
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY HOW EFFECTIVE EXISTING LAWS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS, PROTECTIVE ORDERS, AND HARASSMENT BY STALKING ARE IN PREVENTING CONTINUED ABUSE AND HARASSMENT.

1 WHEREAS, domestic violence and stalking continue to be
2 pervasive and serious public safety concerns affecting
3 individuals and families throughout the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, temporary restraining orders (TROs) and protective
6 orders (POs) serve as a critical legal tool by providing
7 immediate protection for victims of domestic violence and
8 harassment by stalking; and
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10 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised regarding the
11 effectiveness of the laws on domestic violence temporary
12 restraining orders, protective orders, and harassment by
13 stalking in improving victim safety; and
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15 WHEREAS, it is essential to evaluate whether enforcement
16 mechanisms are sufficient, and whether additional legislative
17 measures, including funding, may be necessary to enhance their
18 effectiveness; and
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20 WHEREAS, a study conducted by the Judiciary would provide
21 valuable data and insights into the rate of compliance,
22 enforcement challenges, and victim outcomes; and
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24 WHEREAS, such a study should consider feedback from key
25 stakeholders, including each county's law enforcement agencies,
26 each county's prosecuting attorney, victim advocacy
27 organizations, the legal community, and individuals impacted by
28 domestic violence and stalking; and
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1 WHEREAS, findings and recommendations from the study could
2 inform potential legislative improvements to better safeguard
3 victims and prevent future harm; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
7 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Judiciary is requested
8 to convene a working group to study how effective the existing
9 laws on domestic violence temporary restraining orders,
10 protective orders, and harassment by stalking are in improving
11 victim safety; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
14 to consist of the following members or their designees:
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- 16 (1) The Honolulu Police Department;
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- 18 (2) The Maui Police Department;
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- 20 (3) The Hawaii Police Department;
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- 22 (4) The Kauai Police Department;
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- 24 (5) The Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of
25 Honolulu;
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- 27 (6) The Prosecuting Attorney of Maui County;
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- 29 (7) The Prosecuting Attorney of Hawaii County;
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- 31 (8) The Prosecuting Attorney of Kauai County;
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- 33 (9) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Coalition
34 Against Domestic Violence;
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- 36 (10) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission
37 on the Status of Women;
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- 39 (11) A representative from a nonprofit organization that
40 serves victims of domestic violence and stalking to be
41 invited to participate by the Judiciary; and
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1 (12) A victim of domestic violence and/or stalking from
2 each county to be invited by the Judiciary.
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
5 include an analysis of the issuance and enforcement of temporary
6 restraining orders, protective orders, and the judicial response
7 and law enforcement responses to violations of temporary
8 restraining orders and protective orders, as well as an
9 examination of the prosecution and adjudication of harassment by
10 stalking cases; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
13 incorporate data from law enforcement agencies, victim services
14 providers, legal practitioners, and individuals who have sought
15 protection orders; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:
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19 (1) The Judiciary is requested to submit a report of its
20 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
21 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
22 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
23 2027; and
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25 (2) The working group shall be dissolved on December 31,
26 2026.
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to
29 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
30 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
31 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
32 2027; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice, Administrative
36 Director of the Courts, and Attorney General.
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