

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 290

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2021

RE: S.R. No. 7
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred
S.R. No. 7 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON
THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY MISSING
AND MURDERED NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (Commission) 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.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Judiciary, Department of Health, Office of Hawaiian
Affairs, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, Planned
Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, Papa Ola Lokahi, Ho'ola Nā
Pua, and five individuals.

Your Committee finds that missing and murdered native women
is a human rights crisis that disproportionately affects
indigenous peoples in the United States and Canada, notably those
in Native American communities. A corresponding mass movement in
the United States and Canada has worked to raise awareness of
missing and native women and girls. In the United States, one in
three native women is sexually assaulted during her life and



sixty-seven percent of these assaults are perpetuated by non-natives.

Your Committee further finds that there are concerns about the high rate of sexual violence against Native Hawaiian women. Native Hawaiians represent the largest ethnic group among sex abuse victims and Native Hawaiian girls are over-represented among juvenile runaways. Until 2019, there was no comprehensive data on the prevalence of sex trafficking victimization among Native Hawaiians or the sex market in Hawaii. In 2019, the Commission reported that current over-representation of Native Hawaiian women and girls in sex trafficking at present may directly be linked to vulnerabilities exclusive to the Hawaiian community, such as land dispossession, exposure to sexual violence, hypersexualization, incarceration, cultural dislocation, intergenerational trauma, mental and emotional distress, racism, poverty, and ongoing inequities. Seventy-seven percent of twenty-two sex trafficking victims were Native Hawaiian and one hundred percent identified as women. Of three hundred sixty-three willing participants, twenty-seven percent of participants surveyed were identified as having been sexually trafficked, with sixty-four percent of trafficking victims trafficked before the age of eighteen.


The potential prevalence of sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, and sexual abuse of Native Hawaiians heightens concerns that Native Hawaiians, and particularly Native Hawaiian women and girls may be at a higher risk of being murdered or gone missing. More data is needed to understand and address the social and systemic contexts of violence against Native Hawaiian women and girls, including their murder or disappearance.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 7, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Judiciary, in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 7, S.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,




MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
HWN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SR7	HWN, JDC	2/9/2021		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L. (C)	X			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (VC)	X			
ACASIO, Laura	X			
IHARA, Jr., Les	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes