
HOUSE 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

30
31 WHEREAS, harmful colonial stereotypes have resulted in the
32 sexual fetishization of Native Hawaiian women; and



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

6
7 WHEREAS, state government agencies are required by various
8 federal and state laws to tackle sex trafficking and collect
9 data; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs published the
12 report "Haumea: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian
13 Women and Empowering Wahine Well-Being" in 2018, and noted that
14 there was no data specific to the human trafficking of Native
15 Hawaiian women and girls; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of
18 Women, in partnership with Arizona State University, surveyed
19 sex trafficking victims and found that in 2018, seventy-seven
20 percent of the victims were Native Hawaiian, and that in 2019
21 sixty-four percent of the victims were Native Hawaiian; and

22
23 WHEREAS, from 2017 to 2019, one out of every three child
24 sex trafficking victims reported to the Child Welfare Services
25 child sex trafficking hotline were Native Hawaiian, and ninety-
26 five percent were girls; and

27
28 WHEREAS, family members must often rely on alert mechanisms
29 for missing children, including physical message boards at
30 stores and social media outlets; and

31
32 WHEREAS, the State should be listening to Native Hawaiians
33 and identifying ways to increase reporting on missing and
34 murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls; and

35
36 WHEREAS, nine states have passed legislation to address the
37 missing and murdered indigenous women and girl crisis; now,
38 therefore,

39
40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
41 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
42 of 2021, that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women



1 is requested to convene a task force to conduct a study
2 regarding missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls;
3 and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
6 comprise the following members or their designees:
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8 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission
9 on the Status of Women, who shall serve as a co-chair
10 of the task force;
11

12 (2) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian
13 Affairs, who shall serve as a co-chair of the task
14 force;
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16 (3) The Director of Health;
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18 (4) The Director of Human Services;
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20 (5) The Administrative Director of the Courts;
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22 (6) The Attorney General;
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24 (7) The Chair of the County Committee on the Status of
25 Women of each respective county; and
26

27 (8) The Chief of Police of each respective county; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
30 invite representatives of the following organizations to serve
31 on the task force:
32

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

40 (4) One representative from Residential Youth Services and
41 Empowerment;



1 (5) One representative from the Susannah Wesley Community
2 Center; and

3
4 (6) One representative from Ho'ōla Nā Pua; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
7 consider inviting additional organizations or agencies to
8 participate on the task force, as needed; and

9
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
11 include the following in its study:

12
13 (1) Identifying the cause of the problem of harm to
14 indigenous women and girls;

15
16 (2) Identifying current databases and data collection
17 methods;

18
19 (3) Identifying barriers to data collection and
20 information sharing;

21
22 (4) Creating partnerships to increase reporting and
23 investigations; and

24
25 (5) Recommending any legislation necessary to improve data
26 collection and sharing to eliminate harm to indigenous
27 women and girls; and

28
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Commission on
30 the Status of Women is requested to provide administrative
31 support for the task force; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
34 submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations,
35 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
36 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
37 of 2023, and a final report, including any additional proposed
38 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
39 the Regular Session of 2024; and

40
41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, Director of



1 Health, Director of Human Services, Administrative Director of
2 the Courts, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on
3 the Status of Women, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of
4 Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of each County Committee on the Status
5 of Women, Chief of Police of each county, Chief Executive
6 Officer of Hale Kipa, President of Ho'ōla Nā Pua, Executive
7 Director of Papa Ola Lokahi, Executive Director of Residential
8 Youth Services and Empowerment, Executive Director of the Sex
9 Abuse Treatment Center, and President of the Susannah Wesley
10 Community Center.

