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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A ONE-YEAR PILOT 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 pilot program to support the economic survival of those wanting  
21 to exit this patriarchal system, thereby addressing the tendency  
22 of many social institutions to criminalize those who are forced  
23 to 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 Senate of the Thirty-first  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
28 that the Department of Human Services is requested to establish  
29 a one-year pilot program to provide a basic income to qualified  
30 adults who are verified victims of sex trafficking or who are



1 female or sexual and gender minority individuals seeking to exit  
2 the sex trade; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to the extent possible, the  
5 Department of Human Services is requested to administer the  
6 pilot program in the following manner:

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8 (1) The target number of program applicants should be two  
9 hundred fifty;

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11 (2) A program applicant should:

12  
13 (A) Be a Hawaii resident who is eighteen years of age  
14 or older;

15  
16 (B) Demonstrate the applicant's status as a victim of  
17 sex trafficking or as a female or sexual and  
18 gender minority individual seeking to exit the  
19 sex trade; and

20  
21 (C) Provide documentation, from a nonprofit  
22 organization, community-based program, or other  
23 organization that provides housing, shelter,  
24 education, substance abuse counseling, or  
25 gender-based violence support for victims of sex  
26 trafficking or prostitution, that attests to the  
27 applicant's status in subparagraph (B);

28  
29 (3) The personal information of program applicants and  
30 participants, including name, age, date of birth, and  
31 contact information, should be kept confidential  
32 within the Department of Human Services and should not  
33 be disclosed to any member of the public;

34  
35 (4) Applicants should not be required to seek employment  
36 or further education to be eligible to participate in  
37 the pilot program; and

38  
39 (5) Each qualified applicant should receive a basic  
40 monthly income of \$2,000 for a period of up to one  
41 year; provided that the basic monthly income provided  
42 by the pilot program should be exempt from state



1 income taxes and, to the extent permissible under  
2 federal law, should be exempt from being considered  
3 income for the purposes of determining eligibility and  
4 benefit amounts under relevant public assistance,  
5 social services, and financial aid programs; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
8 Services is requested to terminate the pilot program after one  
9 year of operation; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
12 Services is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
13 recommendations regarding the pilot program, including any  
14 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
15 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of Human  
19 Services.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

