

---

---

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS 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, and  
3 affects people regardless of age, income, education, religion,  
4 or culture; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, a February 2008, report from the United States  
7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicated that 23.6  
8 percent of women and 11.5 percent of men reported at least one  
9 lifetime episode of intimate-partner violence; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, the cost of domestic violence to the United States  
12 economy is more than \$8.3 billion annually, which impacts a  
13 wide-range of areas including medical care, mental health  
14 services, and lost productivity; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, in addition to the physical and psychological  
17 effects of domestic violence on the victim and the victim's  
18 family, there are job-related consequences; and

19  
20           WHEREAS, such violence results in nearly 8,000,000 lost  
21 days of paid work per year, or the equivalent of 32,000 full-  
22 time jobs; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, October 2006, United States Bureau of Labor and  
25 Statistics data indicates that domestic violence entering the  
26 workplace accounts for 24 percent of workplace violence  
27 incidents; and



1 WHEREAS, a study of three large companies in 39 states  
2 indicated that ten percent of the workers who 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  
6

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  
11

12 WHEREAS, safety of all persons in the workplace should be a  
13 top priority; and  
14

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; are healing from injuries;  
18 or must leave their jobs for fear of their safety and their co-  
19 workers; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, federal unemployment insurance laws require  
22 claimants to be "able and available" to work, as well as  
23 actively seeking work, which can be challenging for victims who  
24 are searching for work or must leave work because of domestic  
25 violence; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, victims of domestic or sexual violence may not be  
28 able to meet the "able and available" work requirement under  
29 unemployment insurance laws; now, therefore,  
30

31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
32 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
33 of 2011, that the United States Congress is requested to examine  
34 federal laws and regulations to allow states to more readily  
35 enact unemployment compensation-related laws that will allow  
36 fear of domestic or sexual violence to be a valid reason for not  
37 accepting suitable work; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in examining federal laws and  
2 regulations, the United States Congress is requested to review  
3 "able and available" work requirements as they apply to victims  
4 of domestic or sexual violence who seek unemployment  
5 compensation and insurance benefits during periods of  
6 unemployment; and  
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Resolution be transmitted to the President and Majority Leader  
10 of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House  
11 of Representatives, United States Secretary of Labor, Hawaii's  
12 Congressional Delegation, Governor of the State of Hawaii, and  
13 State Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

