
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO STUDY THE CORRELATION
BETWEEN SEXUAL ABUSE AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER
WITHIN THE STATE'S FEMALE PRISON POPULATION.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety is responsible for
2 ensuring the safety of the State's prison population; and
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4 WHEREAS, sexual attacks are a common occurrence in prisons
5 nationwide, prompting the need for the federal Prison Rape
6 Elimination Act of 2003, the purpose of which is to reduce
7 prison rape through research and information gathering; and
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9 WHEREAS, victims of sexual assault may be less likely to
10 report the incident due to the fear of retaliation or the fear
11 of being stigmatized with pejorative labels; and
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13 WHEREAS, female inmates who are victims of sexual assault
14 have limited resources and support networks to cope with the
15 experience, which further inhibits female inmates from reporting
16 the sexual assault; and
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18 WHEREAS, the symptoms of sexual violence may include
19 intense fear, helplessness, or horror and may develop into post-
20 traumatic stress disorder; and
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22 WHEREAS, people who experience post-traumatic stress
23 disorder are often forced to rely on psychotherapy or
24 medications to help them cope with the causes and symptoms of
25 the disorder; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
29 Session of 2014, that the University of Hawaii, with the help of
30 its appropriate department, is requested to conduct a study of
31 the correlation between sexual abuse and post-traumatic stress
32 disorder within the female inmate population; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED than any information gathered as
2 part of this study pertaining to individual names or
3 identifications shall be kept confidential at all times; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii and
6 its appropriate department are requested to report findings and
7 recommendations to the Legislature not later than 20 days before
8 the convening of the 2015 Regular Session; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of
12 Hawaii.

