

JAN 22 2019

SENATE 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
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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,
31 Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York,
32 Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia; and
33



S.R. NO. 4

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

7
 8 WHEREAS, the Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Honolulu,
 9 also known formally as the Roman Catholic Church in the State of
 10 Hawai'i, comprises all of the Hawaiian Islands; now, therefore,
 11

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

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

23
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 25 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General.
 26
 27
 28

OFFERED BY:

Kal Rhoads

[Signature]
[Signature]
Ann Mercedes K.

