
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH OR CONTRACT WITH A VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN AN EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE SURVIVORS OF SEX TRAFFICKING.

1 WHEREAS, according to a September 2018 report on sex
2 trafficking in Hawaii published by the Arizona State University
3 School of Social Work and the Hawaii State Commission on the
4 Status of Women, it is estimated that one out of every eleven
5 men in Hawaii over the age of eighteen is an online sex buyer
6 and there are 74,362 potential sex buyers in Hawaii; and
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8 WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, a service provider
9 for sex trafficking victims in Hawaii reported a three hundred
10 percent increase in demand for services, which included trauma-
11 informed care; and
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13 WHEREAS, as part of a juvenile justice reform measure, the
14 Legislature passed Act 208, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which
15 authorized the creation and development of the Kawaiiloa Youth
16 and Family Wellness Center at Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility
17 sites, including "crisis shelters for victims of human
18 trafficking"; and
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20 WHEREAS, within just a few months of that authorization,
21 the Kawaiiloa campus included an assessment center and shelter
22 for young victims of sex trafficking; and
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24 WHEREAS, in the spring of 2021, the nonprofit organization
25 Ho'ōla Nā Pua opened a thirty-two bed residential treatment
26 program for victims of sex trafficking in Hawaii; and
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28 WHEREAS, however, neither of these two facilities serve as
29 an emergency shelter for child survivors of sex trafficking; and



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WHEREAS, the State only has one emergency shelter for child survivors of sex trafficking, which temporarily ceased operations in 2021 because of unexpected budget shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, maintaining an emergency shelter for child survivors of sex trafficking will improve the State's effectiveness in responding to sexual exploitation by allowing government agencies and victim service providers to establish a coordinated continuum of care and protect victims in a centralized location; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human Services is urged to establish or contract with a victim service provider to operate and maintain an emergency shelter for children who are survivors of sex trafficking; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the emergency shelter is urged to provide services that include but are not limited to housing, rehabilitation, medical, mental health, therapeutic, legal, and diagnostic services for child survivors of sex trafficking; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Human Services, and Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

