
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN
PROTECTIONS UNDER TITLE IX.

1 WHEREAS, the Patsy Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act,
2 also known as Title IX (20 U.S.C. 1681), triggered a seismic
3 shift in the education landscape by prohibiting discrimination
4 on the basis of sex by any education program or activity
5 receiving federal funds; and
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7 WHEREAS, Hawaii takes great pride in Congresswoman Mink's
8 landmark legislation, which has expanded educational and
9 professional opportunities for millions of girls and women in
10 classrooms, athletics, employment, graduate studies, research,
11 law, medicine, academia, and other professions that were out of
12 reach prior to the enactment of Title IX; and
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14 WHEREAS, despite these achievements, Congresswoman Mink's
15 vision for Title IX remains unfulfilled, as federal protections
16 against sex discrimination in education have diminished over
17 time; and
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19 WHEREAS, the current federal administration has signaled
20 its intent to weaken certain civil rights protections and shift
21 responsibility to the states; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Department of Education and the University of
24 Hawaii System fail to meet compliance standards under Title IX,
25 decades after its enactment; and
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27 WHEREAS, annual reports from the University of Hawaii,
28 Department of Education schools, and state public charter
29 schools on Title IX sex-based discrimination and non-Title IX
30 sexual harassment complaints received by the schools suggest
31 that incidents of sex-based discrimination and sex-based



1 harassment go largely unreported when compared to the data from
2 self-reported surveys; and

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4 WHEREAS, unaddressed sex-based discrimination and
5 harassment create a hostile learning environment, which
6 negatively impacts students' academic success, mental and
7 physical well-being, and ability to pursue further education;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, stronger state protections are needed to ensure
11 that all students are equally entitled to educational
12 opportunities, free from discrimination based on sex; now,
13 therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
17 of 2025, that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women
18 is requested to convene a working group to develop measures to
19 strengthen protections under Title IX; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
22 to consist of the following members or their designees:

- 23
24 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission
25 on the Status of Women, who is to serve as chairperson
26 of the working group for the purposes of convening the
27 working group;
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29 (2) The Attorney General;
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31 (3) The Superintendent of Education;
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33 (4) The President of the University of Hawaii;
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35 (5) A member of the House of Representatives, to be
36 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
37 Representatives;
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39 (6) A member of the Senate, to be appointed by the
40 President of the Senate;
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- 1 (7) A representative of the Hawaii State LGBTQ+
2 Commission, to be invited to participate by the
3 chairperson;
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- 5 (8) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest
6 organization that specializes in providing services to
7 survivors of gender violence or discrimination, to be
8 invited to participate by the chairperson;
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- 10 (9) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest
11 organization that specializes in advocating for
12 policies to prevent campus-based sexual violence, to
13 be invited to participate by the chairperson;
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- 15 (10) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest
16 organization that specializes in advocating for civil
17 rights for sexual and gender minorities, to be invited
18 to participate by the chairperson; and
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- 20 (11) A student representative, to be invited to participate
21 by the chairperson; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
24 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
25 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
26 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
27 of 2026; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney General;
31 Superintendent of Education; President of the University of
32 Hawaii; and Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on
33 the Status of Women.

