



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 93, HOUSE RESOLUTION 85**

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, 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.

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana ‘Imi Kālā
(House Committee on Finance)
Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

‘Apelila 8, 2026

1:55 PM

Lumi 308

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS with AMENDMENTS HCR93 and HR85** requesting the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the Legislative Reference Bureau, 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 and offers the following amendments to strengthen this working group.

Image-based sexual abuse is a serious and evolving form of gender-based violence. Existing law addresses some conduct, but rapid technological change, including artificial intelligence-enabled abuse, has outpaced many legal and policy responses. A working group is a prudent step to evaluate gaps in Hawai‘i law, review approaches used in other jurisdictions, and develop recommendations grounded in survivor safety, privacy, dignity, and meaningful access to justice.

OHA respectfully requests the working group expressly consider Native Hawaiian women and girls in its review and recommendations. OHA’s 2022 report with the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women found Native Hawaiian women and girls experience violence at rates disproportionate to their population size and documented significant overrepresentation of Native Hawaiian girls in missing persons and trafficking-

related data.¹ The report also emphasized persistent data gaps and systemic disregard, which can obscure the true scope of violence against them.

For that reason, OHA believes any review of image-based sexual abuse should include attention to how this abuse may intersect with existing patterns of gender-based violence, trafficking, coercion, and systemic under protection affecting Native Hawaiian women and girls. To that end, OHA requests that an advocate or direct service provider for vulnerable Native Hawaiian women and girls be added to the working group. OHA also encourages Native Hawaiian perspectives, survivor-informed expertise, and attention to culturally grounded prevention and response strategies in the working group process.

For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS HCR93 and HR85 with the amendments outlined above**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony on these measures.

¹ Office of Hawaiian Affairs & Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, *Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Task Force Report* (2022), <https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/MMNHWG-Report-Web.pdf>

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Written Comments

HCR93/HR85

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, 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.

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 1:55 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference

Chair Todd and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon, Chair Todd and Members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau (Bureau). Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on H.C.R. No. 93/H.R. No. 85, Requesting the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, in Collaboration with the Legislative Reference Bureau, 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.

The purpose of these measures is to request that:

- (1) A designee of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the Bureau, establish the aforementioned working group;
- (2) The working group be further composed of the following members or their designees:

- (A) A designee of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women;
 - (B) Gender-based violence service providers;
 - (C) Survivors of gender-based violence;
 - (D) County police departments;
 - (E) Prosecuting attorney offices;
 - (F) Gender based violence coalitions;
 - (G) The Judiciary; and
 - (H) Any other representatives with relevant knowledge or experiences that the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women designee and/or the Legislative Reference Bureau deems necessary;
- (3) The working group conduct a review of statutes and policies nationwide to evaluate policy or program enhancements to:
- (A) Prevent image-based sexual abuse;
 - (B) Intervene and protect survivors; and
 - (C) Develop proposals that could be incorporated into Hawaii law;
- (4) The designee of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the Bureau, submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation on ways to prevent, intervene and strengthen protections for survivors of image-based sexual abuse, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2028; and
- (5) The working group dissolve on December 31, 2027.

Although the Bureau takes no position on the merits of these measures, we have concerns regarding our participation in an endeavor that is fundamentally within the scope of responsibility of the Executive Branch of government. and submit the following comments for your consideration.

Section 23G-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establishes that the services of the Bureau are reserved to the Legislature, and makes no provision for the Bureau to be loaned out to

the Executive Branch. We note that, as drafted, the working group is not situated within the Legislative Branch, nor are any Legislators explicitly listed to be working group members.

If the Committee would still like the Bureau to be involved in this working group, we respectfully request that:

- (1) The title and purpose of the measures be amended to remove the language that requests the Bureau to collaborate with the Commission on the Status of Women to establish and participate in the working group;
- (2) The Department of the Attorney General provide legal guidance and administrative support to the working group, upon request of the designee of the Commission on the Status of Women; and
- (3) The Commission on the Status of Women designee to the working group may request drafting services of the Bureau to draft proposed legislation for the working group; provided that the request is made prior to October 1, 2027.

If the measures are amended as requested, the Bureau believes that the Bureau's amended responsibilities would be manageable, provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other additional responsibilities, such as conducting studies, writing or finalizing reports, drafting legislation, or any combination of these for the Legislature or for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for your consideration.



**HAWAII STATE
COMMISSION**
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

April 7, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HCR93 HD1/HR85 HD1** with **COMMENTS**, REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, 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.

To: Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR93 HD1/HR85 HD1 with COMMENTS, REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, 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.

Hearing: Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 1:55 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (Commission) **supports HCR93 HD1/HR85 HD1**, establishing a working group focused on interventions and 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.

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

- The resolutions' **titles** and working group **membership** be **amended to include the Department of the Attorney General**, as originally drafted by the introducer in HCR93/HR85, as the Commission does not have the necessary expertise to ensure the report submitted to the Legislature achieves the intended goals regarding the identification of policy enhancements "that can be adapted from other states and incorporated into Hawaii law" and subsequent proposed legislation.
- The word "**and**" be added at the end of the line on page 2, line 39.

We respectfully urge this Committee to **pass HCR93 HD1/HR85 HD1 with amendments**. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

HR-85-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 5:19:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 1:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports HCR93. Please pass this resolution.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

Secretary/Board Member

Rainbow Family 808



APRIL 8, 2026

HCR 93/HR 85 HD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: FIN

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POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HCR 93/HR 85 HD1, requesting the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, in collaboration with the Legislative Reference Bureau, 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.

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