

JAN 25 2021

SENATE 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 nor 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



S.R. NO. 7

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,

S.R. NO. 7

1 that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women is
2 requested to convene a task force to conduct a study regarding
3 missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force comprise the
6 following members or their designees:
7

- 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;
15
- 16 (3) The Director of Health;
17
- 18 (4) The Director of Human Services;
19
- 20 (5) The Administrative Director of the Courts;
21
- 22 (6) The Attorney General;
23
- 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 also invite
30 representatives of the following organizations to serve on the
31 task force:
32

- 33 (1) One representative from Papa Ola Lokahi;
34
- 35 (2) One representative from the Sex Abuse Treatment
36 Center;
37
- 38 (3) One representative from Hale Kipa;
39
- 40 (4) One representative from Residential Youth Services and
41 Empowerment;
42



S.R. NO. 7

1 (5) One representative from Susannah Wesley Community
2 Center; and
3

4 (6) One representative from Ho'ōla Nā Pua; and
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may invite
7 additional organizations or agencies to participate on the task
8 force; 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;
14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



S.R. NO. 7

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

10
11
12

OFFERED BY: *Rosalyn H. Bak*

