

FEB 20 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH A FAMILY VIOLENCE UNIT STAFFED WITH OFFICERS SPECIFICALLY TRAINED TO HANDLE ALL COMPLAINTS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE.

1 WHEREAS, domestic violence is an epidemic affecting
2 individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic
3 status, race, religion, nationality, or educational background;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, according to the National Coalition Against
7 Domestic Violence, one in every four women will experience
8 domestic violence in her lifetime; and

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10 WHEREAS, domestic violence is one of the most chronically
11 underreported crimes; and

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13 WHEREAS, according to a federal Bureau of Justice
14 Statistics Factbook, the most common reasons given by domestic
15 violence victims for not contacting the police included victims
16 fearing retaliation, considering an incident a private or
17 personal matter, or believing the police would not be able to do
18 anything about an incident; and

19
20 WHEREAS, a victim of officer-involved domestic violence may
21 be more hesitant to report abuse for a number of reasons,
22 including fears of retaliation or lack of confidence the victim
23 will be treated fairly by an officer's colleagues; and

24
25 WHEREAS, other police departments throughout the nation and
26 elsewhere in the world have set up specific divisions to handle
27 domestic violence cases, such as the Houston Police Department's
28 Family Violence Unit and the Philippine National Police Women
29 and Children Protection Desk; and

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31 WHEREAS, these specific divisions can help ensure that
32 domestic violence incidents are treated in the same professional
33 manner as other crimes and requests for police service; and
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1 WHEREAS, establishing a family violence division within the
 2 Honolulu Police Department will help reduce violence, ensure
 3 compassionate assistance to victims, and enable more effective
 4 prosecution of abusers; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
 7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
 8 that the Honolulu Police Department is requested to establish a
 9 family violence unit staffed with officers specifically trained
 10 to handle all complaints of family violence; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the officers within the family
 13 violence unit should be able to respond to initial calls for
 14 service based on domestic violence, be well-equipped to assist
 15 victims of domestic violence, and ensure the effective
 16 enforcement of the State's domestic violence laws; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the officers within the family
 19 violence unit should be separate from the detectives of the
 20 Department's Criminal Investigation Division's child abuse and
 21 domestic violence detail; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the family violence unit should
 24 be staffed with female police officers who have undergone
 25 appropriate training, including gender-sensitive training, so
 26 that they are best equipped with the knowledge, training, and
 27 skills needed to assist victims of domestic violence; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honolulu Police Department
 30 is urged to explore federal opportunities, including the federal
 31 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women formula grant program, for
 32 assistance with funding the family violence unit; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 35 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief of the Honolulu Police
 36 Department.
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 39

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