
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON MISSING AND
MURDERED NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS AND TO SUBMIT A
REPORT ON THE STUDY TO THE LEGISLATURE.

1 WHEREAS, indigenous women and girls are victims of violence
2 at far greater rates than any other population in the United
3 States; and
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5 WHEREAS, women and children in Hawaii are facing a
6 widespread epidemic of violence and sex trafficking; and
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8 WHEREAS, First Nations in Canada organized a mass movement
9 to expose the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women
10 and girls, which led to a national report and declaration of a
11 national emergency; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Urban Indian Health Institute published the
14 report "Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls: A
15 snapshot of data from 71 urban cities in the United States" in
16 2018 to document the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous
17 women and girls in the United States; and
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19 WHEREAS, this report did not include Hawaii nor any
20 information on Native Hawaiian women and girls; and
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22 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women as a group are more
23 economically vulnerable than Native Hawaiian men, earning
24 seventy cents for every dollar a man makes, and seventy-nine
25 cents for every dollar a Native Hawaiian man makes; and
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27 WHEREAS, historical trauma has increased the vulnerability
28 of Native Hawaiian women and girls to sex trafficking and other
29 forms of violent crimes; and
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31 WHEREAS, harmful colonial stereotypes have resulted in the
32 sexual fetishization of Native Hawaiian women; and
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1 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women, girls, and Native Hawaiian
2 members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer
3 community disproportionately experience factors that put them at
4 high risk of being victims of sex trafficking and being involved
5 with the sex industry; and

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7 WHEREAS, State government agencies are required by various
8 federal and state laws to tackle sex trafficking and collect
9 data; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs published the
12 report "Haumea: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian
13 Women and Empowering Wahine Well-Being" in 2018, and noted there
14 was no data specific to the human trafficking of Native Hawaiian
15 women and girls; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of
18 Women, in partnership with Arizona State University, surveyed
19 sex trafficking victims and found that in 2018, seventy-seven
20 percent were Native Hawaiian, and then subsequently found that
21 sixty-four percent were Native Hawaiian in 2019; and

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23 WHEREAS, from 2017 to 2019, one out of every three child
24 sex trafficking victims reported to the Child Welfare Services
25 child sex trafficking hotline were Native Hawaiian, and ninety-
26 five percent were girls; and

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28 WHEREAS, family members must often rely on alert mechanisms
29 for missing children, including physical message boards at
30 stores and social media outlets; and

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32 WHEREAS, the State should be listening to Native Hawaiians
33 and identifying ways to increase reporting on missing and
34 murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls; and

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36 WHEREAS, nine states have passed legislation to address the
37 missing and murdered indigenous women and girl crisis; now,
38 therefore,

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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
41 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
42 2020, that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women is



1 requested to convene a task force to conduct a study on the
2 following regarding missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women
3 and girls:

- 4 (1) Identifying the cause of the problem;
- 5 (2) Identifying current databases and data collection
6 methods;
- 7 (3) Identifying barriers to data collection and
8 information sharing;
- 9 (4) Creating partnerships to increase reporting and
10 investigations; and
- 11 (5) Recommending any legislation to improve data
12 collection and sharing to eliminate harm to indigenous
13 women and girls; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be comprised of
21 the following members or their designees:

- 22 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission
23 on the Status of Women, who shall serve as the chair
24 of the task force;
- 25 (2) The Director of Health;
- 26 (3) The Director of Human Services;
- 27 (4) The Administrative Director of the Courts;
- 28 (5) The Attorney General;
- 29 (6) The Chairs of the County Committee on the Status of
30 Women from each respective county; and
- 31 (7) The Chief of Police from each respective county; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force further include
41 the following members, or their designees, who shall be
42 nonvoting members:



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- (1) One representative from Papa Ola Lokahi;
- (2) One representative from the Sex Abuse Treatment Center;
- (3) One representative from Hale Kipa;
- (4) One representative from Residential Youth Services and Empowerment;
- (5) One representative from Susannah Wesley Community Center; and
- (6) One representative from Ho'ōla Nā Pua; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may invite additional organizations or agencies to participate in the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women is requested to provide administrative support for the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a preliminary report of its finding and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022, and a final report, including any additional proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of Human Services, Attorney General, Administrative Director of the Courts, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Chairs of each County Committee on the Status of Women, Chiefs of Police of each county, Executive Director of Papa Ola Lokahi, Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, Chief Executive Officer of Hale Kipa, Executive Director



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1 of Residential Youth Services and Empowerment, President of the
 2 Susannah Wesley Community Center, and President of Ho'ōla Nā Pua.

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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 06 2020

