

MAR 03 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON MISSING AND
MURDERED NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS AND TO SUBMIT A
REPORT ON THE STUDY TO THE LEGISLATURE.

1 WHEREAS, indigenous women and girls are victims of violence
2 at far greater rates than any other population in the United
3 States; and

4
5 WHEREAS, women and children in Hawaii are facing a
6 widespread epidemic of violence and sex trafficking; and

7
8 WHEREAS, First Nations in Canada organized a mass movement
9 to expose the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women
10 and girls, which led to a national report and declaration of a
11 national emergency; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the Urban Indian Health Institute published the
14 report "Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls: A
15 snapshot of data from 71 urban cities in the United States" in
16 2018 to document the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous
17 women and girls in the United States; and

18
19 WHEREAS, this report did not include Hawaii nor any
20 information on Native Hawaiian women and girls; and

21
22 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women as a group are more
23 economically vulnerable than Native Hawaiian men, earning
24 seventy cents for every dollar a man makes, and seventy-nine
25 cents for every dollar a Native Hawaiian man makes; and

26
27 WHEREAS, historical trauma has increased the vulnerability
28 of Native Hawaiian women and girls to sex trafficking and other
29 forms of violent crimes; and

30
31 WHEREAS, harmful colonial stereotypes have resulted in the
32 sexual fetishization of Native Hawaiian women; and
33



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1 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women, girls, and Native Hawaiian
2 members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer
3 community disproportionately experience factors that put them at
4 high risk of being victims of sex trafficking and being involved
5 with the sex industry; and

6
7 WHEREAS, State government agencies are required by various
8 federal and state laws to tackle sex trafficking and collect
9 data; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs published the
12 report "Haumea: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian
13 Women and Empowering Wahine Well-Being" in 2018, and noted there
14 was no data specific to the human trafficking of Native Hawaiian
15 women and girls; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of
18 Women, in partnership with Arizona State University, surveyed
19 sex trafficking victims and found that in 2018, seventy-seven
20 percent were Native Hawaiian, and then subsequently found that
21 sixty-four percent were Native Hawaiian in 2019; and

22
23 WHEREAS, from 2017 to 2019, one out of every three child
24 sex trafficking victims reported to the Child Welfare Services
25 child sex trafficking hotline were Native Hawaiian, and ninety-
26 five percent were girls; and

27
28 WHEREAS, family members must often rely on alert mechanisms
29 for missing children, including physical message boards at
30 stores and social media outlets; and

31
32 WHEREAS, the State should be listening to Native Hawaiians
33 and identifying ways to increase reporting on missing and
34 murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls; and

35
36 WHEREAS, nine states have passed legislation to address the
37 missing and murdered indigenous women and girl crisis; now,
38 therefore,

39
40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
41 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the Hawaii
42 State Commission on the Status of Women is requested to convene



- 1 a task force to conduct a study on the following regarding
2 missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls:
3
4 (1) Identifying the cause of the problem;
5
6 (2) Identifying current databases and data collection
7 methods;
8
9 (3) Identifying barriers to data collection and
10 information sharing;
11
12 (4) Creating partnerships to increase reporting and
13 investigations; and
14
15 (5) Recommending any legislation to improve data
16 collection and sharing to eliminate harm to indigenous
17 women and girls; and
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force comprise the
20 following members or their designees:
21

- 22 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission
23 on the Status of Women, who shall serve as the chair
24 of the task force;
25
26 (2) The Director of Health;
27
28 (3) The Director of Human Services;
29
30 (4) The Administrative Director of the Courts;
31
32 (5) The Attorney General;
33
34 (6) The Chairs of the County Committee on the Status of
35 Women from each respective county;
36
37 (7) The Chiefs of Police from each respective county;
38
39 (8) One representative from Papa Ola Lokahi;
40
41 (9) One representative from the Sex Abuse Treatment
42 Center;



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- 1
- 2 (10) One representative from Hale Kipa;
- 3
- 4 (11) One representative from Residential Youth Services and
- 5 Empowerment;
- 6
- 7 (12) One representative from Susannah Wesley Community
- 8 Center; and
- 9
- 10 (13) One representative from Ho'ōla Nā Pua; and
- 11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may invite
 13 additional organizations or agencies to participate in the task
 14 force; and

15
 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Commission on
 17 the Status of Women is requested to provide administrative
 18 support for the task force; and

19
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a
 21 preliminary report of its finding and recommendations, including
 22 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
 23 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 24 2022, and a final report, including any additional proposed
 25 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 26 the Regular Session of 2023; and

27
 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 29 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of
 30 Human Services, Attorney General, Administrative Director of the
 31 Courts, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the
 32 Status of Women, Chairs of each County Committee on the Status
 33 of Women, Chiefs of Police of each county, Executive Director of
 34 Papa Ola Lokahi, Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment
 35 Center, Chief Executive Officer of Hale Kipa, Executive Director
 36 of Residential Youth Services and Empowerment, President of the
 37 Susannah Wesley Community Center, and President of Ho'ōla Nā Pua.

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OFFERED BY: _____

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Clarence K. Nishihara

Michelle Fedani

~~SC~~ ~~sub-AG~~

