
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
ON AMENDING EXISTING PROSTITUTION LAWS IN THE STATE OF
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, there has been significant discussion about the
2 utility of criminal prostitution laws by leading human rights
3 organizations, such as Amnesty International and Global Alliance
4 Against Traffic in Women; and

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6 WHEREAS, previous task forces established by the State did
7 not include sex worker rights advocates or harm reductionists;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, there is little well known data about prostitution
11 in the State; and

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13 WHEREAS, there are various models of legislation that
14 address prostitution in less punitive ways; and

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16 WHEREAS, this body seeks to gain a better perspective on
17 potential solutions to the various issues surrounding criminal
18 prostitution and human trafficking legislation other than
19 reforming the criminal justice system; now, therefore,

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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative
24 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study on amending
25 existing prostitution laws in the State; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
28 include:

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30 (1) The scope and scale of sex trafficking in the State;
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- (2) The mental and physical health and well-being of individuals engaged in sex trafficking in the State;
- (3) The experiences of law enforcement personnel with individuals subject to sex trafficking in the State;
- (4) The experiences of individuals subject to sex trafficking in the State with law enforcement;
- (5) The needs of individuals subject to sex trafficking and the availability of services in the State to meet those needs;
- (6) The impact of arrest, conviction, and incarceration on individuals who have been arrested on prostitution offenses;
- (7) The costs to state and local law enforcement and corrections budgets of arresting, prosecuting, and incarcerating individuals for prostitution offenses; and
- (8) The potential costs and benefits of partial or full decriminalization of prostitution, including possible effects on rates of sex trafficking; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau may seek input from the following entities:

- (1) Department of Health;
- (2) Department of Human Services;
- (3) Department of Public Safety;
- (4) The various county police departments;
- (5) Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence;
- (6) Waikiki Health Center Youth Outreach Project;



- 1 (7) Community Health Outreach Work to Prevent AIDS
2 Project;
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4 (8) Harm Reduction Hawaii;
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6 (9) Amnesty International;
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8 (10) American Civil Liberties Union;
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10 (11) Hawaii Anti-Trafficking Task Force; and
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12 (12) Any individual or entity the Legislative Reference
13 Bureau may deem necessary; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
16 Bureau is requested to report its findings and recommendations,
17 including barriers that may limit data collection and any
18 proposed legislation, to the Legislature by December 1, 2018;
19 and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
23 Legislative Reference Bureau.
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OFFERED BY:

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