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## HOUSE 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

16  
17           WHEREAS, the most commonly recognized facts about domestic  
18 abuse focus on the plight of women being abused by men; and

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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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33           WHEREAS, according to various websites devoted to exploring  
34 domestic abuse perpetrated by women against men, up to 835,000



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1 men are battered each year, reflecting the hidden side of  
2 domestic abuse; and  
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4 WHEREAS, according to a 2003 article in the *Florida State*  
5 *University Law Review* by Dr. Jill Kelly (vol. 30, pp. 792-793):  
6 "The 1977 assertion that 'the phenomenon of husband battering'  
7 is as prevalent as wife abuse is confirmed by nationally  
8 representative studies, such as the Family Violence Surveys, as  
9 well as by numerous other sources. However, despite the wealth  
10 and diversity of the sociological research and the consistency  
11 of the findings, female violence is not recognized within the  
12 extensive legal literature on domestic violence. Instead, the  
13 literature consistently suggests that only men commit domestic  
14 violence. Either explicitly, or more often implicitly, through  
15 the failure to address the subject in any objective manner,  
16 female violence is denied, defended and minimized"; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, this view of domestic abuse has skewed arrest and  
19 prosecution philosophies and shaped how rehabilitative programs  
20 are geared toward producing only programs that address male  
21 violence; and  
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23 WHEREAS, this is reason to believe that this situation also  
24 exists in the State but the problem is largely unacknowledged;  
25 now, therefore,  
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
28 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
29 of 2010, that the Department of Human Services is urged to  
30 investigate the incidence of domestic abuse perpetrated by women  
31 against men in Hawaii; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
34 Services is further urged to reshape its programs that relate to  
35 education, prevention, protection, treatment, or rehabilitation  
36 of persons in an abusive relationship to account for men being  
37 abused by their women partners; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
40 Services is requested to report findings and recommendations to  
41 the Legislature, including any necessary proposed legislation,  
42 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
43 Session of 2011; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.  
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