
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF INCREASING THE
LEVEL OF THE OFFENSE OF HARASSMENT BY STALKING FROM A
MISDEMEANOR TO A CLASS C FELONY.

1 WHEREAS, stalking is a serious crime that can have
2 devastating, long-term impacts on victims of stalking,
3 particularly in the context of domestic violence, where it is
4 often used by perpetrators as a continuation of the abuse and as
5 a calculated tactic meant to assert control, instill fear, and
6 violate the autonomy of their victims; and

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8 WHEREAS, stalking is often a precursor to more severe,
9 violent crimes, making its recognition and intervention
10 essential for victim safety; and

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12 WHEREAS, treating stalking as a serious offense is vital to
13 protect vulnerable persons and foster a culture that prioritizes
14 the safety and well-being of victims; and

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16 WHEREAS, existing law classifies harassment by stalking as
17 a misdemeanor offense; and

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19 WHEREAS, the offense of harassment by stalking requires
20 establishing an ongoing course of conduct by the offender, which
21 can require more investigative work to build a provable case
22 than that required for other misdemeanor offenses; and

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24 WHEREAS, increasing the level of the offense of harassment
25 by stalking to a Class C felony may help ensure stalking by
26 harassment cases receive appropriate attention and resources,
27 deter offenders, and reassure victims; now, therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



H.C.R. NO. 56

1 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Judiciary is requested
2 to assess the impact of increasing the level of the offense of
3 harassment by stalking from a misdemeanor to a Class C felony;
4 and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary is requested to
7 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
8 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
9 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
10 2026; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the
14 Hawaii Supreme Court.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 05 2025

