
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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.

1 WHEREAS, twenty-three percent of human trafficking
2 survivors in Hawaii report that they were children when they
3 were first sex trafficked; and

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5 WHEREAS, sixty-four percent of human trafficking survivors
6 in the State identified as being Native Hawaiian; and

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8 WHEREAS, foster children and runaways having histories of
9 abuse and neglect are particularly vulnerable to human
10 trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation; and

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12 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth, immigrants, undocumented workers,
13 and youth suffering from mental illnesses and substance abuse
14 issues are also at particularly high risk; and

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16 WHEREAS, victims are often lured into human trafficking
17 through emotional manipulation and control, force, fraud, or
18 threats, and many lack the ability or resources to escape and
19 start a new life; and

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21 WHEREAS, human trafficking can be difficult to detect, and
22 exploited youth may not seek help or identify themselves as
23 victims; and

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25 WHEREAS, a victim-centered and offender-focused program is
26 critically needed to serve individuals, and especially children,
27 in the State who have been sexually exploited; and

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29 WHEREAS, in 2020, the Department of the Attorney General
30 hired a Statewide Coordinator on Human Trafficking to assist
31 with a statewide response to human trafficking; now, therefore,



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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2021, that the Department of the Attorney General is
4 requested to develop and implement a program to prevent and to
5 assist victims of human trafficking and child commercial sexual
6 exploitation; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program should assess the
9 current status of the State's anti-trafficking response and
10 should develop and implement statewide strategies to address
11 offender accountability through coordinated law enforcement
12 efforts, prosecutions, and crime prevention efforts; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program should also develop
15 and implement plans to provide increased support and assistance
16 to survivors of human trafficking and survivors of the
17 commercial sexual exploitation of children; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
20 General is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no
21 later than December 1, 2021, assessing the State's efforts to
22 address the commercial sexual exploitation of children and
23 providing plans and recommendations, including any proposed
24 legislation, for prevention strategies, victim assistance
25 programs, law enforcement efforts, data collection, and public
26 outreach and education programs; and

27
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
29 General is also requested to submit a report to the Legislature
30 no later than December 1, 2022, assessing the State's efforts to
31 address human trafficking and providing plans and
32 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, for
33 prevention strategies, victim assistance programs, law
34 enforcement efforts, data collection, and public outreach and
35 education programs; and

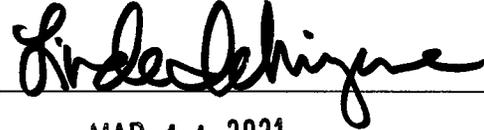


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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General and Statewide
3 Coordinator on Human Trafficking.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 11 2021

