

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
ON THE COST AND SCOPE OF A COMPREHENSIVE, STATEWIDE SURVEY
OF MĀHŪ, LGBTQIA+, AND QTPI+ COMMUNITIES IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, individuals who embody both masculine and feminine
2 spirit in Native Hawaiian culture, known as a Māhū, have
3 historically held respected roles as teachers, healers, and
4 cultural practitioners, serving as vital carriers of knowledge
5 and traditions within Hawaiian society; and
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7 WHEREAS, the diverse queer and trans identities across the
8 Pacific Islands, often referred to collectively as queer and
9 trans Pacific Islanders (QTPI+) identities, are integral to the
10 social, spiritual, and cultural fabric of their communities with
11 unique traditions, practices, and roles that predate Western
12 colonization; and
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14 WHEREAS, these identities reflect a rich heritage of gender
15 diversity and fluidity that is recognized and celebrated within
16 Pacific Island cultures, yet colonization, Western legal
17 systems, and modern social structures have often marginalized or
18 erased their presence in official records and policy planning;
19 and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ people are integral
22 members of Hawaii's communities, families, cultures, and
23 workforce, yet remain largely invisible in statewide data
24 collection efforts; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the absence of culturally informed, reliable, and
27 disaggregated data on Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ populations
28 significantly limits the ability of the State, Legislature, and
29 county governments and nonprofit service providers to
30 effectively identify disparities, allocate resources, develop
31 evidence-based policy, and measure outcomes; and
32



1 WHEREAS, national and local research consistently
2 demonstrates that Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ individuals
3 experience disproportionate barriers to health care, including
4 mental and behavioral health services; higher rates of housing
5 and economic insecurity; inequitable educational outcomes; and
6 increased exposure to discrimination, harassment, and violence
7 based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender
8 expression; and
9

10 WHEREAS, understanding the needs and experiences of Māhū,
11 LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ people in Hawaii requires approaches that
12 honor these cultural histories and perspectives, ensuring that
13 any data collection reflects and respects the community's lived
14 experiences, traditional knowledge, and social contexts; and
15

16 WHEREAS, conducting a comprehensive, statewide survey that
17 estimates population size and examines health care access,
18 mental health outcomes, economic stability, educational
19 attainment, housing security, and experiences of discrimination
20 would provide critical insight necessary to advance equity,
21 improve culturally responsive service deliver, and ensure that
22 public funds are used efficiently and effectively; and
23

24 WHEREAS, before such a survey can be responsibly
25 undertaken, the State must understand the projected costs,
26 methodological considerations, privacy protections, and
27 community engagement requirements necessary to carry out a high-
28 quality, ethical, and culturally responsive data collection
29 effort; now, therefore,
30

31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
33 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative
34 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study to determine
35 the cost and scope of implementing a comprehensive, statewide
36 survey of the Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ populations in Hawaii;
37 and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
40 include, but not be limited to:
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- 1 (1) An estimated cost to design, administer, analyze, and
2 report on a statewide survey that identifies
3 individuals who identify as Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+,
4 with methods that respect cultural protocols and
5 community engagement practices;
6
- 7 (2) Methodological recommendations for estimating
8 population size and demographics, including culturally
9 responsive and community-based research approaches
10 that honor Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
11 knowledge systems;
12
- 13 (3) An assessment of data elements related to health care
14 access, including mental and behavioral health care;
15 economic strength and employment; educational
16 attainment; housing stability; and experiences of
17 discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender
18 identity, or gender expression, with attention to how
19 cultural identity impacts these outcomes;
20
- 21 (4) The specific needs of the elderly Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and
22 QTPI+ community that may not be addressed by current
23 resources;
24
- 25 (5) Considerations for data privacy, confidentiality, and
26 protections for respondents, particularly those from
27 marginalized or vulnerable cultural communities;
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- 29 (6) Opportunities for collaboration with Native Hawaiian
30 and Pacific Islander community-based organizations,
31 Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ advocacy groups, academic
32 institutions, and county governments to ensure
33 cultural relevance and accuracy of findings; and
34
- 35 (7) Identification of potential state, federal, and
36 private funding sources to support the implementation
37 of such a culturally informed survey; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
40 Bureau is requested to submit a report of findings and
41 recommendations, including cost estimates and proposed



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1 timelines, to the Legislature no later than twenty days before
2 the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
6 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, and Chair of the
7 Hawaii State LGBTQ+ Commission.
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10

OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Lu', written over a horizontal line.