by this section unless that act or omission  
13 amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional  
14 wrongdoing.

15 (d) For the purposes of this section, "personnel" shall  
16 include employees and contracted workers."

17 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,  
19 and shall apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

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**Report Title:**

BOE; Schools; Youth Suicide Prevention

**Description:**

Requires the Board of Education to establish and implement youth suicide awareness and prevention training programs and risk referral protocols in public schools, including charter schools.  
(SD1)

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

