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# HOUSE CONCURRENT 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.

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

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

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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

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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 or any  
20 information on Native Hawaiian women and girls; and

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22 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women as a group are more  
23 economically vulnerable than Native Hawaiian men, earning on  
24 average eighty-three cents for every dollar a man makes, and  
25 eighty cents for every dollar a Native Hawaiian man makes in  
26 general; and

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28 WHEREAS, historical trauma through factors such as land  
29 dispossession, exposure to sexual violence, incarceration,  
30 cultural dislocation, racism, poverty, and ongoing inequities



1 has increased the vulnerability of Native Hawaiian women and  
2 girls to sex trafficking and other forms of violent crimes; and  
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4 WHEREAS, harmful colonial stereotypes have resulted in the  
5 sexual fetishization of Native Hawaiian women; and  
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7 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women, girls, and members of the  
8 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community  
9 disproportionately experience factors that put them at high risk  
10 of being victims of sex trafficking and being involved with the  
11 sex industry; and  
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13 WHEREAS, state government agencies are required by various  
14 federal and state laws to tackle sex trafficking and collect  
15 data; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs published the  
18 report "Haumea: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian  
19 Women and Empowering Wahine Well-Being" in 2018; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the report did not include information relating to  
22 arrests for human trafficking, commercial sex acts, or  
23 involuntary servitude or data specific to the human trafficking  
24 of Native Hawaiian women and girls; and  
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26 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of  
27 Women, in partnership with Arizona State University, surveyed  
28 twenty-two sex trafficking victims and found that in 2018, 77.3  
29 percent were Native Hawaiian; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of  
32 Women, in partnership with Arizona State University, surveyed  
33 sixty-four sex trafficking victims and found that sixty-four  
34 percent were Native Hawaiian; and  
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36 WHEREAS, from 2017 to 2019, one out of every three child  
37 sex trafficking victims reported to the Child Welfare Services  
38 child sex trafficking hotline were Native Hawaiian, and ninety-  
39 five percent were girls; and  
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41 WHEREAS, family members must often rely on alert mechanisms  
42 for missing children, including physical message boards at  
43 stores and social media outlets; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the State must listen to Native Hawaiians and  
2 identifying ways to increase reporting on missing and murdered  
3 Native Hawaiian women and girls; and  
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5 WHEREAS, five states have passed legislation to address the  
6 missing and murdered indigenous women and girl crisis; now,  
7 therefore,  
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
11 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii State Commission  
12 on the Status of Women is requested to convene a task force to  
13 conduct a study regarding missing and murdered Native Hawaiian  
14 women and girls; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
17 comprise the following members or their designees:  
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- 19 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission  
20 on the Status of Women, who shall serve as a co-chair  
21 of the task force;  
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- 23 (2) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian  
24 Affairs, who shall serve as a co-chair of the task  
25 force;  
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- 27 (3) The Director of Health;  
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- 29 (4) The Director of Human Services;  
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- 31 (5) The Administrative Director of the Courts;  
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- 33 (6) The Attorney General;  
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- 35 (7) The Chair of the County Committee on the Status of  
36 Women of each respective county; and  
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- 38 (8) The Chief of Police of each respective county; and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force also invite  
41 representatives of the following organizations to serve on the  
42 task force:  
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- 44 (1) Papa Ola Lokahi;



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- 2 (2) The Sex Abuse Treatment Center;
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- 4 (3) Hale Kipa;
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- 6 (4) Residential Youth Services and Empowerment;
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- 8 (5) Susannah Wesley Community Center; and
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- 10 (6) Ho'ōla Nā Pua; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may invite  
13 additional organizations or agencies to participate on the task  
14 force; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
17 include the following in its study:

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- 19 (1) Identification of the cause of the problem;
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- 21 (2) Identification of current databases and data  
22 collection methods;
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- 24 (3) Identification of barriers to data collection and  
25 information sharing;
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- 27 (4) Creation of partnerships to increase reporting and  
28 investigations; and
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- 30 (5) Recommendations for any legislation necessary to  
31 improve data collection and sharing to eliminate harm  
32 to indigenous women and girls; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Commission on  
35 the Status of Women is requested to provide administrative  
36 support for the task force; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
39 submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations,  
40 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
41 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
42 of 2023, and a final report, including any additional proposed



1 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
2 the Regular Session of 2024; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General,  
Director of Health, Director of Human Services, Administrative  
Director of the Courts, Executive Director of the Hawaii State  
Commission on the Status of Women, Chief Executive Officer of  
the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of each County Committee  
on the Status of Women, Chief of Police of each county, Chief  
Executive Officer of Hale Kipa, President of Ho'ōla Nā Pua,  
Executive Director of Papa Ola Lokahi, Executive Director of  
Residential Youth Services and Empowerment, Executive Director  
of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, and President of the Susannah  
Wesley Community Center.

