
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

AFFIRMING THE LEGISLATURE'S COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY, DUE
PROCESS, AND FAIR TREATMENT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS
WITHIN HAWAII'S JUSTICE SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, almost half of all women nationwide have
2 experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime; and

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4 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, thirteen percent of people have
5 experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime; and

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7 WHEREAS, almost seven out of ten women in Hawaii have
8 reported experiencing stalking by a current or former intimate
9 partner; and

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11 WHEREAS, the State has demonstrated a commitment to
12 advocating for the rights of survivors of domestic violence
13 throughout the justice system; and

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15 WHEREAS, Act 19 SLH 2020 established a five-year pilot
16 project "to strengthen state and county responses to domestic
17 violence and increase offender accountability"; and

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19 WHEREAS, Act 75 SLH 2023 and Act 81 SLH 2023 amended the
20 temporary restraining order process to ensure domestic violence
21 survivors had sufficient access to justice while also protecting
22 them from harm; and

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24 WHEREAS, nevertheless, there remains a lack of availability
25 and awareness of victim support services such as counseling,
26 emergency assistance, housing support, legal guidance, and
27 related stabilization resources; and



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1 WHEREAS, there is a need for greater continuity and
2 preparedness in the handling of misdemeanor domestic violence
3 cases; and
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5 WHEREAS, attorneys working on domestic violence matters
6 require specialized training and sufficient experience; and
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8 WHEREAS, domestic violence judicial proceedings should be
9 impartial and consistent; and
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11 WHEREAS, victim support services should clearly communicate
12 the available resources, case processes, and post-case safety
13 considerations to survivors; and
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15 WHEREAS, the interaction between criminal case outcomes and
16 related family court proceedings should be clearly explained,
17 especially where child safety is a concern; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
21 of 2026, the Senate concurring, the legislature affirms its
22 commitment to public safety, due process, and fair treatment for
23 domestic violence survivors within Hawaii's justice system; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the legislature recommends the
26 Judiciary conduct a review of existing policies and
27 administrative practices related to case assignment, training,
28 and victim notification to identify opportunities for improved
29 consistency and efficiency; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED there should be enhanced
32 coordination among state and community service providers to
33 ensure victims are better informed of available assistance; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the legislature recognizes the
36 importance of maintaining impartial judicial processes while
37 promoting public confidence in the administration of justice;
38 and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the legislature recognizes the need
41 for clear statutory frameworks that protect victims and provide
42 guidance where criminal and family court matters intersect; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Judiciary and Honolulu Office of the Prosecuting Attorney are urged to identify best practices that strengthen accountability, preparedness, and access to services without expanding unnecessary bureaucracy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the State should consider offering the following victim support services to survivors of domestic violence:

- (1) Emergency funds;
- (2) Mental health counseling;
- (3) Pro bono legal services;
- (4) Emergency housing; and
- (5) Childcare assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Honolulu Office of the Prosecuting Attorney should consider implementing the following reforms:

- (1) Assigning attorneys with jury trial experience to misdemeanor domestic violence cases;
- (2) Providing an experienced second chair attorney to assist new attorneys assigned to domestic violence cases;
- (3) Assigning the same attorney to every case for the same victim, if requested;
- (4) Assigning attorneys to the case as soon as possible to provide clarity and sufficient advocacy for survivors;
- (5) Requiring all prosecutors to undergo domestic violence training; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chief Justice of the
3 Hawaii State Supreme Court and Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney.

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OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dwayne A. King', is written over a horizontal line.

MAR 12 2026

