

JAN 22 2019

---

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO  
CONDUCT A STATEWIDE INVESTIGATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS  
IN THE STATE OF HAWAII BY CLERGY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
CHURCH.

1           WHEREAS, the findings in civil and criminal cases and  
2 reports across the United States, including in Hawai'i, indicate  
3 that the Roman Catholic Church engaged in a decades-long pattern  
4 of moving clergy who sexually abused children within and between  
5 Dioceses, within and between states, and within and between  
6 countries, and of hiding, withholding, or otherwise failing to  
7 disclose documentation and other evidence of child sexual abuse;  
8 and

9  
10           WHEREAS, a recent Pennsylvania grand jury report detailed  
11 the abuse of more than 1,000 children by hundreds of priests  
12 over decades, including at least one priest who was relocated  
13 from Pennsylvania to Hawai'i and later admitted abusing at least  
14 twenty children in the diocese in Erie, Pennsylvania, and then  
15 in the diocese in Hawai'i; and

16  
17           WHEREAS, a recent study by two law firms in Hawai'i detailed  
18 an additional fifty-eight Catholic clergy members who allegedly  
19 committed child sexual abuse in Hawai'i, including recent  
20 allegations; and

21  
22           WHEREAS, child sexual abuse has severe and devastating  
23 physical, emotional, social, and financial consequences for  
24 victims, their families, and their communities, which can last  
25 throughout a victim's lifetime; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, Attorneys General and other state authorities  
28 across the United States are investigating sexual abuse by Roman  
29 Catholic clergy based on the findings of the Pennsylvania grand  
30 jury report, including in Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky,



# S.C.R. NO. 8

1 Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York,  
2 Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, there may be cases of child sexual abuse committed  
5 by clergy of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i  
6 that are within criminal and civil statutes of limitation, which  
7 can be tolled under the law in specific circumstances, such as  
8 when offenders are not physically present in the State of Hawai'i  
9 or are incarcerated on other charges; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, the Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Honolulu,  
12 also known formally as the Roman Catholic Church in the State of  
13 Hawai'i, comprises all of the Hawaiian Islands; now, therefore,  
14

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
16 of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2019, the House of  
17 Representatives concurring, that the Hawai'i State Department of  
18 the Attorney General is urged to conduct a statewide  
19 investigation of sexual abuse of minors in the State of Hawai'i  
20 by clergy of the Roman Catholic Church; and  
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney  
23 General is requested to submit a report on the status of its  
24 investigation to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
25 to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2020, 2021, and  
26 2022; and  
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General.  
30  
31  
32

OFFERED BY:

*Kal Rhoad*

*Randy H. Baker*

*Mark*

*Stacy*  
*Donna Francisco K.*

