
HOUSE 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

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19 WHEREAS, this report did not include Hawaii nor 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
24 seventy cents for every dollar a man makes, and seventy-nine
25 cents for every dollar a Native Hawaiian man makes; and

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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

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



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

WHEREAS, state government agencies are required by various federal and state laws to tackle sex trafficking and collect data; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



1 of 2021, that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women
2 is requested to convene a task force to conduct a study
3 regarding missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls;
4 and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force comprise the
7 following members or their designees:

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9 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission
10 on the Status of Women, who shall serve as a co-chair
11 of the task force;
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13 (2) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian
14 Affairs, who shall serve as a co-chair of the task
15 force;
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17 (3) The Director of Health;
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19 (4) The Director of Human Services;
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21 (5) The Administrative Director of the Courts;
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23 (6) The Attorney General;
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25 (7) The Chair of the County Committee on the Status of
26 Women of each respective county; and
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28 (8) The Chief of Police of each respective county; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force also invite
31 representatives of the following organizations to serve on the
32 task force:

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34 (1) One representative from Papa Ola Lokahi;
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36 (2) One representative from the Sex Abuse Treatment
37 Center;
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39 (3) One representative from Hale Kipa;
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41 (4) One representative from Residential Youth Services and
42 Empowerment;



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(5) One representative from Susannah Wesley Community Center; and

(6) One representative from Ho'ōla Nā Pua; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may invite additional organizations or agencies to participate on the task force; and

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

- (1) Identifying the cause of the problem;
- (2) Identifying current databases and data collection methods;
- (3) Identifying barriers to data collection and information sharing;
- (4) Creating partnerships to increase reporting and investigations; and
- (5) Recommending any legislation necessary to improve data collection and sharing to eliminate harm to indigenous women and girls; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023, and a final report, including any additional proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, Director of

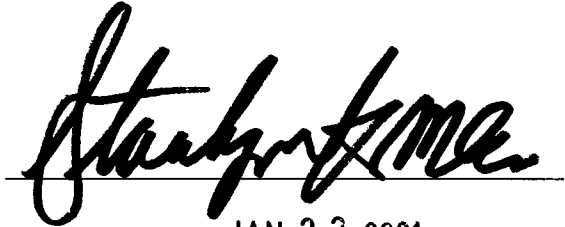


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1 Health, Director of Human Services, Administrative Director of
2 the Courts, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on
3 the Status of Women, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of
4 Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of each County Committee on the Status
5 of Women, Chief of Police of each county, Chief Executive
6 Officer of Hale Kipa, President of Ho'ōla Nā Pua, Executive
7 Director of Papa Ola Lokahi, Executive Director of Residential
8 Youth Services and Empowerment, Executive Director of the Sex
9 Abuse Treatment Center, and President of the Susannah Wesley
10 Community Center.

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OFFERED BY:



JAN 22 2021

