

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN,  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE 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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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

7  
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

12  
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

17  
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,

21  
22           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,  
24 that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, in  
25 collaboration with the Department of the Attorney General, is  
26 requested to establish a working group comprised of gender-based  
27 violence service providers and survivors of gender-based  
28 violence to conduct a review of statutes and policies nationwide  
29 to evaluate possibilities for policy or program enhancements to  
30 protect survivors of image-based sexual abuse that can be  
31 adapted from other states and incorporated into Hawaii law; and

32  
33           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Commission on  
34 the Status of Women, in collaboration with the Department of the  
35 Attorney General, is requested to submit a report of its  
36 findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation  
37 on ways to strengthen protections for survivors of image-based  
38 sexual abuse, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
39 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

40  
41           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,



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1 Attorney General, Executive Director of the Hawaii State  
2 Commission on the Status of Women; and prosecuting attorneys of  
3 each of the counties.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long tail, is written over a horizontal line.