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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO DEVELOP AND  
IMPLEMENT A U VISA CERTIFICATION POLICY.

1 WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Victims of Trafficking and  
2 Violence Prevention Act of 2000 to encourage undocumented  
3 immigrant victims to report crimes, contribute to investigations  
4 and prosecutions, and support law enforcement efforts to  
5 investigate and prosecute crimes committed against undocumented  
6 immigrant victims by creating the U visa certification policy;  
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Homeland Security  
10 has created the U Visa Law Enforcement Certification Resource  
11 Guide to assist local government jurisdictions in creating their  
12 own U visa certification document; and

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14 WHEREAS, in California, the Coroner Division of the Orange  
15 County Sheriff's Department has already implemented a U visa  
16 certification policy; and

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18 WHEREAS, the U visa is an immigration benefit for  
19 undocumented immigrant victims of certain crimes who will  
20 assist, are currently assisting, or have previously assisted law  
21 enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of these types  
22 of crimes; and

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24 WHEREAS, the U visa provides eligible undocumented  
25 immigrant victims with nonimmigrant status that allows them to  
26 temporarily remain and work in the United States while assisting  
27 law enforcement; and

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29 WHEREAS, undocumented immigrant victims may otherwise be  
30 reluctant to help in the investigation or prosecution of



1 criminal activity for fear of removal from the United States;  
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, immigrants, especially women and children, can be  
5 particularly vulnerable to crimes like human trafficking,  
6 domestic violence, sexual assault, and other types of abuse; and

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8 WHEREAS, any eligible undocumented immigrant victim may  
9 apply for a U visa, which must first be certified by a  
10 qualifying agency, such as the Department of Law Enforcement,  
11 before being reviewed and acted upon by the United States  
12 Citizenship and Immigration Services; and

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14 WHEREAS, the certification verifies that a qualifying  
15 criminal activity occurred and that the victim was helpful or  
16 will be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the  
17 qualifying crime; and

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19 WHEREAS, the State currently does not have a U visa  
20 certification policy in place; and

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22 WHEREAS, the State would benefit from having a U visa  
23 certification policy to ensure that victims of certain crimes  
24 have a safe opportunity to report these crimes without fear of  
25 deportation; now, therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
28 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
29 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
30 Law Enforcement is urged to develop and implement a U visa  
31 certification policy; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Law  
34 Enforcement is requested to submit:

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36 (1) An interim report on the development of a U visa  
37 certification policy, including any proposed  
38 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
39 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
40 2025; and

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1 (2) A final report on the implementation of the U visa  
2 policy, including any proposed legislation, to the  
3 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
4 convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
8 Director of Law Enforcement.

