

---

---

# HOUSE 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  
6

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  
14

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  
22

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  
28

29           WHEREAS, through their close interactions with known or  
30 suspected victims of domestic violence, emergency medical



1 services personnel and other first responders are uniquely  
2 positioned to assess significant threats to a victim's life or  
3 personal safety; and  
4

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

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

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

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

- 30 (1) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee,  
31 who is requested to serve as the chair of the task  
32 force;  
33
- 34 (2) The respective Emergency Medical Services chiefs of  
35 the City and County of Honolulu and the Counties of  
36 Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, or their designees;  
37
- 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,  
41 provided that at least one of the designated members



1 is requested to be a member of the Women's Legislative  
2 Caucus;

3  
4 (4) A representative from the Hawaii State Coalition  
5 Against Domestic Violence, or a similar victim  
6 advocacy organization invited by the chair of the task  
7 force; and

8  
9 (5) A representative from a domestic violence advocacy  
10 organization from each county invited by the chair of  
11 the task force; and

12  
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
14 examine:

15  
16 (1) Whether the development of domestic violence  
17 assessments and response protocols may better protect  
18 victims of domestic violence and first responders; and

19  
20 (2) Issues relevant to the implementation of domestic  
21 violence assessments and response protocols; and

22  
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
24 requested to provide administrative support for the task force;  
25 and

26  
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair of the task force is  
28 requested to invite other members to the task force, including  
29 the respective police chiefs of the four counties, or their  
30 designees, and representatives of government or community-based  
31 entities that share or compare data with emergency medical  
32 services personnel or other first responders to incidents of  
33 domestic violence; and

34  
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
36 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
37 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20  
38 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and



# H.R. NO. 186

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health; the  
 3 respective Emergency Medical Services chiefs of the City and  
 4 County of Honolulu and the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui;  
 5 and the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Coalition Against  
 6 Domestic Violence.

7  
 8  
 9

OFFERED BY:

*John W. ...*  
*Rory M. ...*  
*100%*  
*Gary ...*  
*T. ...*  
*...*  
*...*  
*...*

MAR 08 2019

