HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE HAWAII COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES FOR THE VITAL SERVICES THEY RENDER TO SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

WHEREAS, according to the American Medical Association, sexual assault continues to represent the most rapidly growing violent crime in America; and

WHEREAS, the National Victim Center reports that over 700,000 women are raped or sexually assaulted annually, and of these victims, 61 percent are under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association has stated that a "woman is raped every 46 seconds in the United States" and that sexual assault is a "silent epidemic"; and

WHEREAS, in the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 1 in 71 men or 1.4 percent reported experiencing rape at some time in their lives; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault affects Hawaii's citizens every day, but is often underreported to police; and

WHEREAS, sexual victimization is associated with severe and enduring consequences for victims, including increased drug and alcohol use, domestic violence, depression, suicide, and teenage pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii has a multitude of sexual assault centers and military sexual assault programs that serve Hawaii's diverse communities and confront this silent epidemic year round; and

WHEREAS, the services provided by the centers and military programs are a vital tool in the prevention of sexual assault and treatment of sexual assault victims; and

WHEREAS, organizations like the Resource Sharing Project and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center have spearheaded efforts to bring awareness to this growing problem by partnering with state, territorial, and tribal coalitions; and

WHEREAS, by coordinating sexual assault awareness month activities and encouraging interaction and feedback from across the nation, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center has made significant progress in educating communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, locally, the Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault leads the way in supporting sexual assault programs and agencies that provide sexual assault intervention, treatment, and prevention services; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault acknowledges the critical role of organizations like The Sex Abuse Treatment Center and the military sexual assault programs in providing essential services to sexual assault victims; and

WHEREAS, the following sexual assault centers and military sexual assault programs merit special recognition for their dedication and commitment to providing services and support to survivors and working to prevent sexual violence:

• Hawaii Island Sexual Assault Support Services;

• Kauai Sexual Assault Treatment Services;

• Maui Sexual Assault Center;

Oahu Sex Abuse Treatment Center;

 Hawaii Air National Guard Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program;

 Hawaii Army National Guard Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention Program; 2 3

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• U.S. Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program;

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• U.S. Coast Guard Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program;

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• U.S. Marine Corps Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program; and

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• U.S. Navy Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that this body commends the Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault and supporting agencies for the vital services they render to sexual assault victims in the State of Hawaii, expresses its most heartfelt appreciation for the healing and guidance they provide to renew and restore hope for victims, and extends its best wishes to them for continued success in all future endeavors.

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