
HOUSE 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

4
5 WHEREAS, women and children in Hawaii are facing a
6 widespread epidemic of violence and sex trafficking; and

7
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

12
13 WHEREAS, the Urban Indian Health Institute published the
14 report "Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls: A
15 snapshot of data from 71 urban cities in the United States" in
16 2018 to document the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous
17 women and girls in the United States; and

18
19 WHEREAS, this report did not include Hawaii or any
20 information on Native Hawaiian women and girls; and

21
22 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women as a group are more
23 economically vulnerable than Native Hawaiian men, earning
24 seventy cents for every dollar a man makes, and seventy-nine
25 cents for every dollar a Native Hawaiian man makes; and

26
27 WHEREAS, historical trauma has increased the vulnerability
28 of Native Hawaiian women and girls to sex trafficking and other
29 forms of violent crimes; and



1 WHEREAS, harmful colonial stereotypes have resulted in the
2 sexual fetishization of Native Hawaiian women; and

3
4 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women, girls, and members of the
5 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community
6 disproportionately experience factors that put them at high risk
7 of being victims of sex trafficking and being involved with the
8 sex industry; and

9
10 WHEREAS, state government agencies are required by various
11 federal and state laws to tackle sex trafficking and collect
12 data; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs published the
15 report "Haumea: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian
16 Women and Empowering Wahine Well-Being" in 2018, and noted that
17 there was no data specific to the human trafficking of Native
18 Hawaiian women and girls; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of
21 Women, in partnership with Arizona State University, surveyed
22 sex trafficking victims and found that in 2018, seventy-seven
23 percent of the victims were Native Hawaiian, and that in 2019
24 sixty-four percent of the victims were Native Hawaiian; and

25
26 WHEREAS, from 2017 to 2019, one out of every three child
27 sex trafficking victims reported to the Child Welfare Services
28 child sex trafficking hotline were Native Hawaiian, and ninety-
29 five percent were girls; and

30
31 WHEREAS, family members must often rely on alert mechanisms
32 for missing children, including physical message boards at
33 stores and social media outlets; and

34
35 WHEREAS, the State should be listening to Native Hawaiians
36 and identifying ways to increase reporting on missing and
37 murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls; and

38
39 WHEREAS, nine states have passed legislation to address the
40 missing and murdered indigenous women and girl crisis; now,
41 therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii State Commission
4 on the Status of Women is requested to convene a task force to
5 conduct a study regarding missing and murdered Native Hawaiian
6 women and girls; and

7
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
9 comprise the following members or their designees:

- 10
11 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission
12 on the Status of Women, who shall serve as a co-chair
13 of the task force;
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15 (2) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian
16 Affairs, who shall serve as a co-chair of the task
17 force;
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19 (3) The Director of Health;
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21 (4) The Director of Human Services;
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23 (5) The Administrative Director of the Courts;
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25 (6) The Attorney General;
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27 (7) The Chair of the County Committee on the Status of
28 Women of each respective county; and
29
30 (8) The Chief of Police of each respective county; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
33 invite representatives of the following organizations to serve
34 on the task force:

- 35
36 (1) One representative from Papa Ola Lokahi;
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38 (2) One representative from The Sex Abuse Treatment
39 Center;
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41 (3) One representative from Hale Kipa;



1 (4) One representative from Residential Youth Services and
2 Empowerment;

3
4 (5) One representative from the Susannah Wesley Community
5 Center; and

6
7 (6) One representative from Ho'ōla Nā Pua; and
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
10 consider inviting additional organizations or agencies to
11 participate on the task force, as needed; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
14 include the following in its study:
15

16 (1) Identifying the cause of the problem of harm to
17 indigenous women and girls;

18
19 (2) Identifying current databases and data collection
20 methods;

21
22 (3) Identifying barriers to data collection and
23 information sharing;

24
25 (4) Creating partnerships to increase reporting and
26 investigations; and
27

28 (5) Recommending any legislation necessary to improve data
29 collection and sharing to eliminate harm to indigenous
30 women and girls; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Commission on
33 the Status of Women is requested to provide administrative
34 support for the task force; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
37 submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations,
38 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
39 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
40 of 2023, and a final report, including any additional proposed
41 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
42 the Regular Session of 2024; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General,
3 Director of Health, Director of Human Services, Administrative
4 Director of the Courts, Executive Director of the Hawaii State
5 Commission on the Status of Women, Chief Executive Officer of
6 the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of each County Committee
7 on the Status of Women, Chief of Police of each county, Chief
8 Executive Officer of Hale Kipa, President of Ho'ōla Nā Pua,
9 Executive Director of Papa Ola Lokahi, Executive Director of
10 Residential Youth Services and Empowerment, Executive Director
11 of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, and President of the Susannah
12 Wesley Community Center.

