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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO  
CONVENE AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL FEMINIST ECONOMIC RECOVERY  
WORKING GROUP.

1           WHEREAS, the virus known as SARS-CoV-2 causes a disease  
2 named coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which spread globally  
3 and was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on  
4 March 11, 2020; and

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6           WHEREAS, upon reaching Hawaii, the COVID-19 outbreak  
7 disrupted the local economy, leaving hundreds of thousands of  
8 residents unemployed, underemployed, or facing financial  
9 hardship; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, low-wage workers were disproportionately harmed by  
12 Hawaii's economic downturn, which worsened their financial  
13 precarity and left thousands of working families unable to pay  
14 for food, housing, electricity, and other necessities; and

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16           WHEREAS, at the peak of Hawaii's economic downturn, the  
17 State experienced levels of unemployment not seen since the  
18 Great Depression, according to the United States Bureau of Labor  
19 Statistics; and

20  
21           WHEREAS, women have been disproportionately harmed by the  
22 economic crisis and potential cuts to government services  
23 because they earn less than men for substantially similar work;  
24 and

25  
26           WHEREAS, women in Hawaii are also at greater risk of  
27 contracting COVID-19 due to women representing nearly two-thirds  
28 of frontline essential workers in the State; and



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1 WHEREAS, women additionally account for more than fifty  
2 percent of jobs lost since February 2020 and continue to perform  
3 the majority of household and care-giving activities that  
4 prevent them from engaging in full-time paid work; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, according to a survey by LeanIn.org, a nonprofit  
7 organization dedicated to helping women achieve their goals,  
8 eighty percent of mothers have taken on more household work  
9 since the COVID-19 pandemic began; and  
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11 WHEREAS, a report by the United Nations Educational,  
12 Scientific, and Cultural Organization noted that ninety-one  
13 percent of the world's students were affected by school and  
14 childcare closures caused by the pandemic; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women  
17 issued a report in April 2020 entitled "Building Bridges, Not  
18 Walking On Backs: Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for COVID-19",  
19 which called for transitioning to an economy that better values  
20 the essential work that sustains communities in the State; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, in June 2020, the Maui County Council adopted a  
23 resolution in support of a feminist economic recovery plan and  
24 on July 8, 2020, the Hawaii County Council passed a resolution  
25 urging the county administration to consider gender differences  
26 in its response to COVID-19; now, therefore,  
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
30 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii State Commission  
31 on the Status of Women is urged to convene an inter-governmental  
32 feminist economic recovery working group; and  
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
35 to develop a framework for an economic recovery that addresses  
36 the social, economic, ecological, and health care gaps exposed  
37 by the pandemic and that promotes gender equity; and  
38

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
40 to specifically consider:



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- 1 (1) The economic impact of COVID-19 on women and gender  
2 nonconforming individuals, especially with regard to  
3 employees working in majority-female industries;  
4
- 5 (2) Pandemic-related challenges facing caregivers and  
6 methods for improving the State's social care  
7 infrastructure;  
8
- 9 (3) The effect of COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders on  
10 victims of gender violence, including sexual abuse,  
11 domestic violence, and sex trafficking;  
12
- 13 (4) Distribution of public and private sector resources  
14 for programs that serve women and gender nonconforming  
15 individuals, including in the areas of child care,  
16 health care, housing, education, digital and  
17 information technology, and financial support; and  
18
- 19 (5) Approaches for expanding women's and gender  
20 nonconforming individuals' access to male-dominant  
21 industries that provide opportunities for economic  
22 diversification, including renewable energy,  
23 sustainable agriculture, information technology, and  
24 construction trades; and  
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
27 to consist of the following members:  
28

- 29 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission  
30 on the Status of Women, or the Executive Director's  
31 designee, who shall serve as the chairperson of the  
32 working group;  
33
- 34 (2) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
35 Tourism, or the Director's designee;  
36
- 37 (3) The Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, or the  
38 Director's designee;  
39
- 40 (4) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;



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- 1 (5) The Director of Human Services, or the Director's  
2 designee;
- 3
- 4 (6) The Superintendent of Education, or the  
5 Superintendent's designee;
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- 7 (7) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian  
8 Affairs, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee;
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- 10 (8) A representative from a labor union that represents  
11 workers in a majority-female industry or profession,  
12 to be appointed by the chairperson of the task force;
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- 14 (9) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest  
15 organization that advocates on behalf of issues  
16 relating to women, to be appointed by the chairperson  
17 of the task force;
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- 19 (10) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest  
20 organization specializing in advocacy for  
21 environmental and conservation issues, to be appointed  
22 by the chairperson of the task force;
- 23
- 24 (11) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest  
25 organization specializing in advocacy for children, to  
26 be appointed by the chairperson of the task force;
- 27
- 28 (12) A representative from a nonprofit, interfaith  
29 organization in Hawaii, to be appointed by the  
30 chairperson of the task force;
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- 32 (13) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest  
33 organization that advocates on behalf of low-income  
34 individuals and families in Hawaii on civil legal  
35 issues of statewide importance, to be appointed by the  
36 chairperson of the task force;
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- 38 (14) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest  
39 organization that advocates on behalf of issues  
40 relating to individuals with disabilities, to be  
41 appointed by the chairperson of the task force; and



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1 (15) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest  
2 organization that advocates on behalf of issues  
3 relating to Hawaii's lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
4 transgender, queer, plus community, to be appointed by  
5 the chairperson of the task force; and  
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
8 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
9 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
10 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
11 of 2022; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of  
15 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Labor  
16 and Industrial Relations; Director of Health; Director of Human  
17 Services; Superintendent of Education; Chief Executive Officer  
18 of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and Executive Director of the  
19 Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.  
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22

OFFERED BY:



FEB 26 2021

