
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN,
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU AND DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, TO
ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP AND PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE
LEGISLATURE ON WAYS TO STRENGTHEN 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, including 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 Senate of the Thirty-third
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii State
26 Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the
27 Office of the Legislative Reference Bureau and Department of the
28 Attorney General, is requested to establish a working group
29 comprised of gender-based violence service providers and
30 survivors of gender-based violence to conduct a review of
31 statutes and policies nationwide to evaluate possibilities for
32 policy or program enhancements to protect survivors of image-
33 based sexual abuse that can be adapted from other states and
34 incorporated into Hawaii law; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Commission on
37 the Status of Women, in collaboration with the Office of the
38 Legislative Reference Bureau and Department of the Attorney
39 General, is requested to submit a report of its findings and
40 recommendations, including any proposed legislation on ways to
41 strengthen protections for survivors of image-based sexual



1 abuse, to the Legislature no later than forty days prior to the
2 convening of the Regular Session of 2028; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant
6 Governor, Attorney General, Executive Director of the Hawaii
7 State Commission on the Status of Women, Director of the Office
8 of the Legislative Reference Bureau, and prosecuting attorney of
9 each county.

