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# HOUSE 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 critical legal tools 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, that the Judiciary is requested to convene a working  
8 group to study how effective the existing laws on domestic  
9 violence temporary restraining orders, protective orders, and  
10 harassment by stalking are in improving victim safety; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
13 to consist of the following members or their designees:  
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- 15 (1) The Honolulu Police Department;
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- 17 (2) The Maui Police Department;
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- 19 (3) The Hawaii Police Department;
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- 21 (4) The Kauai Police Department;
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- 23 (5) The Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of  
24 Honolulu;
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- 26 (6) The Prosecuting Attorney of Maui County;
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- 28 (7) The Prosecuting Attorney of Hawaii County;
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- 30 (8) The Prosecuting Attorney of Kauai County;
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- 32 (9) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Coalition  
33 Against Domestic Violence;
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- 35 (10) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission  
36 on the Status of Women;
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- 38 (11) A representative from a nonprofit organization that  
39 serves victims of domestic violence and stalking to be  
40 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 certified copies of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice, Administrative  
30 Director of the Courts, and Attorney General.  
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