
HOUSE 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
31 of 2025, that the Judiciary is requested to assess the impact of



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1 increasing the level of the offense of harassment by stalking
2 from a misdemeanor to a Class C felony; and

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

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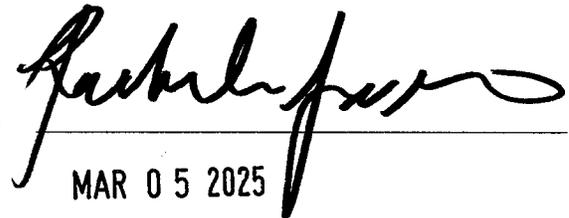
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the Hawaii
12 Supreme Court.

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OFFERED BY:


MAR 05 2025

