
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO PREVENT, AND TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

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 who have 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,



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 is requested to
9 assess the current status of the State's anti-trafficking
10 response and develop and implement statewide strategies to
11 address offender accountability through coordinated law
12 enforcement efforts, prosecutions, and crime prevention efforts;
13 and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program is requested to
16 develop and implement plans to provide increased support and
17 assistance to survivors of human trafficking and survivors of
18 the commercial sexual exploitation of children; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
21 General is requested to submit an initial report to the
22 Legislature no later than December 1, 2021, assessing the
23 State's efforts to address the commercial sexual exploitation of
24 children and providing plans and recommendations, including any
25 proposed legislation, for prevention strategies, victim
26 assistance programs, law enforcement efforts, data collection,
27 and public outreach and education programs; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
30 General is requested to submit a second report to the
31 Legislature no later than December 1, 2022, assessing the
32 State's efforts to address human trafficking and providing plans
33 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, for
34 prevention strategies, victim assistance programs, law
35 enforcement efforts, data collection, and public outreach and
36 education programs; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General and Statewide
40 Coordinator on Human Trafficking.

