
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
EXAMINE HOW A STATEWIDE USE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
ASSESSMENTS AND RESPONSE PROTOCOL BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PERSONNEL CAN HELP TO STRENGTHEN THE STATE'S
OVERALL RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

1 WHEREAS, domestic violence is a complex societal issue for
2 which effective solutions require the combined efforts of key
3 stakeholders, including emergency medical services personnel and
4 other "first responders" who are often the first to respond to
5 calls for help from victims of domestic violence; and
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7 WHEREAS, through their close interactions with known or
8 suspected victims of domestic violence, emergency medical
9 services personnel and other first responders are uniquely
10 positioned to assess significant threats to a victim's life or
11 personal safety; and
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13 WHEREAS, the data collected by emergency medical services
14 personnel and other first responders during scene assessments is
15 valuable not only in helping to keep victims of domestic
16 violence safe, but also in more effectively preparing emergency
17 medical services personnel and other first responders for the
18 potential dangers associated with responding to domestic
19 violence incidents; and
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21 WHEREAS, according to a 2017 report by the Centers for
22 Disease Control and Prevention, in killings of women nationally
23 when the circumstances were known, more than fifty percent of
24 cases involved intimate partner violence, and one in ten victims
25 of intimate partner violence-related homicide had reportedly
26 experienced violence in the month preceding death; and
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28 WHEREAS, locally, the average annual number of cases in the
29 Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and Injury
30 Prevention System Branch Pre-Hospital Medical Record System from
31 2013 through 2015 that involved intimate partner violence
32 against females aged twelve to fifty years was seven hundred



18 eighteen in the City and County of Honolulu, one hundred sixteen
19 in Hawaii County, one hundred five in Maui County, and twenty-
20 six in Kauai County; and

21 WHEREAS, it is not the Legislature's intent to interfere
22 with the critical and time-sensitive work of first responders,
23 but the inherent opportunity to provide urgent interventions
24 during the initial response to domestic violence incidents
25 should not be ignored; now, therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2018, that the Department of Health is requested to convene a
29 task force to examine how a statewide use of domestic violence
30 assessments and response protocol by emergency medical services
31 personnel can help to strengthen the State's overall response to
32 domestic violence; and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
34 include the following members:

- 35 (1) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee,
36 who is requested to serve as the chair of the task
37 force;
- 38 (2) The respective Emergency Medical Services chiefs of
39 the City and County of Honolulu and the Counties of
40 Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, or their designees;
- 41 (3) A member of each house of the Legislature, to be
 designated by the President of the Senate and the
 Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively;
 provided that at least one of the designated members
 is requested to be a member of the Women's Legislative
 Caucus;
- (4) A representative from the Hawaii State Coalition
 Against Domestic Violence or other similar victim
 advocacy organization invited by the chair of the task
 force; and



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(5) A representative from a domestic violence advocacy organization from each county invited by the chair of the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair of the task force is requested to invite other individuals with relevant knowledge or experience to be members of the task force, including the respective police chiefs of the four counties or their designees, and representatives of government or community-based entities that share or compare data with emergency medical services personnel or other first responders to incidents of domestic violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member of the task force shall be made subject to Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that member's participation on the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to examine:

(1) Whether the development of domestic violence assessments and response protocol may better protect victims of domestic violence and first responders; and

(2) Issues relevant to the implementation of domestic violence assessments and response protocol; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to provide administrative support for the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health; the respective Emergency Medical Services chiefs of the City and County of Honolulu and the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui;



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1 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives; and the Executive Director of the Hawaii State
3 Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
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