
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE HOW A STATEWIDE USE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSESSMENTS AND RESPONSE PROTOCOLS BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL CAN HELP TO STRENGTHEN THE STATE'S OVERALL RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that domestic violence, also
2 known as intimate partner violence, is a serious health and
3 public safety concern that occurs across genders, with an
4 estimated national average of 20 people experiencing domestic
5 violence every minute; and

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7 WHEREAS, according to a 2017 report by the Centers for
8 Disease Control and Prevention, in killings of women nationally
9 where the circumstances were known, more than fifty percent of
10 the cases involved intimate partner violence and one in ten
11 victims of intimate partner violence-related homicide had
12 reported experiencing prior acts of violence in the month
13 preceding death; and

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15 WHEREAS, on a State level, the average annual number of
16 cases in the Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services
17 and Injury Prevention System Branch Pre-Hospital Medical Record
18 System from 2013 through 2015 that involved intimate partner
19 violence against females aged twelve to fifty years was 718 in
20 the City and County of Honolulu, 116 in Hawaii County, 105 in
21 Maui County, and 26 in Kauai County; and

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23 WHEREAS, domestic violence is a complex societal issue for
24 which effective solutions require the combined efforts of key
25 stakeholders, including emergency medical services personnel and
26 other first responders who are often the first to respond to
27 calls for help from victims of domestic violence; and



1 WHEREAS, through their close interactions with known or
2 suspected victims of domestic violence, emergency medical
3 services personnel and other first responders are uniquely
4 positioned to assess significant threats to a victim's life or
5 personal safety; and

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7 WHEREAS, the data collected by emergency medical services
8 personnel and other first responders during scene assessments is
9 valuable not only in helping to keep victims of domestic
10 violence safe, but also in more effectively preparing emergency
11 medical services personnel and other first responders for the
12 potential dangers associated with responding to domestic
13 violence incidents; and

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15 WHEREAS, it is not the Legislature's intent to interfere
16 with the critical and time-sensitive work of first responders,
17 but to recognize the inherent opportunity to provide urgent
18 interventions during the initial response to domestic violence
19 incidents; now, therefore,

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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
22 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
23 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is
24 requested to convene a task force to examine how a statewide use
25 of domestic violence assessments and response protocols by
26 emergency medical services personnel can help to strengthen the
27 State's overall response to domestic violence; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
30 include the following members:

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- 32 (1) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee,
33 who is requested to serve as the chair of the task
34 force;
 - 35 (2) The respective Emergency Medical Services chiefs of
36 the City and County of Honolulu and the Counties of
37 Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, or their designees;
 - 38 (3) Two members of each house of the Legislature, to be
39 designated by the President of the Senate and the
40 Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively,
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1 provided that at least one of the designated members
2 is requested to be a member of the Women's Legislative
3 Caucus;

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5 (4) A representative from the Hawaii State Coalition
6 Against Domestic Violence, or a similar victim
7 advocacy organization invited by the chair of the task
8 force; and

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10 (5) A representative from a domestic violence advocacy
11 organization from each county invited by the chair of
12 the task force; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
15 examine:

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17 (1) Whether the development of domestic violence
18 assessments and response protocols may better protect
19 victims of domestic violence and first responders; and

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21 (2) Issues relevant to the implementation of domestic
22 violence assessments and response protocols; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
25 requested to provide administrative support for the task force;
26 and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair of the task force is
29 requested to invite other members to the task force, including
30 the respective police chiefs of the four counties, or their
31 designees, and representatives of government or community-based
32 entities that share or compare data with emergency medical
33 services personnel or other first responders to incidents of
34 domestic violence; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
37 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
38 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20
39 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health;



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1 the respective Emergency Medical Services chiefs of the City and
 2 County of Honolulu and the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui;
 3 and the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Coalition Against
 4 Domestic Violence.

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OFFERED BY:

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