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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO  
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN  
PROTECTIONS UNDER TITLE IX.

1           WHEREAS, the Patsy Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act,  
2 also known as Title IX (20 U.S.C. 1681), triggered a seismic  
3 shift in the education landscape by prohibiting discrimination  
4 on the basis of sex by any education program or activity  
5 receiving federal fund; and

6  
7           WHEREAS, Hawaii takes great pride in Congresswoman Mink's  
8 landmark legislation, which has expanded educational and  
9 professional opportunities for millions of girls and women in  
10 classrooms, athletics, employment, graduate studies, research,  
11 law, medicine, academia, and other professions that were out of  
12 reach prior to the enactment of Title IX; and

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14           WHEREAS, despite these achievements, Congresswoman Mink's  
15 vision for Title IX remains unfulfilled, as federal protections  
16 against sex discrimination in education have diminished over  
17 time; and

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19           WHEREAS, the current federal administration has signaled  
20 its intent to weaken certain civil rights protections and shift  
21 responsibility to the states; and

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23           WHEREAS, the Department of Education and the University of  
24 Hawaii System fail to meet compliance standards under Title IX,  
25 decades after its enactment; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, annual reports from the University of Hawaii,  
28 Department of Education schools, and state public charter  
29 schools on Title IX sex-based discrimination and non-Title IX  
30 sexual harassment complaints received by the schools suggest  
31 that incidents of sex-based discrimination and sex-based



1 harassment go largely unreported when compared to the data from  
2 self-reported surveys; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, unaddressed sex-based discrimination and  
5 harassment create a hostile learning environment which  
6 negatively impacts students' academic success, mental and  
7 physical well-being, and ability to pursue further education;  
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, stronger state protections are needed to ensure  
11 that all students are equally entitled to educational  
12 opportunities, free from discrimination based on sex; now,  
13 therefore,

14  
15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
16 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
17 of 2025, that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women  
18 is requested to convene a working group to develop measures to  
19 strengthen protections under Title IX; and

20  
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
22 to consist of the following members or their designees:

- 23  
24 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission  
25 on the Status of Women, who is to serve as chairperson  
26 of the working group for the purposes of convening the  
27 working group;  
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29 (2) The Attorney General;  
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31 (3) The Superintendent of Education;  
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33 (4) The President of the University of Hawaii;  
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35 (5) A member of the House of Representatives, to be  
36 appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
37 Representatives;  
38  
39 (6) A member of the Senate, to be appointed by the  
40 President of the Senate;



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- 1 (7) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest
- 2 organization that specializes in providing services to
- 3 survivors of gender violence or discrimination;
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- 5 (8) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest
- 6 organization that specializes in advocating for
- 7 policies to prevent campus-based sexual violence; and
- 8
- 9 (9) A representative from a nonprofit, public interest
- 10 organization that specializes in advocating for civil
- 11 rights for sexual and gender minorities; and
- 12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
 14 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
 15 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
 16 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
 17 of 2026; and

18  
 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 20 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney General;  
 21 Superintendent of Education; President of the University of  
 22 Hawaii; and Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on  
 23 the Status of Women.

24  
 25  
 26 OFFERED BY: Amy Perusso

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