
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO INVESTIGATE THE
INCIDENCE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE PERPETRATED BY WOMEN AGAINST
MEN IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, abuse is a pattern of coercive control that one
2 person exercises over another and battering is a behavior that
3 physically harms, arouses fear, prevents a household member from
4 doing what that person wishes or forces that person to behave in
5 unwanted ways; and

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7 WHEREAS, battering includes the use of physical and sexual
8 violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse, and
9 economic deprivation; and

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11 WHEREAS, domestic abuse can happen to anyone of any race,
12 age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender; can happen to
13 couples who are married, living together, or who are dating; and
14 affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education
15 levels; and

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17 WHEREAS, the most commonly recognized facts about domestic
18 abuse focus on the plight of women being abused by men; and

19
20 WHEREAS, for example, about one out of every four women in
21 the country will be physically assaulted or raped by an intimate
22 partner at some point in their lives and are more likely to be
23 assaulted, injured, raped, or killed by a male partner than by
24 any other type of assailant. Estimates of assaults on women by
25 partners range from approximately two to four million annually
26 in the United States. The majority of women killed at work are
27 murdered by a current or former intimate partner; and

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29 WHEREAS, domestic abuse can also be perpetrated by women
30 against their male partners, which is a situation that largely
31 goes unnoticed or ignored; and



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2 WHEREAS, according to various websites devoted to exploring
3 domestic abuse perpetrated by women against men, up to 835,000
4 men are battered each year, reflecting the hidden side of
5 domestic abuse; and
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7 WHEREAS, according to a 2003 article in the *Florida State*
8 *University Law Review* by Dr. Jill Kelly (vol. 30, pp. 792-793):
9 "The 1977 assertion that 'the phenomenon of husband battering'
10 is as prevalent as wife abuse is confirmed by nationally
11 representative studies, such as the Family Violence Surveys, as
12 well as by numerous other sources. However, despite the wealth
13 and diversity of the sociological research and the consistency
14 of the findings, female violence is not recognized within the
15 extensive legal literature on domestic violence. Instead, the
16 literature consistently suggests that only men commit domestic
17 violence. Either explicitly, or more often implicitly, through
18 the failure to address the subject in any objective manner,
19 female violence is denied, defended and minimized"; and
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21 WHEREAS, this view of domestic abuse has skewed arrest and
22 prosecution philosophies and shaped how rehabilitative programs
23 are geared toward producing only programs that address male
24 violence; and
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26 WHEREAS, this is reason to believe that this situation also
27 exists in the State but the problem is largely unacknowledged;
28 now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
32 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human
33 Services is urged to investigate the incidence of domestic abuse
34 perpetrated by women against men in Hawaii; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
37 Services is further urged to reshape its programs that relate to
38 education, prevention, protection, treatment, or rehabilitation
39 of persons in an abusive relationship to account for men being
40 abused by their women partners; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
43 Services is requested to report findings and recommendations to
44 the Legislature, including any necessary proposed legislation,
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1 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
2 Session of 2011; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
6 Services.

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OFFERED BY:

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