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246
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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A TASK
    FORCE TO DEVELOP A POLICY TO ADDRESS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE
    AND ABUSE.

1   WHEREAS, teen dating violence is a pattern of controlling
2 and abusive behavior, including verbal, emotional, physical,
3 sexual, and financial abuse, of one person over another within a
4 romantic relationship; and
5
6   WHEREAS, lack of dating experience makes teens more
7 vulnerable to dating violence and less likely to recognize the
8 abuse; and
9
10   WHEREAS, teen dating violence has become an increasingly
11 prevalent problem in high schools, junior high schools, and
12 middle schools throughout our country, with one in three teens
13 experiencing some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships;
14 and
15
16   WHEREAS, girls and women between the ages of sixteen and
17 twenty-four experience the highest rate of intimate partner
18 violence; and
19
20   WHEREAS, between 1993 and 1999, twenty-two per cent of all
21 homicides against young women ages sixteen to nineteen were
22 committed by an intimate partner; and
23
24   WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that teen dating
25 violence begins at an early age, with eleven to fourteen year
26 olds able to identify aspects of teen dating abuse in their
27 social lives; and
28
29   WHEREAS, early sexual experiences can be a precursor to
30 dating violence and abuse among older teens and can normalize
31 this type of behavior, leading to unquestioned acceptance; and

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1   WHEREAS, abuse and violence in intimate partner
2 relationships not only causes great individual pain, but also
3 breaks down families, communities, and society at large; and
4
5   WHEREAS, when a student is a victim of dating violence, the
6 student's academic life suffers and the student's safety at
7 school is jeopardized; and
8
9   WHEREAS, education is the best mechanism to prevent teen
10 dating violence and is crucial to creating a culture of
11 intolerance for teen dating abuse; now, therefore,
12
13   BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human
16 Services is requested to establish a task force to develop a
17 comprehensive policy to address teen dating violence and abuse;
18 and
19
20   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of
21 15 members as follows:
22
23   (1) A senator selected by the Senate President;
24
25   (2) A member of the House of Representatives selected by
26   the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
27
28   (3) The Superintendent of Education or the
29   Superintendent's designee;
30
31   (4) A member of the Board of Education selected by the
32   Governor;
33
34   (5) The Director of Human Services or the Director's
35   designee;
36
37   (6) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
38
39   (7) A representative from Catholic Charities Hawaii;
40
41   (8) A representative from the Domestic Violence Action
42   Center;

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1   (9)   A representative from the Hawaii State Coalition
2   Against Domestic Violence;

4   (10) A representative from the Hawaii Immigrant Justice
5   Center;

7   (11) Three representatives from various service providers
8   to be selected jointly by the Senate President and the
9   Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

11   (12) Two representatives from families of domestic violence
12   victims, one selected by the Senate President and one
13   selected by the Speaker of the House of
14   Representatives; and

16   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall
17 serve without compensation and reimbursement; and

19   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
20 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the
21 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
22 the Regular Session of 2010; and

24   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall cease to
25 exist on June 30, 2010; and

27   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
29 Services, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Hawaii
30 Board of Education, and all Hawaii public school administrators
31 and principals.