
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A TASK
FORCE TO DEVELOP A POLICY AGAINST 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

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6 WHEREAS, lack of dating experience makes teens more
7 vulnerable to dating violence and less likely to recognize the
8 abuse; and

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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

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16 WHEREAS, girls and women between the ages of 16 and 24
17 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence; and

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19 WHEREAS, between 1993 and 1999, 22 percent of all homicides
20 against young women ages 16 to 19 were committed by an intimate
21 partner; and

22
23 WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that teen dating
24 violence begins at an early age, with 11 to 14 year olds able to
25 identify aspects of teen dating abuse in their social lives; and

26
27 WHEREAS, early sexual experiences can be a precursor to
28 dating violence and abuse among older teens and can normalize
29 this type of behavior, leading to unquestioned acceptance; and

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31 WHEREAS, abuse and violence in intimate partner
32 relationships not only causes great individual pain, but also
33 breaks down families, communities, and society at large; and



1 WHEREAS, when a student is a victim of dating violence, her
2 academic life suffers and her safety at school is jeopardized;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, education is the best mechanism to prevent teen
6 dating violence and is crucial to creating a culture of
7 intolerance for teen dating abuse; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
11 of 2009, that the Department of Human Services is requested to
12 establish a task force to develop a comprehensive policy to
13 address teen dating violence and abuse; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of
16 15 members as follows:
17

- 18 (1) A senator selected by the Senate President;
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- 20 (2) A member of the House of Representatives selected by
21 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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- 23 (3) The Superintendent of Education or the
24 Superintendent's designee;
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- 26 (4) A member of the Board of Education selected by the
27 Governor;
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- 29 (5) The Director of Human Services or the Director's
30 designee;
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- 32 (6) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
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- 34 (7) A representative from Catholic Charities Hawaii;
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- 36 (8) A representative from the Domestic Violence Action
37 Center;
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- 39 (9) A representative from the Hawaii State Coalition
40 Against Domestic Violence;
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- 42 (10) A representative from the Hawaii Immigrant Justice
43 Center;



1 (11) Three representatives from various service providers
2 to be selected jointly by the Senate President and the
3 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
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5 (12) Two representatives from families of domestic violence
6 victims, one selected by the Senate President and one
7 selected by the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives;
9

10 and
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall
13 serve without compensation and reimbursement; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
16 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the
17 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
18 Regular Session of 2010; and
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall cease to
21 exist on June 30, 2010; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services,
25 Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Hawaii Board of
26 Education, and all Hawaii public school administrators and
27 principals.

