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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A TASK  
FORCE TO DEVELOP A POLICY AGAINST TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND  
ABUSE.

1           WHEREAS, teen dating violence is a pattern of controlling  
2 and abusive behavior, including verbal, emotional, physical,  
3 sexual, and financial abuse, of one person over another within a  
4 romantic relationship; and

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6           WHEREAS, lack of dating experience makes teens more  
7 vulnerable to dating violence and less likely to recognize the  
8 abuse; and

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10           WHEREAS, teen dating violence has become an increasingly  
11 prevalent problem in high schools, junior high schools, and  
12 middle schools throughout our country, with one in three teens  
13 experiencing some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships;  
14 and

15  
16           WHEREAS, girls and women between the ages of 16 and 24  
17 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence; and

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19           WHEREAS, between 1993 and 1999, 22 percent of all homicides  
20 against young women ages 16 to 19 were committed by an intimate  
21 partner; and

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23           WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that teen dating  
24 violence begins at an early age, with 11 to 14 year olds able to  
25 identify aspects of teen dating abuse in their social lives; and

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27           WHEREAS, early sexual experiences can be a precursor to  
28 dating violence and abuse among older teens and can normalize  
29 this type of behavior, leading to unquestioned acceptance; and



1 WHEREAS, abuse and violence in intimate partner  
2 relationships not only causes great individual pain, but also  
3 breaks down families, communities, and society at large; and  
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5 WHEREAS, when a student is a victim of dating violence, her  
6 academic life suffers and her safety at school is jeopardized;  
7 and  
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9 WHEREAS, education is the best mechanism to prevent teen  
10 dating violence and is crucial to creating a culture of  
11 intolerance for teen dating abuse; now, therefore,  
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
14 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
15 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human  
16 Services is requested to establish a task force to develop a  
17 comprehensive policy to address teen dating violence and abuse;  
18 and  
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of  
21 15 members as follows:  
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- 23 (1) A senator selected by the Senate President;
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- 25 (2) A member of the House of Representatives selected by  
26 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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- 28 (3) The Superintendent of Education or the  
29 Superintendent's designee;
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- 31 (4) A member of the Board of Education selected by the  
32 Governor;
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- 34 (5) The Director of Human Services or the Director's  
35 designee;
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- 37 (6) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
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- 39 (7) A representative from Catholic Charities Hawaii;
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- 41 (8) A representative from the Domestic Violence Action  
42 Center;



- 1 (9) A representative from the Hawaii State Coalition  
2 Against Domestic Violence;
- 3
- 4 (10) A representative from the Hawaii Immigrant Justice  
5 Center;
- 6
- 7 (11) Three representatives from various service providers  
8 to be selected jointly by the Senate President and the  
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
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- 11 (12) Two representatives from families of domestic violence  
12 victims, one selected by the Senate President and one  
13 selected by the Speaker of the House of  
14 Representatives;
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16 and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall  
19 serve without compensation and reimbursement; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
22 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the  
23 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the  
24 Regular Session of 2010; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall cease to  
27 exist on June 30, 2010; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
31 Services, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Hawaii  
32 Board of Education, and all Hawaii public school administrators  
33 and principals.

