
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONDUCT A
STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF NON-CITIZEN VICTIMS OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING.

1 WHEREAS, terrified and alone, many non-citizen victims of
2 human trafficking escape to safety with only the clothes on
3 their backs; and

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5 WHEREAS, without resources to secure housing, food, medical
6 care, or other basic necessities, non-citizen victims of human
7 trafficking struggle to survive in our communities; and

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9 WHEREAS, victim assistance and services for trafficked
10 persons are constrained by factors such as legal provisions
11 barring undocumented migrants from benefits and victim-related
12 services; and

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14 WHEREAS, individuals that are trafficked but are not
15 identified or recognized by law enforcement as victims of a
16 severe form of trafficking may be expeditiously removed or
17 detained in criminal detention facilities across the country;
18 and

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20 WHEREAS, trafficking victims' fear of removal is exploited
21 by traffickers to keep individuals isolated and under their
22 control; and

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24 WHEREAS, federal law may protect trafficked persons by
25 providing immigration status, permission to work, and possible
26 United States permanent residence once the victim is certified
27 as a severe victim of trafficking; and

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29 WHEREAS, once trafficked persons are identified,
30 "certification" is a process by which trafficked persons are
31 deemed eligible for benefits and services to the same extent as



1 a refugee, namely federal and state benefits, including medical
2 services, housing, legal services, protection, victim
3 compensation and assistance, immigration benefits and programs,
4 restitution, and translation and interpretation services; and
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6 WHEREAS, because certification often requires a
7 considerable length of time to process, typically six months,
8 there is the need for pre-certification victim services from the
9 time that individuals are identified as trafficked persons until
10 they are certified by federal law enforcement, during which time
11 trafficked persons may experience the greatest need for
12 services; and
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14 WHEREAS, trafficking victims are eligible for certain
15 federally funded services, namely emergency Medicaid,
16 immunizations, and access to domestic violence shelters and
17 other exempt services but they are ineligible for other
18 federally funded services such as cash assistance programs or
19 state funded comprehensive health care services; now, therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
24 Human Services is requested to conduct a statewide needs
25 assessment of non-citizen victims of human trafficking; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in completing the needs
28 assessment, the Department of Human Services:
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- 30 (1) Collaborate with the task force that was established,
31 to determine how Hawaii can best combat and deter
32 human trafficking, pursuant to Act 260, Session Laws
33 of Hawaii 2006;
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- 35 (2) Identify existing obstacles, in statute, rule, or
36 policy, that limit or deny benefits to non-citizen
37 victims of human trafficking; and
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- 39 (3) Identify appropriate social, financial, and other
40 services for victims of human trafficking, in general,
41 including gaps in the services offered by state,
42 county, and private agencies for victims of human
43 trafficking; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
3 Services and the Attorney General.
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