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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY  
THE REPORTING, PROSECUTION, AND CONVICTION RATE OF HATE  
CRIMES IN THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, hate crimes are defined as any criminal act in  
2 which the perpetrator intentionally selected a victim because of  
3 hostility toward the actual or perceived race, religion,  
4 disability, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity or  
5 expression, or sexual orientation of any person; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, the Department of the Attorney General is  
8 responsible for the collection, storage, dissemination, and  
9 analysis of all hate crime data from all agencies that have  
10 primary investigative, action, or program responsibility for  
11 adult or juvenile offenses, including the county police  
12 departments, the county prosecutors, the family courts, and the  
13 departments or agencies responsible for administering any  
14 correctional facilities; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the Department of the Attorney General currently  
17 only includes data based on convictions in its annual report of  
18 hate crime data submitted to the Governor, Judiciary, Department  
19 of Public Safety, and Legislature; and  
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21           WHEREAS, based on this rendering of statistics, only two  
22 hate crimes were reported for the State in the most recent  
23 annual report; and  
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25           WHEREAS, hate crime data acquired by the county police  
26 departments indicates that the number of crimes initially  
27 flagged as hate crimes greatly exceeds the number reported by  
28 the Attorney General; and  
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30           WHEREAS, there appears to be a disconnect between the  
31 number of crimes initially reported as hate crimes and those



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1 that are eventually included in the Attorney General's report;  
2 now, therefore,  
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
5 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of  
6 Representatives concurring, that the Attorney General is  
7 requested to convene a task force to study the progression of  
8 hate crime investigations and prosecutions from the initial  
9 police report to the closing of the case; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
12 make recommendations on improvements to be made in the  
13 prosecution and comprehensive reporting of hate crimes; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership is  
16 requested to include a representative of the Department of the  
17 Attorney General, a representative of each county police  
18 department, a representative of each county office of the  
19 prosecuting attorney, and four representatives from agencies  
20 that have investigative, detention, custodial, adjudicative, or  
21 program responsibility for adult or juvenile offenses; and  
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
24 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
25 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than forty  
26 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney  
30 General, Prosecuting Attorney of each county, and Chief of  
31 Police of each county.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

