
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO AFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO UPHOLDING THE TENETS OF TITLE IX AND THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT 2013 AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I'S DEDICATION TO ENDING ALL FORMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON HAWAII CAMPUSES THROUGH A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF TITLE IX AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT 2013 POLICIES, PROCEDURES, STAFFING, AND STATISTICS.

1 WHEREAS, Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of
2 sex in the administration of any education program receiving
3 federal financial assistance and bans sexual harassment,
4 discrimination against pregnant and parenting students, and the
5 use of stereotypes and other barriers to limit a person's access
6 to a particular educational field; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is aimed at
9 ending violence against women and girls and remedying laws and
10 social practices that, in the past, have fostered and justified
11 violence against women and girls; and

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13 WHEREAS, Title IX protects all people regardless of their
14 gender or gender identity from sexual harassment and violence,
15 which are forms of discrimination; and

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17 WHEREAS, since its inception over 40 years ago, Title IX
18 has been instrumental in increasing educational opportunities for
19 women and girls and fostering equality between men and women;
20 and

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22 WHEREAS, Title IX has made progress in fostering equality
23 between women and men in both educational and workplace settings;
24 and

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26 WHEREAS, Title IX has been renamed the Patsy Takemoto Mink
27 Equal Opportunity in Education Act in recognition of the late

1 United States Representative Patsy Mink's tireless efforts to
2 develop and pass Title IX; and

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4 WHEREAS, sexual violence is prevalent on college campuses
5 with statistics showing that one in five college women will be
6 raped before graduation; survivors of these sexual assaults are
7 often full-time students; and approximately one-third of these
8 sexual assaults are perpetrated on women who are first year
9 students between the ages of 17 and 19; and

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11 WHEREAS, in the last five years, there has been increasing
12 media attention surrounding allegations of sexual misconduct on
13 college campuses focusing on universities' perceived "deliberate
14 indifference" and lack of institutional response to a growing
15 number of incidents and allegations of sexual violence and sexual
16 harassment; and

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18 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education's Office
19 for Civil Rights, the administrative office enforcing Title IX,
20 published a document providing guidance concerning sexual
21 harassment in 2001 ("*Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance:
22 Harassment of Students by School Employees, Other Students, or
23 Third Parties*") and more recently provided guidance concerning
24 sexual harassment in an April 4, 2011 "Dear Colleague" letter
25 focused on sexual violence; and

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27 WHEREAS, as a result of growing concern by students and
28 parents across the country and recent guidance from the
29 Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, many
30 universities have made organizational and policy changes to
31 better address student allegations and safety; and

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33 WHEREAS, college campuses should not tolerate sexual
34 violence or any form of sex discrimination, but instead seek to
35 foster a culture that rejects sexual violence and educates
36 community members about how best to prevent and respond to a
37 sexual assault; and

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39 WHEREAS, the provisions of VAWA have been carefully crafted
40 with the input and assistance of more than 2,000 advocates and
41 experts from around the country; and

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43 WHEREAS, VAWA ensures that survivors of sexual assault have
44 access to necessary services; improves institutional responses to
45 violence; provides access to services for gay, lesbian, bisexual
46 and transgender survivors who frequently are excluded from
47 services; and ensures that survivors of sexual assault in Native



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1 American communities and in the United States Territories have
2 access to justice; and

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4 WHEREAS, violence against women is a continuing problem
5 that must be addressed; and

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7 WHEREAS, stereotypes, discrimination, and barriers still
8 exist for women and girls in the fields of science, mathematics,
9 technology, and engineering; and

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11 WHEREAS, educators and students are often not aware of
12 Title IX protections against sex discrimination and sexual
13 harassment; now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular
17 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the University of
18 Hawai'i is requested to:

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20 (1) Affirm the University's commitment to following the
21 tenets of Title IX and VAWA and to preventing all forms
22 of violence against women and girls;
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24 (2) Ensure that the University is committed to increasing
25 resources and strengthening the institutional
26 infrastructure of all its campuses to more effectively
27 address and prevent sexual violence and other forms of
28 gender violence and discrimination;
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30 (3) Meet the mandates of Title IX by:
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32 (A) Publishing and widely disseminating notice of
33 nondiscrimination on the basis of sex;
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35 (B) Designating an employee to coordinate Title IX
36 compliance;
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38 (C) Adopting appropriate complaint and investigation
39 procedures;
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41 (D) Implementing education and victim resource
42 programs;
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44 (E) Providing training to the campus community on how
45 to identify and report harassment; and



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(F) Providing training to appropriate employees about how to investigate allegations of sexual discrimination, including harassment and violence;

(4) Formulate plans to address and prevent gender discrimination and gender violence given the unique aspects of each campus and strengthen the institutional response of the University of Hawai'i campuses to ensure compliance with Title IX and VAWA, particularly at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, and disseminate information regarding the steps, if any, that have been taken to revise relevant University of Hawai'i policies and procedures to comply with Title IX and VAWA, and to develop best practices to respond to victims of sexual violence; and

(5) Conduct a study on the prevalence of sexual violence on all campuses of the University of Hawai'i system and disseminate copies of this study to appropriate parties; and

(6) Identify critical stakeholders and offices to handle complaints of sex-based violence, harassment, and discrimination and develop streamlined policies and procedures to ensure that complainants are able to find information, make formal complaints, and access University resources with ease and to ensure that the University is able to respond to complaints in a timely and effective manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawai'i is requested to submit a report of its guidelines and the status of their Title IX and VAWA policies, procedures, staffing and statistics, including any proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents and the Office of the President of the University of Hawai'i.

OFFERED BY:

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JAN 17 2014