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HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO WORK WITH THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTION CENTER, THE FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HAWAI'I, AND OTHER CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII, AS APPROPRIATE, TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN OUTREACH PROGRAM AIMED AT INFORMING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR ASSISTANCE.

WHEREAS, domestic violence is often an undetected problem that can have deadly consequences; and

WHEREAS, in Hawaii, one in three women and one in four men have had some form of physical abuse by their partner; and

WHEREAS, the number of reported domestic violence cases in Hawaii spiked during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and is expected to continue growing as the State recovers from the economic effects of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Asian and Pacific Islander communities experience domestic violence at much higher rates than the general population; and

WHEREAS, Filipinos and part-Filipinos, who represent approximately twenty-five percent of Hawaii's population, constitute thirty percent of reported victims of domestic abuse in the State, and are therefore overrepresented as domestic violence victims in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the State Commission on the Status of Women acts as a coordinating body for governmental and nongovernmental activities and information relating to the status of women; and

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Action Center is a nonprofit corporation committed to addressing domestic violence and other forms of harm through leadership, unique services, legal representation, survivor and system advocacy, community education, and social change work; and

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WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Action Center has staff who are specifically trained in and have knowledge of various cultures, including Filipino, Compacts of Free Association freely associated states, Korean, and Japanese cultures, as well as the unique needs of the LGBTQ+ community, and can also provide culturally-sensitive services, including translation and creation of posters and signage in various languages; and

WHEREAS, members of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i can assist in informing domestic violence victims of the means by which they can receive help, including placing posters and signage in discreet areas including restrooms; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, that the State Commission on the Status of Women is urged to work with the Domestic Violence Action Center, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, and other chambers of commerce in Hawaii, as appropriate, to develop and implement an outreach program aimed at informing domestic violence victims of various sources of assistance, including placement of posters and signage in various languages in discreet areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Commission on the Status of Women is requested to submit a report of its progress in the development and implementation of the outreach program, findings and recommendations, and proposed legislation if any, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the State Commission on the Status of Women, Chief Executive Officer of the Domestic Violence Action Center, and President of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i.

OFFERED BY:

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