
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 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
27 because of the social stigma, personal shame, and emotional and
28 financial repercussions of reporting such abuse; and



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

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

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

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

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that a designee of the Hawaii
26 State Commission on the Status of Women is requested to
27 establish a working group comprised of the following members or
28 their designees: gender-based violence service providers,
29 survivors of gender-based violence, county police departments,
30 prosecuting attorney offices, gender based violence coalitions,
31 the Judiciary, and any other representatives with relevant
32 knowledge or experiences that the Hawaii State Commission on the
33 Status of Women designee deems necessary to conduct a review of
34 statutes and policies nationwide to evaluate possibilities for
35 policy or program enhancements to prevent image-based sexual
36 abuse, intervene protect survivors that can be adapted from
37 other states and incorporated into Hawaii law; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a designee of the Hawaii State
40 Commission on the Status of Women is requested to submit a
41 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
42 proposed legislation on ways to prevent, intervene and



1 strengthen protections for survivors of image-based sexual
2 abuse, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
3 convening of the Regular Session of 2028 and to dissolve the
4 working group on December 31, 2027; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
7 General is requested to provide legal guidance and
8 administrative support to the working group upon request of the
9 designee of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women;
10 and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the designee of the Hawaii
13 State Commission on the Status of Women may request assistance
14 of the Legislative Reference Bureau in drafting proposed
15 legislation for the working; provided that the drafting request
16 is submitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau no later than
17 October 1, 2027; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant
21 Governor, Attorney General, Executive Director of the Hawaii
22 State Commission on the Status of Women; Director of the
23 Legislative Reference Bureau; and prosecuting attorneys of each
24 of the counties.

