
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO EXAMINE FEDERAL LAWS
AND REGULATIONS TO ALLOW STATES TO MORE READILY ENACT
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION-RELATED LAWS THAT ALLOW FEAR OF
DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE TO BE A VALID REASON FOR NOT
ACCEPTING SUITABLE WORK.

1 WHEREAS, domestic violence and sex assault is an
2 international issue that permeates all levels of society,
3 affecting people regardless of age, income, education, religion,
4 or culture; and
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6 WHEREAS, a February 2008 report from the U.S. Centers for
7 Disease Control and Prevention indicated that 23.6 percent of
8 women and 11.5 percent of men reported at least one lifetime
9 episode of intimate-partner violence; and
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11 WHEREAS, the cost of domestic violence to the U.S. economy
12 is more than \$8.3 billion annually, including medical care,
13 mental health services, and lost productivity; and
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15 WHEREAS, in addition to the physical and psychological
16 effects of domestic violence on the victim and the victim's
17 family, there are job-related consequences; and
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19 WHEREAS, such violence results in nearly 8,000,000 lost
20 days of paid work per year, or the equivalent of 32,000 full-
21 time jobs; and
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23 WHEREAS, October 2006 U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics
24 data indicates that domestic violence coming to the workplace
25 accounts for 24 percent of workplace violence incidents; and
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1 WHEREAS, a study of three large companies in 39 states
 2 indicated that ten percent of its workers that responded to the
 3 survey were currently going through some form of domestic abuse,
 4 and an additional 19 percent of men and 30 percent of women said
 5 they had been victims at some point in their lives; and

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 7 WHEREAS, in some cases, victims of domestic abuse are
 8 victimized in the workplace, thereby creating a dangerous
 9 situation not only for the victim, but also for persons at the
 10 workplace; and

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 12 WHEREAS, safety all persons in the workplace should be a
 13 top priority; and

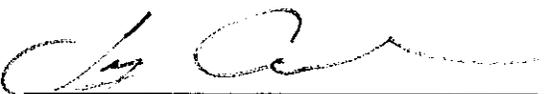
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 15 WHEREAS, domestic violence can impede job search efforts
 16 for victims of domestic violence who must look for a safe place
 17 to live and care for their children, or are healing from
 18 injuries; and

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 20 WHEREAS, however, unemployment insurance laws usually
 21 require claimants be "ready and available" for work, as well as
 22 actively seeking work, which can be challenging for victims who
 23 are searching for work or leave work because of domestic
 24 violence; now, therefore,

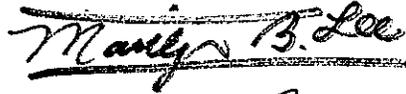
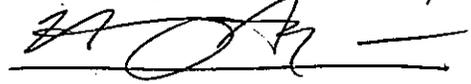
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 26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 27 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 28 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the U.S. Department of
 29 Labor is requested to examine federal laws and regulations to
 30 allow states to more readily enact unemployment compensation-
 31 related laws that will allow fear of domestic or sexual violence
 32 to be a valid reason for not accepting suitable work; and

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 34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the U.S. Secretary of
 36 Labor, each member of Hawaii's congressional delegation, the
 37 Governor, and the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

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OFFERED BY: 



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