
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO EXAMINE FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO ALLOW STATES TO MORE READILY ENACT UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION-RELATED LAWS THAT ALLOW FEAR OF DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE TO BE A VALID REASON FOR NOT ACCEPTING SUITABLE WORK.

1 WHEREAS, domestic violence and sex assault is an
2 international issue that permeates all levels of society,
3 affecting people regardless of age, income, education, religion,
4 or culture; and

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6 WHEREAS, a February 2008 report from the U.S. Centers for
7 Disease Control and Prevention indicated that 23.6 percent of
8 women and 11.5 percent of men reported at least one lifetime
9 episode of intimate-partner violence; and

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11 WHEREAS, the cost of domestic violence to the U.S. economy
12 is more than \$8.3 billion annually, including medical care,
13 mental health services, and lost productivity; and

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

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19 WHEREAS, such violence results in nearly 8,000,000 lost
20 days of paid work per year, or the equivalent of 32,000 full-
21 time jobs; and

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23 WHEREAS, October 2006 U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics
24 data indicates that domestic violence coming to the workplace
25 accounts for 24 percent of workplace violence incidents; and

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27 WHEREAS, a study of three large companies in 39 states
28 indicated that ten percent of its workers that responded to the
29 survey were currently going through some form of domestic abuse,



1 and an additional 19 percent of men and 30 percent of women said
2 they had been victims at some point in their lives; and
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4 WHEREAS, in some cases, victims of domestic abuse are
5 victimized in the workplace, thereby creating a dangerous
6 situation not only for the victim, but also for persons at the
7 workplace; and
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9 WHEREAS, safety all persons in the workplace should be a
10 top priority; and
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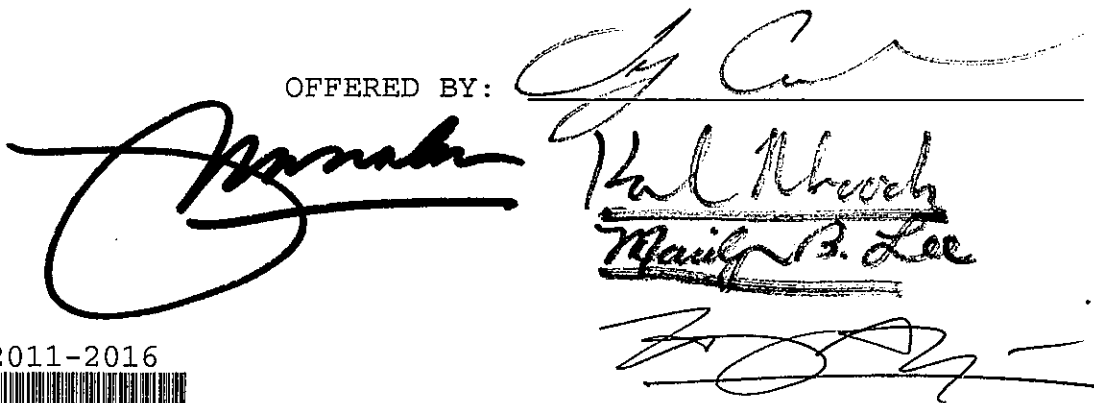
12 WHEREAS, domestic violence can impede job search efforts
13 for victims of domestic violence who must look for a safe place
14 to live and care for their children, or are healing from
15 injuries; and
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17 WHEREAS, however, unemployment insurance laws usually
18 require claimants be "ready and available" for work, as well as
19 actively seeking work, which can be challenging for victims who
20 are searching for work or leave work because of domestic
21 violence; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2011, that the U.S. Department of Labor is requested to
26 examine federal laws and regulations to allow states to more
27 readily enact unemployment compensation-related laws that will
28 allow fear of domestic or sexual violence to be a valid reason
29 for not accepting suitable work; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the U.S. Secretary of Labor, each
33 member of Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Governor, and
34 the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.
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OFFERED BY:

The block contains several handwritten signatures. One large signature is on the left, and several smaller ones are on the right, including one that appears to be 'Paul Kneech' and another that is partially legible as 'Marilyn B. Lee'. There are also some scribbled-out or less distinct signatures.

