
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY HOW EFFECTIVE EXISTING LAWS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS, PROTECTIVE ORDERS, AND HARASSMENT BY STALKING ARE IN PREVENTING CONTINUED ABUSE AND HARASSMENT.

1 WHEREAS, domestic violence and stalking continue to be
2 pervasive and serious public safety concerns affecting
3 individuals and families throughout the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, temporary restraining orders and protective orders
6 serve as critical legal tools by providing immediate protection
7 for victims of domestic violence and harassment by stalking; and
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9 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised regarding the
10 effectiveness of the laws on domestic violence temporary
11 restraining orders, protective orders, and harassment by
12 stalking in improving victim safety; and
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14 WHEREAS, it is essential to evaluate whether enforcement
15 mechanisms are sufficient, and whether additional legislative
16 measures, including funding, may be necessary to enhance their
17 effectiveness; and
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19 WHEREAS, a study conducted by the Judiciary would provide
20 valuable data and insights into the rate of compliance,
21 enforcement challenges, and victim outcomes; and
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23 WHEREAS, the study should consider feedback from key
24 stakeholders, including each county's law enforcement agencies,
25 each county's prosecuting attorney, victim advocacy
26 organizations, the legal community, and individuals impacted by
27 domestic violence and stalking; and
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1 WHEREAS, findings and recommendations from the study could
2 inform potential legislative improvements to better safeguard
3 victims and prevent future harm; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
7 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Judiciary is requested
8 to convene a working group to study how effective the existing
9 laws on domestic violence temporary restraining orders,
10 protective orders, and harassment by stalking are in improving
11 victim safety; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
14 to consist of the following members or their designees:
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- 16 (1) The Chief of Police of the Honolulu Police Department;
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- 18 (2) The Chief of Police of the Maui Police Department;
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- 20 (3) The Chief of Police of the Hawaii Police Department;
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- 22 (4) The Chief of Police of the Kauai Police Department;
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- 24 (5) The Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of
25 Honolulu;
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- 27 (6) The Prosecuting Attorney of Maui County;
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- 29 (7) The Prosecuting Attorney of Hawaii County;
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- 31 (8) The Prosecuting Attorney of Kauai County;
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- 33 (9) The Public Defender;
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- 35 (10) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission
36 on the Status of Women;
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- 38 (11) The President of the Hawaii Association of Criminal
39 Defense Lawyers;
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- 41 (12) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Coalition
42 Against Domestic Violence;



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- 2 (13) A representative from a nonprofit organization that
- 3 serves victims of domestic violence and stalking, to
- 4 be invited to participate by the Judiciary;
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- 6 (14) A victim of domestic violence or stalking from each
- 7 county, to be invited by the Judiciary; and
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- 9 (15) Any other representative with relevant knowledge or
- 10 experience that the Judiciary deems necessary; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
13 include an analysis of the issuance and enforcement of temporary
14 restraining orders, protective orders, and the judicial response
15 and law enforcement responses to violations of temporary
16 restraining orders and protective orders, as well as an
17 examination of the prosecution and adjudication of harassment by
18 stalking cases; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
21 incorporate data from law enforcement agencies, victim services
22 providers, legal practitioners, and individuals who have sought
23 protection orders; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

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- 27 (1) The Judiciary is requested to submit a report of its
- 28 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
- 29 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
- 30 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
- 31 2027; and
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- 33 (2) The working group is requested to be dissolved on
- 34 December 31, 2026; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice,
38 Administrative Director of the Courts, Attorney General, Public
39 Defender, prosecuting attorney of each county, chief of police
40 of each county, Executive Director of the Hawaii State
41 Commission on the Status of Women, President of the Hawaii



- 1 Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and Executive Director
- 2 of the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

