
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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
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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
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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



1 that incidents of sex-based discrimination and sex-based
2 harassment go largely unreported when compared to the data from
3 self-reported surveys; and
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5 WHEREAS, unaddressed sex-based discrimination and
6 harassment create a hostile learning environment which
7 negatively impacts students' academic success, mental and
8 physical well-being, and ability to pursue further education;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, stronger state protections are needed to ensure
12 that all students are equally entitled to educational
13 opportunities, free from discrimination based on sex; now,
14 therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii State Commission
19 on the Status of Women is requested to convene a working group
20 to develop measures to strengthen protections under Title IX;
21 and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
24 to consist of the following members or their designees:
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26 (1) The Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission
27 on the Status of Women, who is to serve as chairperson
28 of the working group for the purposes of convening the
29 working group;
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31 (2) The Attorney General;
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33 (3) The Superintendent of Education;
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35 (4) The President of the University of Hawaii;
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37 (5) A member of the House of Representatives, to be
38 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
39 Representatives;
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41 (6) A member of the Senate, to be appointed by the
42 President of the Senate;



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

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

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

OFFERED BY:

Amy Peruso

MAR 07 2025

