SENATE RESOLUTION

CONVENING AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEX ASSAULT.

WHEREAS, domestic violence and sex assault is an international issue that permeates all levels of society, affecting people regardless of age, income, education, religion, or culture; and

WHEREAS, organizations in countries around the world look to their counterpart organizations in the United States for leadership and methodologies to treat and prevent the occurrence of domestic violence and sex assault; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii is the gateway between the United States and its Asian neighbors, making Hawaii-based organizations addressing domestic violence and sex assault natural conduits for international cooperation on this issue; and

WHEREAS, the State Commission on the Status of Women (Commission) is mandated to act as a central clearinghouse and coordinating body for governmental and nongovernmental activities and information relating to the status of women; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is further mandated to create public awareness and understanding of the responsibilities, needs, potentials, and contributions of women and their roles in the changing society; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is further mandated to maintain contacts with appropriate federal, state, local, and international agencies concerned with the status of women; and

WHEREAS, the Commission was instrumental in laying the foundation for essential organizations dedicated to treating and preventing domestic violence and sex assault throughout the State through the Na Wahine initiative, including the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Sex Abuse Treatment Center, and Child and Family Services' Hale 'Ohana shelter; and

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WHEREAS, the Commission has facilitated visits from international organizations dealing with domestic violence and sex assault issues and has received requests from the All Japan DV Hotline Coalition and the Korean Women's Hotline Union to facilitate training to their staff and members; and

WHEREAS, the Na Wahine initiative, provided a valuable forum for organizations addressing domestic violence and sex assault to coordinate, network, and share resources, but is no longer in existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, that the Commission on the Status of Women is requested to convene a network of organizations for the support and development of local and international organizations addressing domestic violence and sex assault issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the network consist of organizations including, but not limited to, the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Sex Abuse Treatment Center, Child and Family Services' Domestic Violence Shelter and Developing Options to Violence, All Japan DV Hotline Coalition, and the Korean Women's Hotline Union: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the network develop, prepare, and facilitate training opportunities for visiting international organizations addressing domestic violence and sex assault, including the All Japan DV Hotline Coalition, and the Korean Women's Hotline Union; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission report back to the Legislature on the success of the network and the international training, including recommendations for further training and international networking opportunities to address issues of domestic violence and sex assault no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the Commission on the Status of Women.

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