
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE
HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS.

1 WHEREAS, indigenous women and girls are victims of violence
2 at far greater rates than any other population in the United
3 States; and
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5 WHEREAS, women and children in Hawaii are facing a
6 widespread epidemic of violence and sex trafficking; and
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8 WHEREAS, First Nations in Canada organized a mass movement
9 to expose the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women
10 and girls, which led to a national report and declaration of a
11 national emergency; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Urban Indian Health Institute published the
14 report "Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls: A
15 snapshot of data from seventy-one urban cities in the United
16 States" in 2018 to document the crisis of missing and murdered
17 indigenous women and girls in the United States; and
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19 WHEREAS, this report did not include Hawaii nor any
20 information on Native Hawaiian women and girls; and
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22 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women as a group are more
23 economically vulnerable than Native Hawaiian men, earning on
24 average eighty-three cents for every dollar a man makes, and
25 eighty cents for every dollar a Native Hawaiian man makes in
26 general; and
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28 WHEREAS, historical trauma through factors such as land
29 dispossession, exposure to sexual violence, incarceration,
30 cultural dislocation, racism, poverty, and ongoing inequities



1 has increased the vulnerability of Native Hawaiian women and
2 girls to sex trafficking and other forms of violent crimes; and
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4 WHEREAS, harmful colonial stereotypes have resulted in the
5 sexual fetishization of Native Hawaiian women; and
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7 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women, girls, and members of the
8 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community
9 disproportionately experience factors that put them at high risk
10 of being victims of sex trafficking and being involved with the
11 sex industry; and
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13 WHEREAS, state government agencies are required by various
14 federal and state laws to tackle sex trafficking and collect
15 data; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs published the
18 report "Haumea: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian
19 Women and Empowering Wahine Well-Being" in 2018; and
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21 WHEREAS, the report did not include information relating to
22 arrests for human trafficking, commercial sex acts, or
23 involuntary servitude or data specific to the human trafficking
24 of Native Hawaiian women and girls; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of
27 Women, in partnership with Arizona State University, surveyed
28 twenty-two sex trafficking victims and found that in 2018, 77.3
29 percent were Native Hawaiian; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of
32 Women, in partnership with Arizona State University, surveyed
33 sixty-four sex trafficking victims and found that sixty-four
34 percent were Native Hawaiian; and
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36 WHEREAS, from 2017 to 2019, one out of every three child
37 sex trafficking victims reported to the Child Welfare Services
38 child sex trafficking hotline were Native Hawaiian, and ninety-
39 five percent were girls; and
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1 WHEREAS, family members must often rely on alert mechanisms
2 for missing children, including physical message boards at
3 stores and social media outlets; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State must listen to and acknowledge Native
6 Hawaiians and identifying ways to increase reporting on missing
7 and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls; and
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9 WHEREAS, five states have passed legislation to address the
10 crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls; now,
11 therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii State
16 Commission on the Status of Women is requested to convene a task
17 force to conduct a study regarding missing and murdered Native
18 Hawaiian women and girls; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be comprised of
21 the following members or their designees:
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- 23 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission
24 on the Status of Women, who shall serve as a co-chair
25 of the task force;
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- 27 (2) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian
28 Affairs, who shall serve as a co-chair of the task
29 force;
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- 31 (3) The Director of Health;
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- 33 (4) The Director of Human Services;
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- 35 (5) The Administrative Director of the Courts;
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- 37 (6) The Attorney General;
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- 39 (7) The Chair of the County Committee on the Status of
40 Women of each respective county; and
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- 42 (8) The Chief of Police of each respective county; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force also invite representatives of the following organizations to serve on the task force:

- (1) Papa Ola Lokahi;
- (2) The Sex Abuse Treatment Center;
- (3) Hale Kipa;
- (4) Residential Youth Services and Empowerment;
- (5) Susannah Wesley Community Center; and
- (6) Ho'ōla Nā Pua; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may invite additional organizations or agencies to participate on the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to include the following in its study:

- (1) Identification of the cause of the problem;
- (2) Identification of current databases and data collection methods;
- (3) Identification of barriers to data collection and information sharing;
- (4) Creation of partnerships to increase reporting and investigations; and
- (5) Recommendation of any legislation necessary to improve data collection and sharing to eliminate harm to indigenous women and girls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women is requested to provide administrative support for the task force; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a
3 preliminary report of its findings and recommendations,
4 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
5 than forty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
6 2023, and a final report, including any additional proposed
7 legislation, no later than forty days prior to the convening of
8 the Regular Session of 2024; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General,
12 Director of Health, Director of Human Services, Administrative
13 Director of the Courts, Executive Director of the Hawaii State
14 Commission on the Status of Women, Chief Executive Officer of
15 the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of each County Committee
16 on the Status of Women, Chief of Police of each county, Chief
17 Executive Officer of Hale Kipa, President of Ho'ōla Nā Pua,
18 Executive Director of Papa Ola Lokahi, Executive Director of
19 Residential Youth Services and Empowerment, Executive Director
20 of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, and President of the Susannah
21 Wesley Community Center.

