



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.C.R. NO. 93 AND H.R. NO. 85 , 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.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Tuesday, March 31, 2026

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Mark S. Tom, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

These resolutions request that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (Commission), in collaboration with the Department: (1) convene a working group comprised of gender-based violence service providers and survivors to review statutes and policies nationwide and identify potential policy or program enhancements to protect survivors of image-based sexual abuse that could be adapted for Hawaii; and (2) submit a report of the working group's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2027.

The Department is available to assist the working group as needed, consistent with our role as legal counsel to the Commission. For example, we can help assess the legality of proposals developed by the working group and advise on appropriate legislative approaches. Determining possibilities for policy or program enhancements geared towards gender-based violence is generally outside of the Department's expertise and is a task better suited for survivors and service providers.

Additionally, a more efficient alternative to requesting a working group to review nationwide statutes and policies may be available. The Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) is uniquely qualified to conduct the nationwide review of statutory protections for victims of image-based sexual abuse. The LRB's role includes providing impartial legal and policy research to the Legislature. Once relevant statutes and policies are identified, the Commission, service providers, and survivors could review them, and the Department could assist in refining any proposed legislation prior to introduction and throughout the legislative session.

We respectfully request that these resolutions be amended to request the LRB to conduct the desired study, or in the alternative, remove the Department from the working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HAWAII STATE COMMISSION

ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

March 30, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** with **COMMENTS** of **HCR93/HR85**, 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.

To: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Llasmin Chaine, LSW, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT with COMMENTS of HCR93/HR85, 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.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 31, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (Commission) **supports HCR93/HR85**, establishing a working group focused on protections against image-based sexual abuse in Hawaii.

As a statewide feminist government body dedicated to advancing equality and safety for women and girls, the Commission recognizes the urgent need to address the harms caused by image-based sexual abuse. This form of abuse disproportionately affects women and girls, undermining their well-being, dignity, and participation in public life. The proposed working group aligns with our mission to catalyze positive change through advocacy, education, and collaboration.

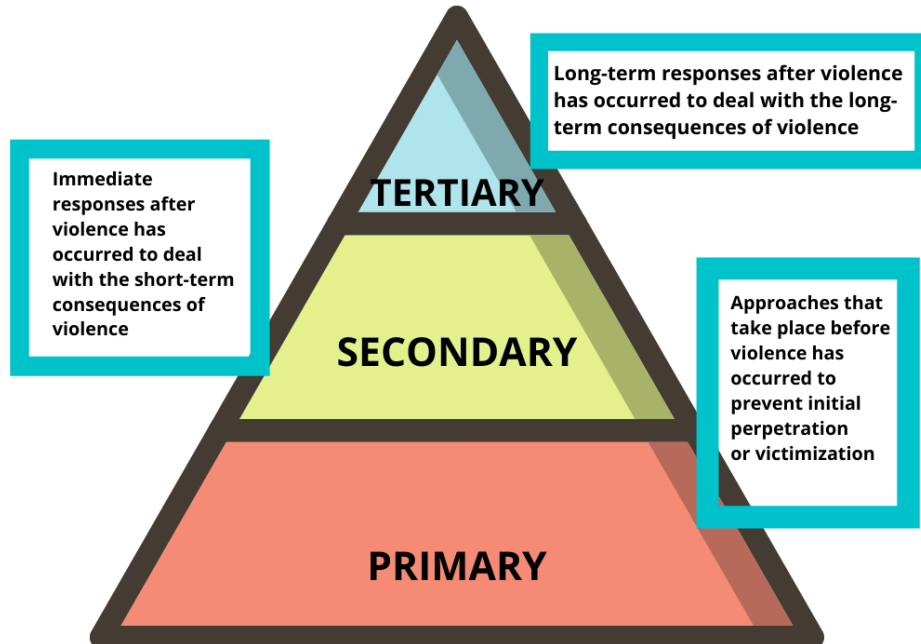
By bringing together stakeholders under the leadership of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women and the Department of the Attorney General, the measure creates an opportunity for data-driven policy development and the identification of best practices. **A coordinated response will help ensure that legal protections keep pace with technology and that survivors have access to resources and support. The working group's report will also provide valuable guidance for future legislative and programmatic action.**

To strengthen the effectiveness of this measure we provide the following suggested amendments for the Committee's consideration:

- The title of the resolution to be amended to include the words "PREVENTION, INTERVENTIONS, AND", in accordance with public health and sexual violence prevention best practices, to read:
 - 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 PREVENTION, INTERVENTIONS, AND PROTECTIONS FOR SURVIVORS OF IMAGE-BASED SEXUAL ABUSE.

Public Health Approach to Prevention



- The resolution's working group membership on page 2, lines 25-33 and line 35, to be amended to include: designees, county police departments, prosecuting attorney offices, gender-based violence coalitions, the Judiciary, and any other representatives with relevant knowledge or experiences that the Commission and/or the Attorney General deems necessary, similar to last session's [HCR55](#), as **diverse perspectives will be needed to inform its recommendations**, to read:

(25) of 2026, the Senate concurring, that ~~the~~ **a designee** of the Hawaii State Commission
(26) on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the Department of
(27) the Attorney General, is requested to establish a working group
(28) comprised of **the following members or their designees:** gender-based ~~violence service providers, and~~
(29) **violence service providers**, survivors of gender-based violence, **county**
(30) **police departments, prosecuting attorney offices, gender-based violence coalitions,**
(31) **the Judiciary, and any other representatives with relevant knowledge or experiences**
(32) **that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women designee and/or**
(33) **the Attorney General deems necessary** to conduct a review of statutes...

(35) BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ~~the~~ **a designee** of the Hawaii State Commission on

- The inclusion of prevention and intervention strategies will improve public health, increase community safety and strengthen the State's response to image-based sexual abuse, adjusting the working group's and report's scope on page 2, lines 31-32 and line 39, to read:

~~(31)~~ policy or program enhancements to **prevent image-based sexual abuse,**
~~(32)~~ **intervene** and protect survivors, ~~of image-based sexual abuse~~ that can be adapted...

~~(39)~~ on ways to **prevent, intervene, and** strengthen protections for survivors of image-based

- Adjusting the working group's report submission due date, on page 2 lines 41-42, to enable sufficient time for the working group to assemble, discuss, research, review, and draft the report of its findings and recommendations and the identification of a date to dissolve the working group, to read:

~~(41)~~ to the convening of the Regular Session of **2028 2027**; and

~~(42)~~ **dissolving the working group on December 31, 2027**; and

We respectfully urge this Committee to pass **HCR93/HR85**. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



MARCH 31, 2026

HCR 93/HR 85

CURRENT REFERRAL: JHA

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Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
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POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HCR 93/HR 85, requesting the Hawai'i 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.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and gender violence. This resolution addresses an increasingly urgent issue: the rapid evolution of digital technology, artificial intelligence, and online platforms that are facilitating new forms of exploitation, harassment, and image-based abuse, particularly affecting youth and young adults. Hawai'i has an opportunity to take a leadership role in recognizing and responding to these emerging harms before they become even more widespread and difficult to address.

Image-based sexual abuse (IBSA), including the nonconsensual distribution of intimate images and AI-generated deepfake sexual imagery, is a growing form of exploitation that causes severe and long-lasting harm to victims. According to a 2020 study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, approximately 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. reported having had a nude image shared without their consent, and among those, the majority experienced significant psychological distress. A 2023 report by the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI) found that image-based abuse survivors experience elevated rates of anxiety, depression, PTSD, and suicidality, and many face practical harms such as job loss, educational disruption, and relationship distress because images can circulate online indefinitely and are difficult to fully remove.

Artificial intelligence has further accelerated these harms. AI tools can now generate realistic deepfake images and videos, automate harassment campaigns, impersonate individuals, and create synthetic intimate images

without a person ever taking or sharing a photo. These technologies dramatically lower the barrier to exploitation and expand the scale at which harm can occur. Victims of AI-generated intimate imagery experience many of the same psychological and reputational harms as victims of traditional image-based abuse, including humiliation, reputational damage, fear, and long-term mental health impacts.

These harms are not distributed evenly. **Women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and young people are disproportionately targeted for online sexual exploitation and image-based abuse**, making this both a technology issue and a gender-based violence issue. Digital exploitation is increasingly recognized as part of the broader continuum of sexual violence and coercive control.

Importantly, these online harms are closely linked to youth mental health outcomes. Victims of online sexual exploitation and image-based abuse experience significantly higher rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicidal ideation. Because online content can spread rapidly and remain accessible indefinitely, victims often experience a sense that the abuse never ends, which can compound trauma and increase mental health risks.

This resolution recognizes that these issues are evolving faster than traditional laws can keep up. Artificial intelligence, deepfake technology, and digital exploitation tools are advancing rapidly, and policymakers across the country are beginning to examine how to protect youth, prevent exploitation, and ensure that victims have meaningful remedies.

Across the U.S., states, including our own, are increasingly considering legislation addressing AI-generated sexual imagery, online impersonation, and digital exploitation. Several states have enacted laws criminalizing deepfake pornography, and others have established civil remedies for victims of image-based abuse. Policymakers are also examining platform responsibility, removal procedures, AI disclosure requirements, and youth online safety standards.

Resolutions like this play an important role by acknowledging the scope of the problem, encouraging coordinated policy development, and signaling that Hawai'i recognizes digital exploitation and AI-facilitated abuse as serious public safety and public health issues.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 1:14:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/31/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Lum	Hawaii State Chapter of Childrens Justice Centers	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of the Hawaii State Chapter of Children's Justice Centers, I would like to express our strong support of HCR93 with the clarification that the bill relates to minor survivors in addition to adult survivors of image based sexual abuse. Thank you for your attention to this most important issue.

Terri Lum, LSW
Coordinator, HSCCJC



March 31, 2026

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

**Re: H.C.R. 93 – Working Group to Strengthen Protections for
Survivors of Image-Based Sexual Abuse**

**Hearing: Tuesday, March 31, 2026, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 325 &
Videoconference**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Members of the Committee on Labor:

Hawaii Women Lawyers is a lawyer's trade organization that aims to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all.

Hawaii Women Lawyers supports H.C.R. 93.

H.C.R. 93 requests the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the Department of the Attorney General, convene a working group to evaluate and recommend ways to strengthen protections for survivors of image-based sexual abuse.

Image-based sexual abuse is a fast-evolving form of gender-based violence that disproportionately impacts women. This type of abuse inflicts deep psychological, emotional, and financial harm, and current legal frameworks have struggled to keep pace with emerging threats.

H.C.R. 93 takes a thoughtful, inclusive approach by calling for survivor-centered policy review and collaboration between government agencies and gender-based violence service providers. It acknowledges both the serious harms of this abuse and the State's responsibility to ensure that advancing technologies do not further endanger already vulnerable populations. Importantly, this effort promotes equity by elevating survivor voices and addressing systemic gaps that disproportionately harm women and marginalized communities.

For the above reasons, we H.C.R. 93 respectfully request that the Committees pass this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.