
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP CHILD
SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION INITIATIVES.

1 WHEREAS, child sexual abuse is a sexual activity between an
2 adult and a child or between two minors if there is a
3 significant age, size, or power difference between them; and
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5 WHEREAS, child sexual abuse can include a range of
6 activities such as sexual touching, sexualized talk, exposure of
7 genitals, rape, and involvement in pornography or prostitution;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, child sexual abuse can occur anywhere including
11 places like homes, neighborhoods, schools, and youth sports
12 environments, and activities such as child pornography and
13 communicating in a sexual manner may also occur over the phone
14 or on the internet; and
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16 WHEREAS, child sexual abuse is frequently perpetrated by
17 individuals acquainted with the child and it may occur over
18 short or long periods of time with varying levels of coercion or
19 physical violence; and
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21 WHEREAS, child sexual abuse is a potential threat to
22 societal safety and the people of Hawaii; and
23

24 WHEREAS, about one in seven girls and one in 25 boys will
25 be sexually abused before the age of 18; and
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27 WHEREAS, it was estimated that in 2014 about 400,000 babies
28 born in the United States would later become victims of child
29 sexual abuse; and



1 WHEREAS, child sexual abuse is far more prevalent than most
2 people realize because children are victimized at a much higher
3 rate than adults; and

4
5 WHEREAS, children aged 17 and under account for nearly 70
6 percent of all reported sexual assaults; and

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8 WHEREAS, in 2000, the sexual assault rate for youths aged
9 12 to 17 was 2.3 times higher than the rate for adults; and

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11 WHEREAS, approximately 44 percent of rape victims are under
12 the age of 18 with children under the age of 12 accounting for
13 15 percent of the rape victims; and

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15 WHEREAS, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
16 passed by the federal government in 1974 and reauthorized in
17 2010, is the largest body of legislation in the United States
18 with regard to the fair, ethical, and legal treatment of
19 children, and its intent is to keep children free from all forms
20 of abuse including physical, sexual, emotional, and
21 psychological abuse; and

22
23 WHEREAS, although child abuse laws exist on federal, state,
24 and local levels, most child sexual abuse issues are governed by
25 state laws and regulations; and

26
27 WHEREAS, child sexual abuse impacts every community
28 regardless of socioeconomic status, culture, race, religion, or
29 gender; now, therefore,

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
33 of 2018, that the Department of Education is requested to
34 establish a task force to develop sustainable child sexual abuse
35 prevention initiatives that increase awareness, education,
36 prevention, and advocacy; and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
39 comprise the following members, or their designees:

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41 (1) Superintendent of Education;



- 1 (2) Director of Health;
- 2
- 3 (3) Director of Human Services;
- 4
- 5 (4) Attorney General;
- 6
- 7 (5) One member of the Board of Education, to be determined
- 8 by the Chairperson of the Board of Education;
- 9
- 10 (6) Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning;
- 11
- 12 (7) Executive Director of Hawaii Youth Services Network;
- 13
- 14 (8) Executive Director of the Hawaii Children's Action
- 15 Network;
- 16
- 17 (9) Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center;
- 18
- 19 (10) Chair of the Senate standing committee with primary
- 20 jurisdiction over education;
- 21
- 22 (11) Chair of the House of Representatives standing
- 23 committee with primary jurisdiction over education;
- 24
- 25 (12) One elementary school principal, to be designated by
- 26 the Superintendent of Education;
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- 28 (13) One secondary school principal, to be designated by
- 29 the Superintendent of Education; and
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- 31 (14) One representative from a charter school, to be
- 32 designated by the Executive Director of the State
- 33 Public Charter School Commission; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Education
36 or the Superintendent's designee shall serve as the chair of the
37 task force; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
40 consider the following when developing child sexual abuse
41 prevention initiatives:



1 (1) Current resources available in the State for educating
2 children in public and private schools about sexual
3 abuse prevention; and
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5 (2) Factors that heighten a child's risk of sexual abuse
6 including socioeconomic status, ethnicity, geographic
7 location, and previous exposure to crimes; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the
10 assistance of the Department of Education, is requested to
11 submit a report to the Legislature, no later than twenty days
12 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019, on the
13 progress made concerning the development of child sexual abuse
14 prevention initiatives; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of
18 Education; Superintendent of Education; Director of Health;
19 Director of Human Services; Attorney General; Director of the
20 Executive Office on Early Learning; Executive Director of the
21 Hawaii Youth Services Network; Executive Director of the Hawaii
22 Children's Action Network; Executive Director of the Sex Abuse
23 Treatment Center; and Executive Director of the State Public
24 Charter School Commission.

