
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. According to the World Health Organization,
3 suicide claims approximately one million lives worldwide each
4 year. The prevent suicide Hawaii taskforce stated in a report
5 to the 2018 Hawaii legislature that suicide was the most common
6 cause of fatal injuries among Hawaii residents between 2012-
7 2016, accounting for one-quarter of all fatal injuries. One
8 person dies by suicide in Hawaii every two days. Furthermore,
9 Hawaii's inmate suicide rate is the seventh highest in the
10 nation, according to the federal Bureau of Justice. The
11 legislature is concerned with the health, safety, and welfare of
12 all of the people of Hawaii, including inmates, military
13 personnel, veterans, and visitors. The legislature finds that
14 suicide prevention issues must be addressed within Hawaii's
15 correctional system.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a suicide
17 prevention commission to examine, evaluate, and determine



1 methods to improve education, awareness, support services, and
2 inmate outreach to best prevent suicides in Hawaii's
3 correctional facilities.

4 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a suicide prevention
5 commission to be placed within the department of health for
6 administrative purposes. The suicide prevention commission
7 shall examine, evaluate, and determine methods to improve
8 education, awareness, support services, and inmate outreach to
9 best prevent suicides in Hawaii's correctional facilities.

10 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members,
11 who shall serve until January 1, 2025:

12 (1) The director of health or the director's designee, who
13 shall serve as a co-chair of the commission;

14 (2) The director of public safety or the director's
15 designee, who shall serve as a co-chair of the
16 commission;

17 (3) One member to be appointed by the governor;

18 (4) Two members who are former inmates and have attempted
19 suicide, to be appointed by the governor;

20 (5) One member of the senate to be appointed by the
21 president of the senate;



- 1 (6) One member of the house of representatives to be
- 2 appointed by the speaker of the house of
- 3 representatives;
- 4 (7) One member to be appointed by the dean of the
- 5 University of Hawaii, John A. Burns school of medicine
- 6 from its department of psychiatry;
- 7 (8) One member from the department of health's alcohol and
- 8 drug abuse division;
- 9 (9) The president of the American Foundation for Suicide
- 10 Prevention, Hawaii Chapter;
- 11 (10) The chair of the board of the American Foundation for
- 12 Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter;
- 13 (11) The community liaison of the American Foundation for
- 14 Suicide Prevention Hawaii Chapter; and
- 15 (12) One member to be appointed by the director or
- 16 president of Mental Health America of Hawaii.
- 17 (c) All appointees shall have expertise related to suicide
- 18 prevention and education or awareness of suicide prevention.
- 19 (d) Any vacant position on the commission shall be filled
- 20 in the manner provided for the position's original appointment.



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

7 (f) The commission shall meet no less than quarterly. The
8 commission may hold additional public meetings as it deems
9 necessary. The co-chairs, at the request of a majority of
10 members, may request special meetings.

11 (g) Members of the commission shall receive no
12 compensation for their services. No member of the commission
13 shall be subject to section 84-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
14 solely because of that member's participation on the commission.
15 The commission shall be exempt from chapter 92, Hawaii Revised
16 Statutes.

17 (h) The commission shall submit a report to the
18 legislature of its findings and recommendations, which shall
19 include a strategic plan to reduce the number of suicides in
20 Hawaii's correctional facilities, no later than twenty days
21 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2021.



1 (i) The commission shall terminate on January 1, 2025.

2 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
3 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
4 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
5 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
6 2020-2021 for the department of health to develop a centralized
7 assessment and treatment program.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
9 of health for the purposes of this Act.

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

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and
16 shall repealed on January 1, 2025.



Report Title:

Suicide Prevention Commission; Department of Health;
Corrections; Centralized Assessment and Treatment Program;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a Suicide Prevention Commission to develop a strategic plan to reduce suicides within Hawaii's correctional system. Appropriates moneys to the Department of Health to develop a centralized assessment and treatment program. (SD1)

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