
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PLAN
FOR OPERATING AND FUNDING AN AUTOMATED VICTIM NOTIFICATION
SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, victims of crime are traumatized by having
2 suffered victimization and living with the personal terror and
3 uncertainty that results; and
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5 WHEREAS, being uninformed and unprepared for the release,
6 appearance, or confrontation by the perpetrator can be a
7 significant setback in a victim's recovery and can be avoided;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, chapter 801D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides
11 certain rights for crime victims, particularly with respect to
12 notification of major events in a prosecution; and
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14 WHEREAS, responsibility for performing the notifications
15 required by chapter 801D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is not
16 allocated to one particular agency and no funding has been
17 secured to establish a single notification system for all
18 agencies to use; and
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20 WHEREAS, coordinated efforts by multiple agencies and
21 entities in nineteen other states have created victim
22 notification systems that protect survivors and their families
23 from violence, empower victims, and help restore a sense of
24 control in their lives; and
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26 WHEREAS, House Bill No. 2042 would have established a
27 statewide automated victim notification system to provide
28 victims of crime with current information regarding the custody
29 status of the defendant in the victim's case but was deferred by
30 the House Committee on Judiciary due to a variety of concerns
31 expressed by those who testified; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the
34 City and County of Honolulu currently participates through a



1 series of cooperative agreements with the Department of Public
2 Safety in the process of notifying victims of changes in the
3 custody status of inmates whose victims have submitted a written
4 request for notification; and

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6 WHEREAS, the process does function to fulfill the purposes
7 of chapter 801D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, but is at times
8 inefficient and complex so an effort to improve this process,
9 including a pilot project for an automated victim notification
10 system, has been ongoing for nearly ten years; and

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12 WHEREAS, in cooperation with the Department of the Attorney
13 General, the Honolulu Prosecutor has designated funds, received
14 through the Victims of Crime Act, for the purpose of initiating
15 an automated victim notification system; and

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17 WHEREAS, the currently proposed project, which is projected
18 to be put out for procurement later this year, will include
19 prison custody status statewide, as well as notification of
20 "major events" in the criminal prosecution process for all
21 felonies; and

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23 WHEREAS, the proposed project includes federal Victims of
24 Crime Act funds set aside for the initial development and first
25 year maintenance costs of the notification system; and

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27 WHEREAS, the cost for the first year of operation, based on
28 estimates provided by a national vendor for automated victim
29 notification systems, is approximately \$140,000; and

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31 WHEREAS, the continuing availability of funding to
32 underwrite the cost of the system is uncertain; and

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34 WHEREAS, the counties receive no funding specific to
35 administrative aspects of the notification process and Victims
36 of Crime Act funds can only be used to fund direct services to
37 crime victims, not administrative costs; and

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39 WHEREAS, the cooperation and commitment of the Department
40 of Public Safety is essential to the success of an automated
41 victim notification system because of its correctional and
42 parole functions, it is an entity that is operationally focused
43 on the needs and rights of criminals not victims, and is,
44 therefore, not the appropriate agency to take the lead in the



1 development of an automated victim notification system; now,
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2006, that a task force be created to develop a plan for
7 operating and funding an automated victim identification system;
8 and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be chaired by
11 the Attorney General and consist of the following members:

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- 13 (1) The Chief of Police of each county, or the chief's
14 designee;
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 - 16 (2) The Prosecuting Attorney of each county, or the
17 prosecutor's designee;
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 - 19 (3) The director of the victim and witness assistance
20 program of each county;
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 - 22 (4) The Administrative Director of the Courts, or the
23 administrative director's designee;
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 - 25 (5) The Director of Public Safety or the director's
26 designee;
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 - 28 (6) The Administrator of the Hawaii Paroling Authority;
29 and
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 - 31 (7) Three members appointed, respectively, by the
32 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
33 and the President of the Senate from among those
34 private organizations established to serve the needs
35 of crime victims in the State; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
38 consider which agency is best situated to take the lead in
39 developing and operating an automated victim notification system
40 and how development and operation should be funded, including
41 appropriations and grants, and assessments against defendants;
42 and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
2 report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
3 legislation, to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior
4 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Speaker of the
8 House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the mayor
9 of each county, and each member of the task force identified in
10 this Resolution.

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OFFERED BY:

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