
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN,
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, TO
ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP AND PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE
LEGISLATURE ON WAYS TO STRENGTHEN PREVENTION,
INTERVENTIONS, AND PROTECTIONS FOR SURVIVORS OF IMAGE-BASED
SEXUAL ABUSE.

1 WHEREAS, image-based sexual abuse involves the sharing, or
2 threat of sharing, explicit images or videos of another person
3 without their consent, often with the intent to harm the
4 victim's health, safety, mental wellness, employment, financial
5 condition, reputation, or personal relationships; and
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7 WHEREAS, image-based sexual abuse is included as a class C
8 felony under existing state law, which covers offenses that
9 constitute a violation of privacy in the first degree; and
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11 WHEREAS, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation
12 recognizes nine different forms of image-based sexual abuse,
13 including nonconsensual distribution of sexually explicit
14 material, collection of nonconsensual distributed sexually
15 explicit materials, recorded sexual violence, sexual extortion,
16 sexual violence in virtual or augmented reality, tech-
17 facilitated sexual coercion, video voyeurism, and multiple forms
18 of computer-generated or artificial intelligence-generated
19 abuse; and
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21 WHEREAS, a 2017 study by the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative
22 found that 12.8 percent of respondents reported being survivors
23 of image-based sexual abuse; and
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25 WHEREAS, estimates of prevalence rates for image-based
26 sexual abuse, like sexual assault, are widely believed to be low



1 because of the social stigma, personal shame, and emotional and
2 financial repercussions of reporting such abuse; and

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4 WHEREAS, a study published in 2019 in the academic journal,
5 *Psychology of Violence*, found that seventy-three percent of
6 survivors of image-based sexual abuse did not turn to anyone for
7 help after discovering the abuse, in part because of legal
8 challenges obtaining pathways to justice for the trauma they
9 endured; and

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11 WHEREAS, emergent technologies, such as artificial
12 intelligence and virtual and augmented reality, are making the
13 facilitation of image-based sexual abuse easier for
14 perpetrators; and

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16 WHEREAS, a 2019 report by Sensity, a company that detects
17 and monitors sexual deepfakes, found that ninety-five percent of
18 all online deepfake videos are nonconsensual sexual deepfakes,
19 with ninety percent of those videos targeting women; and

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21 WHEREAS, the State has a responsibility to ensure, to the
22 greatest extent possible, that gender violence is not further
23 enabled by the rise of new technologies; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
27 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that a designee of the Hawaii
28 State Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with
29 the Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to establish a
30 working group comprised of the following members or their
31 designees: gender-based violence service providers, survivors of
32 gender-based violence, county police departments, prosecuting
33 attorney offices, gender based violence coalitions, the
34 Judiciary, and any other representatives with relevant knowledge
35 or experiences that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of
36 Women designee and/or the Legislative Reference Bureau deems
37 necessary to conduct a review of statutes and policies
38 nationwide to evaluate possibilities for policy or program
39 enhancements to prevent image-based sexual abuse, intervene
40 protect survivors that can be adapted from other states and
41 incorporated into Hawaii law; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a designee of the Hawaii State
2 Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the
3 Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to submit a report of
4 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
5 legislation on ways to prevent, intervene and strengthen
6 protections for survivors of image-based sexual abuse, to the
7 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
8 the Regular Session of 2028 and to dissolve the working group on
9 December 31, 2027; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant
13 Governor, Attorney General, Executive Director of the Hawaii
14 State Commission on the Status of Women; and prosecuting
15 attorneys of each of the counties.

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