
HOUSE 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
27 because of the social stigma, personal shame, and emotional and
28 financial repercussions of reporting such abuse; and
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1 WHEREAS, a study published in 2019 in the academic journal,
2 *Psychology of Violence*, found that seventy-three percent of
3 survivors of image-based sexual abuse did not turn to anyone for
4 help after discovering the abuse, in part because of legal
5 challenges obtaining pathways to justice for the trauma they
6 endured; and

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

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

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

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

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a designee of the Hawaii State
41 Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the
42 Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to submit a report of



1 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
2 legislation on ways to prevent, intervene, and strengthen
3 protections for survivors of image-based sexual abuse, to the
4 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
5 the Regular Session of 2028 and to dissolve the working group on
6 December 31, 2027; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
10 Attorney General, Executive Director of the Hawaii State
11 Commission on the Status of Women; and prosecuting attorneys of
12 each of the counties.
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