
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN REGARDS TO PORNOGRAPHY.

1 WHEREAS, pornography creates a public health crisis that
2 perpetuates a sexually toxic environment, contributes to the
3 hyper sexualization of teens, and even prepubescent children, in
4 our society and increases feelings of isolation and breakdowns;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and
8 addiction, to educate individuals and families concerning its
9 harms, and to develop recovery programs must be addressed
10 systematically in ways that hold broader influences accountable;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, it is vital that children and the youth do not
14 become desensitized to graphic, sometimes aggressive sexual
15 imagery that exposes them to dangerously unrealistic portrayals
16 and expectations of intimate nature; and
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18 WHEREAS, children as young as 9 and 10 are exposed to
19 pornography at an alarming rate and it has become easily
20 available due to new technologies, mass production at a low
21 cost, and the universal access to the internet and social media;
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, this early exposure leads to low self-esteem and
25 body image disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity
26 at younger ages, and an exacerbated desire among adolescents to
27 engage in risky sexual behavior which often serves as children's
28 and youth's sex education and shapes their sexual templates; and
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30 WHEREAS, pornography can detrimentally impact brain
31 development and functioning, contribute to emotional and medical
32 illnesses, and lead to difficulty in forming or maintaining
33 intimate relationships. In certain instances, overcoming the



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1 harmful effects of pornography exposure is beyond the capability
2 of the afflicted individual to address alone; and

3 WHEREAS, this biological addiction leads to increasing
4 risky behaviors, extreme degradation, and violence. Pornography
5 contributes to normalizing violence, objectifying people, and
6 has a detrimental effect on the family unit; now, therefore,
7

8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
10 of 2017, that pornography is a public health hazard leading to a
11 broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and
12 societal harms, and that it recognizes the need for education,
13 prevention, research, and policy change at the community and
14 societal level in order to address the pornography epidemic that
15 is harming the people of our state and nation; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,
19 the Director of Health, the President of the Hawaii Association
20 of School Psychologists, and the President of the Hawaii State
21 Parent Teacher Student Association.
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