
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY
THE REPORTING, PROSECUTION, AND CONVICTION RATE OF HATE
CRIMES IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, hate crimes are defined as any criminal act in
2 which the perpetrator intentionally selected a victim because of
3 hostility toward the actual or perceived race, religion,
4 disability, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity or
5 expression, or sexual orientation of any person; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Department of the Attorney General is
8 responsible for the collection, storage, dissemination, and
9 analysis of all hate crime data from all agencies that have
10 primary investigative, action, or program responsibility for
11 adult or juvenile offenses, including the county police
12 departments, the county prosecutors, the family courts, and the
13 departments or agencies responsible for administering any
14 correctional facilities; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Department of the Attorney General currently
17 only includes data based on convictions in its annual report of
18 hate crime data submitted to the Governor, Judiciary, Department
19 of Public Safety, and Legislature; and
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21 WHEREAS, based on this rendering of statistics, only two
22 hate crimes were reported for the State in the most recent
23 annual report; and
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25 WHEREAS, hate crime data acquired by the county police
26 departments indicates that the number of crimes initially
27 flagged as hate crimes greatly exceeds the number reported by
28 the Attorney General; and
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30 WHEREAS, there appears to be a disconnect between the
31 number of crimes initially reported as hate crimes and those



1 that are eventually included in the Attorney General's report;
2 now, therefore,
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
6 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Attorney General is
7 requested to convene a task force to study the progression of
8 hate crime investigations and prosecutions from the initial
9 police report to the closing of the case; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
12 make recommendations on improvements to be made in the
13 prosecution and comprehensive reporting of hate crimes; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership is
16 requested to include a representative of the Department of the
17 Attorney General, a representative of each county police
18 department, a representative of each county office of the
19 prosecuting attorney, and four representatives from agencies
20 that have investigative, detention, custodial, adjudicative, or
21 program responsibility for adult or juvenile offenses; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
24 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
25 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than forty
26 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney
30 General, Prosecuting Attorney of each county, and Chief of
31 Police of each county.
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OFFERED BY: Ben

MAR - 6 2020

