
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DESIGNATE PORNOGRAPHY AS
A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND TAKE ACTION ACCORDINGLY.

1 WHEREAS, pornography perpetuates a sexually toxic
2 environment and has created a public health crisis; and
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4 WHEREAS, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and
5 addiction, educate individuals and families about pornography-
6 related harms, and develop recovery programs must be
7 systematically approached in ways that hold broader influences
8 accountable; and
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10 WHEREAS, due to advances in technology and the near-
11 universal availability of the internet, young children are
12 exposed to what was previously referred to as hard-core
13 pornography but is now considered mainstream pornography, at an
14 alarming rate; and
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16 WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the hyper-
17 sexualization of teens and prepubescent children in our society;
18 and
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20 WHEREAS, children are now exposed to pornography at the
21 average age of eleven to twelve years; and
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23 WHEREAS, this early exposure is leading to low self-esteem
24 and body image disorders, an increase in problematic sexual
25 activity at younger ages, and an increased desire among
26 adolescents to engage in risky sexual behavior; and
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28 WHEREAS, exposure to pornography often serves as sex
29 education for children and youth and shapes their sexual
30 templates; and
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1 WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse because
2 it treats women and children as objects and often depicts rape
3 and abuse as if they are harmless acts; and
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5 WHEREAS, because pornography treats women as objects and
6 commodities for the viewer's use, it teaches girls that they are
7 to be used and teaches boys to be users; and
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9 WHEREAS, pornography equates violence toward women and
10 children with sex and associates pain with pleasure, which
11 increases demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, child sexual
12 abuse imagery, and child pornography; and
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14 WHEREAS, pornography has potential detrimental effects on
15 users and may impact brain development and functioning;
16 contribute to emotional and medical illnesses; shape deviant
17 sexual arousal; lead to difficulty in forming or maintaining
18 intimate relationships; and result in problematic or harmful
19 sexual behaviors and addiction; and
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21 WHEREAS, recent research indicates that pornography is
22 potentially biologically addictive, which means the user
23 requires more novelty, often in the form of more shocking
24 material, in order to be satisfied; and
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26 WHEREAS, this biological addiction leads to increasing
27 themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence,
28 and child sexual abuse imagery and child pornography; and
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30 WHEREAS, pornography use is linked to lessening desire in
31 young men to marry, marital dissatisfaction, and infidelity; and
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33 WHEREAS, this link demonstrates that pornography has a
34 detrimental effect on the family unit; and
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36 WHEREAS, overcoming pornography's harms is beyond the
37 capability of the afflicted individual alone; now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
41 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Governor and Department
42 of Health are requested to designate pornography as a public



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1 health crisis that leads to a broad spectrum of individual and
2 public health impacts and societal harms; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Department of
5 Health recognize the need for education, prevention, research,
6 and policy change at the community and societal level in order
7 to address the pornography epidemic that is harming the people
8 of the State and the nation; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Department of
11 Health take action accordingly to address pornography as a
12 public health crisis; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
16 Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: _____



MAR 12 2021

