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# HOUSE 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  
3

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  
28

29           WHEREAS, there is a need for greater continuity and  
30 preparedness in the handling of misdemeanor domestic violence  
31 cases; and



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1  
2 WHEREAS, attorneys working on domestic violence matters  
3 require specialized training and sufficient experience; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, domestic violence judicial proceedings should be  
6 impartial and consistent; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, victim support services should clearly communicate  
9 the available resources, case processes, and post-case safety  
10 considerations to survivors; and  
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12 WHEREAS, the interaction between criminal case outcomes and  
13 related family court proceedings should be clearly explained,  
14 especially where child safety is a concern; now, 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 2026, the legislature affirms its commitment to public  
19 safety, due process, and fair treatment for domestic violence  
20 survivors within Hawaii's justice system; and  
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the legislature recommends the  
23 Judiciary conduct a review of existing policies and  
24 administrative practices related to case assignment, training,  
25 and victim notification to identify opportunities for improved  
26 consistency and efficiency; and  
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED there should be enhanced  
29 coordination among state and community service providers to  
30 ensure victims are better informed of available assistance; and  
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the legislature recognizes the  
33 importance of maintaining impartial judicial processes while  
34 promoting public confidence in the administration of justice;  
35 and  
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the legislature recognizes the need  
38 for clear statutory frameworks that protect victims and provide  
39 guidance where criminal and family court matters intersect; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Judiciary and Honolulu Office of  
2 the Prosecuting Attorney are urged to identify best practices  
3 that strengthen accountability, preparedness, and access to  
4 services without expanding unnecessary bureaucracy; and  
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the State should consider offering  
7 the following victim support services to survivors of domestic  
8 violence:  
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- 10 (1) Emergency funds;
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- 12 (2) Mental health counseling;
- 13
- 14 (3) Pro bono legal services;
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- 16 (4) Emergency housing; and
- 17
- 18 (5) Childcare assistance; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Honolulu Office of the  
21 Prosecuting Attorney should consider implementing the following  
22 reforms:  
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- 24 (1) Assigning attorneys with jury trial experience to  
25 misdemeanor domestic violence cases;
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- 27 (2) Providing an experienced second chair attorney to  
28 assist new attorneys assigned to domestic violence  
29 cases;
- 30
- 31 (3) Assigning the same attorney to every case for the same  
32 victim, if requested;
- 33
- 34 (4) Assigning attorneys to the case as soon as possible to  
35 provide clarity and sufficient advocacy for survivors;
- 36
- 37 (5) Requiring all prosecutors to undergo domestic violence  
38 training; and  
39



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



MAR 12 2026

