
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.

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

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 seventy-one urban cities in the United
16 States" in 2018 to document the crisis of missing and murdered
17 indigenous 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

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

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27 WHEREAS, historical trauma through factors such as land
28 dispossession, exposure to sexual violence, incarceration,
29 cultural dislocation, racism, poverty, and ongoing inequities
30 has increased the vulnerability of Native Hawaiian women and
31 girls to sex trafficking and other forms of violent crimes; and

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1 WHEREAS, harmful colonial stereotypes have resulted in the
2 sexual fetishization of Native Hawaiian women; and
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4 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women, girls, and members of the
5 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community
6 disproportionately experience factors that put them at high risk
7 of being victims of sex trafficking and being involved with the
8 sex industry; and
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10 WHEREAS, state government agencies are required by various
11 federal and state laws to tackle sex trafficking and collect
12 data; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs published the
15 report "Haumea: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian
16 Women and Empowering Wahine Well-Being" in 2018, in which the
17 report did not indicate that crime arrests for human trafficking
18 commercial sex acts or involuntary servitude. Additionally,
19 there was no data specific to the human trafficking of Native
20 Hawaiian women and girls; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of
23 Women, in partnership with Arizona State University, surveyed
24 twenty-two sex trafficking victims and found that in 2018, 77.3
25 percent were Native Hawaiian, and;
26

27 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of
28 Women, in partnership with Arizona State University, surveyed
29 sixty-four sex trafficking victims and found that, sixty-four
30 percent were Native Hawaiian, and;
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32 WHEREAS, from 2017 to 2019, one out of every three child
33 sex trafficking victims reported to the Child Welfare Services
34 child sex trafficking hotline were Native Hawaiian, and ninety-
35 five percent were girls; and
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37 WHEREAS, family members must often rely on alert mechanisms
38 for missing children, including physical message boards at
39 stores and social media outlets; and
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1 WHEREAS, the State must listen to and acknowledge Native
2 Hawaiians and identifying ways to increase reporting on missing
3 and murdered 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 Senate of the Thirty-first
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
11 that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women is
12 requested to convene a task force to conduct a study regarding
13 missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force comprise the
16 following members or their designees:
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- 18 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission
19 on the Status of Women, who shall serve as a co-chair
20 of the task force;
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- 22 (2) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian
23 Affairs, who shall serve as a co-chair of the task
24 force;
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- 26 (3) The Director of Health;
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- 28 (4) The Director of Human Services;
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- 30 (5) The Administrative Director of the Courts;
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- 32 (6) The Attorney General;
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- 34 (7) The Chair of the County Committee on the Status of
35 Women of each respective county; and
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- 37 (8) The Chief of Police of each respective county; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force also invite
40 representatives of the following organizations to serve on the
41 task force:
42



- 1 (1) One representative from Papa Ola Lokahi;
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- 3 (2) One representative from the Sex Abuse Treatment
- 4 Center;
- 5
- 6 (3) One representative from Hale Kipa;
- 7
- 8 (4) One representative from Residential Youth Services and
- 9 Empowerment;
- 10
- 11 (5) One representative from Susannah Wesley Community
- 12 Center; and
- 13
- 14 (6) One representative from Ho'ōla Nā Pua; and
- 15

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

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
21 include the following in its study:

- 22
- 23 (1) Identifying the cause of the problem;
- 24
- 25 (2) Identifying current databases and data collection
- 26 methods;
- 27
- 28 (3) Identifying barriers to data collection and
- 29 information sharing;
- 30
- 31 (4) Creating partnerships to increase reporting and
- 32 investigations; and
- 33
- 34 (5) Recommending any legislation necessary to improve data
- 35 collection and sharing to eliminate harm to indigenous
- 36 women and girls; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Commission on
39 the Status of Women is requested to provide administrative
40 support for the task force; and

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

8
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, Director of
11 Health, Director of Human Services, Administrative Director of
12 the Courts, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on
13 the Status of Women, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of
14 Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of each County Committee on the Status
15 of Women, Chief of Police of each county, Chief Executive
16 Officer of Hale Kipa, President of Ho'ōla Nā Pua, Executive
17 Director of Papa Ola Lokahi, Executive Director of Residential
18 Youth Services and Empowerment, Executive Director of the Sex
19 Abuse Treatment Center, and President of the Susannah Wesley
20 Community Center.

