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

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



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