
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE AN ANTI-
GRAFFITI TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ADDRESS
EDUCATION AND PREVENTION, ENFORCEMENT, COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT, LEGISLATION, AND GRAFFITI REMOVAL.

1 WHEREAS, graffiti vandalism has grown from an exclusively
2 big city or urban concern to a problem that affects all
3 communities; and
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5 WHEREAS, graffiti vandals have caused more than
6 \$1,000,000,000 of damage on public and private property
7 nationwide; and
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9 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, graffiti vandals are elusive and city
10 and county police generally apprehend individuals suspected of
11 graffiti only when they stake out a specific area or, more
12 commonly, when a witness calls 911; and
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14 WHEREAS, graffiti vandals may use social media to showcase
15 their acts of vandalism to a nationwide audience, which has led
16 to a recent increase of graffiti vandalism in Hawaii, according
17 to a Department of Public Safety official; and
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19 WHEREAS, while anti-graffiti legislation should be one part
20 of Hawaii's comprehensive approach to eradicating or containing
21 the problem of graffiti vandalism, other elements should include
22 education and prevention, enforcement, community involvement,
23 and graffiti removal; now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
27 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the State Attorney
28 General is requested to convene an anti-graffiti task force to
29 develop recommendations that address education and prevention,



1 enforcement, community involvement, legislation, and graffiti
2 removal; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be chaired by
5 the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee, and
6 comprise:

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8 (1) The Director of Public Safety, or the director's
9 designee;
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11 (2) The Superintendent of Education, or the
12 Superintendent's designee;
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14 (3) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Foundation
15 on Culture and the Arts or the Executive Director's
16 designee;
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18 (4) The President of the Senate, or the President's
19 designee;
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21 (5) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the
22 Speaker's designee;
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24 (6) A representative from the Judiciary appointed by the
25 Chief Justice; and
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27 (7) A police chief from one of the four counties, or the
28 chief's designee; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should consider,
31 among other things:

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33 (1) Developing definitions for graffiti and graffiti-
34 related implements to aid in drafting legislation;
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36 (2) Developing anti-graffiti programs in schools and
37 promoting youth diversion activities that encourage
38 artistic expression through a lawful medium;
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40 (3) Controlling access to aerosol spray paint containers
41 and other items that may be used for graffiti by



- 1 requiring retailers to display and store these items
- 2 in monitored locations;
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- 4 (4) Requiring retailers who sell items that may be used
- 5 for graffiti to post signage educating customers about
- 6 the graffiti law;
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- 8 (5) Developing legislation to assist law enforcement and
- 9 judicial agencies in reducing graffiti vandalism;
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- 11 (6) Partnering with communities to establish graffiti
- 12 hotlines and graffiti removal teams; and
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- 14 (7) Determining the amount spent on graffiti removal at
- 15 schools and public spaces; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to

18 submit a report, authored by the State Department of the

19 Attorney General with consultation from representatives of the

20 retail industry and community graffiti clean-up groups, that

21 addresses the problem of graffiti vandalism in Hawaii, and

22 provides findings and recommendations, including any proposed

23 legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to

24 the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General;

28 Director of Public Safety; Superintendent of Education;

29 Executive Director of the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and

30 the Arts; President of the Senate; Speaker of the House of

31 Representatives; Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court; the

32 police chiefs of the Hawaii Police Department, Honolulu Police

33 Department, Kauai Police Department, and Maui Police Department;

34 and the chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Retail

35 Merchants of Hawaii.