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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
TO DEVELOP, AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
IMPLEMENT A POLICY AGAINST TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND ABUSE.

1           WHEREAS, teen dating violence is a pattern of teen  
2 controlling and abusive behavior of one person over another  
3 within a romantic relationship including verbal, emotional,  
4 physical, sexual and financial abuse; and  
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6           WHEREAS, lack of dating experience allows teens to be more  
7 vulnerable to dating violence where they are less likely to  
8 recognize the abuse; and  
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10           WHEREAS, teen dating violence has become a prevalent  
11 problem in high schools, junior high schools and middle schools  
12 throughout our country, with one in three teens experiencing  
13 some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships; and  
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15           WHEREAS, girls and women between the ages of 16 and 24  
16 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence and of  
17 the young murdered each year between the ages of 15 to 19 thirty  
18 percent are killed by their boyfriend or husband; and  
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20           WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that teen dating  
21 violence is starting at an early age with 11 to 14 year olds  
22 able to identify aspects of teen dating abuse in their social  
23 lives; and  
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25           WHEREAS, early sexual experiences can be a precursor to  
26 dating violence and abuse among older teens and can perpetuate a  
27 culture of acceptance of this type of behavior; and  
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29           WHEREAS, abuse and violence in intimate partner  
30 relationships not only causes great individual pain, but also  
31 breaks down families, communities and society at large; and



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WHEREAS, education is the best mechanism to stop teen dating violence and is crucial to create a culture of intolerance for teen dating abuse; and

WHEREAS, when a student is a victim of dating violence, her academic life suffers and her safety at school is jeopardized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, that the Hawaii State Coalition against Domestic Violence develop a model dating violence policy by January 1, 2010 to assist public schools in developing policies for dating violence reporting and response, and transmit the policy to the Board of Education for approval by January 15, 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve such policy as soon as possible for use within all public schools, and that the Department of Education create public-private partnerships to provide, on an annual basis, dating violence training to teach all administrators, teachers, nurses, and counselors at the middle and high schools to recognize the signs of dating violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii public schools consider incorporating age-appropriate dating violence education into any annual health curriculum framework for students in grades seven through twelve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of the Department of Education, the Chairperson of the Hawaii Board of Education, and all Hawaii public school administrators and principals.



# H.R. NO. 214

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MAR 18 2009

