



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTY- FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.C.R. NO. 100/H.R. NO. 83, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOMELESSNESS

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021                      **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 329, Via Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):** Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or  
Farshad M Talebi, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports this resolution.

The purpose of this resolution is to request the Department to create a statewide human trafficking program within the Department.to (1) assist victims of human trafficking and child commercial exploitation, (2) assess the State's anti-trafficking response. (3) develop and implement strategies to address offender accountability through coordinated law enforcement efforts, (4) develop and implement plans to provide increased support to victims, and (5) provide reports to the Legislature, including any proposed legislation.

The Department notes that as stated in the resolution on page 2, lines 1 to 3, the Department has hired a statewide coordinator on human trafficking to assist with a statewide response to human trafficking.

Successfully combating human trafficking and child commercial sexual exploitation requires a comprehensive multidisciplinary response among law enforcement, state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Hawaii is in need of statewide leadership in order to thoroughly assess the current problems and develop strategic solutions.

This issue is a priority for the Department, and while we would have preferred to have the statewide human trafficking program codified in the Hawaii Revised Statutes

as proposed by the original draft of House Bill No. 722, we respectfully ask the Committee to pass this resolution.