
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 AND ANY OTHER CHURCH OR INSTITUTION WITH ALLEGATIONS
OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS.

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
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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
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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
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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



1 Catholic clergy based on the findings of the Pennsylvania grand
2 jury report, including in Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky,
3 Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York,
4 Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia; and
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6 WHEREAS, there may be cases of child sexual abuse committed
7 by clergy of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i
8 that are within criminal and civil statutes of limitation, which
9 can be tolled under the law in specific circumstances, such as
10 when offenders are not physically present in the State of Hawai'i
11 or are incarcerated on other charges; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Honolulu,
14 also known formally as the Roman Catholic Church in the State of
15 Hawai'i, comprises all of the Hawaiian Islands; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
18 of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
19 Representatives concurring, that the Hawai'i State Department of
20 the Attorney General is urged to conduct a statewide
21 investigation of sexual abuse of minors in the State of Hawai'i
22 by clergy of the Roman Catholic Church and any other church or
23 institution with allegations of sexual abuse of minors; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
26 General is requested to submit a report on the status of its
27 investigation to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
28 to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2020, 2021, and
29 2022; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General.
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