
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF
ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE A BASIC INCOME TO
QUALIFIED ADULTS WHO ARE VERIFIED VICTIMS OF SEX
TRAFFICKING OR WHO ARE FEMALE OR SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITY
INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO EXIT THE SEX TRADE.

1 WHEREAS, mainstream American feminism has focused on the
2 right to engage in prostitution, thus overshadowing indigenous
3 and transnational feminists' call for women and the lesbian,
4 gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer ohana to have the right to
5 refuse to engage in prostitution or endure recurring sexual
6 assault to survive; and

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8 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women, women of color, and sexual
9 and gender identity minorities deserve the same right as
10 affluent, college-educated, or white women to exit the sex trade;
11 and

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13 WHEREAS, the right to exit prostitution does not
14 meaningfully exist for most individuals in the sex trade; and

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16 WHEREAS, the right to leave patriarchal institutions is one
17 of the rights that is most often denied to women; and

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19 WHEREAS, an appropriate alternative would be to establish a
20 program to support the economic survival of those wanting to
21 exit this patriarchal system, thereby addressing the tendency of
22 many social institutions to criminalize those who are forced to
23 engage in prostitution and instead encourage compassion for
24 individuals ensnared in the sex trade; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
28 of 2022, that the Department of Human Services and Legislative
29 Reference Bureau are requested to conduct a study on the



1 feasibility of establishing a program to provide a basic income
2 to qualified adults who are verified victims of sex trafficking
3 or who are female or sexual and gender minority individuals
4 seeking to exit the sex trade; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
7 Services and Legislative Reference Bureau are requested to
8 consider the feasibility of the following when conducting the
9 study:
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11 (1) Providing each qualified applicant a basic monthly
12 income of \$2,000 for a period of up to one year; and
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14 (2) Exempting the basic monthly income provided by the
15 program from state income taxes and, to the extent
16 permissible under federal law, from being considered
17 income for the purposes of determining eligibility and
18 benefit amounts under relevant public assistance,
19 social services, and financial aid programs; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
22 Services and Legislative Reference Bureau are requested to
23 submit a report of their findings and recommendations, including
24 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
25 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
26 2023; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Human
30 Services, and Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.
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