
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO PROTECT FUNDING AND MAINTAIN PROGRAMS, LAWS,
REGULATIONS, AND POLICIES THAT ASSIST VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE.

1 WHEREAS, domestic violence is a major problem in both
2 Hawaii and throughout the United States; and
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4 WHEREAS, domestic violence is often referred to as intimate
5 partner violence, which involves couples who are dating,
6 spouses, and former spouses or partners; and
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8 WHEREAS, around the world, one in every three women has
9 been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused during her
10 lifetime; and
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12 WHEREAS, according to the Community Overcoming Relationship
13 Abuse organization, also known as CORA, a woman is abused every
14 nine seconds, and one in five high school females experience
15 dating violence; and
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17 WHEREAS, a fact sheet prepared by the National Coalition
18 Against Domestic Violence states that in 1999 there were 8,013
19 reported cases of domestic violence in Hawaii; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Police Department estimates that up
22 to one-half of the Department's work time is spent responding to
23 "domestic" calls; and
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25 WHEREAS, domestic violence often involves physical, sexual,
26 verbal, emotional, and psychological abuse; and
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28 WHEREAS, women victimized by abuse are more likely to be
29 diagnosed with serious health problems including depression,
30 panic attacks, migraine headaches, chronic pain, arthritis, and
31 high blood pressure, and are also more likely to display high-



1 risk behaviors such as substance abuse and sexual risk-taking;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, pregnant women are frequent targets of abuse, and
5 as a result are considered at-risk for low birth-weight babies
6 and preterm labor; and

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8 WHEREAS, although domestic violence is the number one cause
9 of injury to women, ten percent of domestic violence victims are
10 men; and

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12 WHEREAS, in addition to the physical and psychological
13 effects of domestic violence on the victim and the victim's
14 family, there are job-related consequences; and

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16 WHEREAS, CORA estimates that it costs the American economy
17 \$8,000,000,000 to \$10,000,000,000 in absenteeism, medical costs,
18 employee turnover, lost productivity, and other costs; and

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20 WHEREAS, 3,000,000 to 10,000,000 children witness domestic
21 violence every year, and often these children are abused
22 themselves; and

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24 WHEREAS, youth who commit crime often have histories of
25 child abuse and exposure to domestic violence; and

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27 WHEREAS, a change in funding, programs, laws, regulations,
28 or policies that would discourage victims from reporting
29 incidents of domestic violence, would force many victims to
30 remain in violent relationships just to avoid deportation and
31 abandonment of their children, which would in turn cause these
32 children to seek public assistance, possibly end up in foster
33 care, and become more likely to exhibit domestic violence
34 behaviors themselves; now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2009, that this body urges Congress to protect funding and
39 maintain programs, laws, regulations, and policies that assist
40 victims of domestic violence; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States
3 House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the United States
4 Senate, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, the
5 Governor, Director of Human Services, Director of Health, and
6 Executive Director of the Hawaii State Coalition Against
7 Domestic Violence.

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