

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE 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  
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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  
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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  
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33           WHEREAS, national and local research consistently  
34 demonstrates that Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ individuals  
35 experience disproportionate barriers to health care, including



1 mental and behavioral health services; higher rates of housing  
2 and economic insecurity; inequitable educational outcomes; and  
3 increased exposure to discrimination, harassment, and violence  
4 based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender  
5 expression; and

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

12  
13 WHEREAS, conducting a comprehensive, statewide survey that  
14 estimates population size and examines health care access,  
15 mental health outcomes, economic stability, educational  
16 attainment, housing security, and experiences of discrimination  
17 would provide critical insight necessary to advance equity,  
18 improve culturally responsive service deliver, and ensure that  
19 public funds are used efficiently and effectively; and

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

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,  
30 that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a  
31 study to determine the cost and scope of implementing a  
32 comprehensive, statewide survey of the Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+  
33 populations in Hawaii; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to  
36 include, but not be limited to:

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38 (1) An estimated cost to design, administer, analyze, and  
39 report on a statewide survey that identifies  
40 individuals who identify as Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+,  
41 with methods that respect cultural protocols and  
42 community engagement practices;



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- (2) Methodological recommendations for estimating population size and demographics, including culturally responsive and community-based research approaches that honor Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander knowledge systems;
- (3) An assessment of data elements related to health care access, including mental and behavioral health care; economic strength and employment; educational attainment; housing stability; and experiences of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, with attention to how cultural identity impacts these outcomes;
- (4) The specific needs of the elderly Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ community that may not be addressed by current resources;
- (5) Considerations for data privacy, confidentiality, and protections for respondents, particularly those from marginalized or vulnerable cultural communities;
- (6) Opportunities for collaboration with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community-based organizations, Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ advocacy groups, academic institutions, and county governments to ensure cultural relevance and accuracy of findings; and
- (7) Identification of potential state, federal, and private funding sources to support the implementation of such a culturally informed survey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to submit a report of findings and recommendations, including cost estimates and proposed timelines, to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of

1 the Legislative Reference Bureau, and Chair of the Hawaii State  
2 LGBTQ+ Commission.

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OFFERED BY:

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