
HOUSE 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

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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



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
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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
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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
19 COVID-19", which called for transitioning to an economy that
20 better values the essential work that sustains communities in
21 the State; and
22

23 WHEREAS, in June 2020, the Maui County Council adopted a
24 resolution in support of a feminist economic recovery plan and
25 on July 8, 2020, the Hawaii County Council passed a resolution
26 urging the county administration to consider gender differences
27 in its response to COVID-19; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2021, that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women
32 is urged to convene an Inter-Governmental Feminist Economic
33 Recovery Working Group; and
34

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



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
2 to specifically consider:

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

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- 32 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission
33 on the Status of Women, or the Executive Director's
34 designee, who shall serve as the co-chairperson of the
35 working group;
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- 37 (2) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
38 Tourism, or the Director's designee, who shall serve
39 as the co-chairperson of the working group;
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- 41 (3) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;



- 1 (4) The Director of Human Services, or the Director's
2 designee;
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- 4 (5) The Superintendent of Education, or the
5 Superintendent's designee;
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- 7 (6) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian
8 Affairs, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee;
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- 10 (7) 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 (8) 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 (9) 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 (10) 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 (11) 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 (12) 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 (13) 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



1 (14) 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
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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 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic
15 Development, and Tourism; Director of Health; Director of Human
16 Services; Superintendent of Education; Chief Executive Officer
17 of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and Executive Director of the
18 Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

