
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES INDO-PACIFIC COMMAND TO MORE PROACTIVELY COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN HAWAI'I BY MAKING A ZERO-TOLERANCE COMMITMENT, SHARING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVALENCE DATA WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT, AND LAUNCHING AN ANTI-COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION PROGRAM ACROSS ALL HAWAI'I MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, the negative impacts of a large military presence
2 extend beyond carbon footprint, environmental degradation, water
3 contamination, and housing competition to also include
4 gender-based violence against women and children at scale; and
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6 WHEREAS, Hawai'i is the most densely militarized state in
7 the United States; and
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9 WHEREAS, according to The New Republic, the United States
10 military is the world's largest employer and second largest
11 employer in Hawai'i, and it is an industry with unique
12 aggravating factors for sex trafficking; and
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14 WHEREAS, there are approximately forty thousand active duty
15 military agents stationed in Hawai'i; and
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17 WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of military personnel are
18 male, and the majority of military service members are white;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, across all branches of the United States military,
22 men are more likely than women to be officers; and
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24 WHEREAS, over eighty percent of sex traffickers, sex
25 buyers, fatal domestic violence perpetrators, rapists, child
26 pornography consumers, and online child sexual predators are
27 men; and
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1 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense Sexual
2 Assault Prevention and Response Office's Annual Report on Sexual
3 Assault in the Military Fiscal Year 2021, published in 2022,
4 concluded that there has been an overall growth in an unhealthy
5 military environment on sexual violence and found an increase in
6 sexual assault perpetrated by military members against civilians
7 and military members; and

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9 WHEREAS, the sex trade is a historical creature that began
10 with the onset of Western colonization in Hawai'i; and

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12 WHEREAS, according to Holoi ā nalo Wāhine 'Ōiwi: Missing and
13 Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Task Force Report (Part
14 1), the United States military played a direct role in creating
15 a sex trade, including prostitution and sex trafficking as
16 systemic occurrences in Hawai'i; and

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18 WHEREAS, according to a historic placard on Hotel Street in
19 Honolulu, "the United States military and Honolulu Police
20 Department previously ran the brothel industry" in Hawai'i; and

21
22 WHEREAS, according to the Organization for Security and
23 Co-operation in Europe Office of the Special Representative and
24 Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the
25 United States military is consistently a substantial contributor
26 to fueling sex trafficking and sexual exploitation through the
27 practice of buying sex; and

28
29 WHEREAS, according to child pornography watchdog Internet
30 Crimes Against Children Child Online Protective Services, the
31 United States Department of Defense's network consistently ranks
32 in the top tier of internet service providers for trafficking
33 child pornography and is ranked nineteenth of nearly three
34 thousand networks surveyed in 2018; and

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36 WHEREAS, the military impact on women and children in
37 Hawai'i is an open secret that has not been directly addressed or
38 prioritized by state government beyond the Hawai'i State
39 Commission on the Status of Women and Office of Hawaiian
40 Affairs; and



1 WHEREAS, the United States Indo-Pacific Command submits an
2 annual report on human trafficking to the Combatting Trafficking
3 in Persons Management Office of the United States Department of
4 Defense, but these reports are not public or available to state
5 government, local victim assistance service providers, Native
6 Hawaiian organizations, or gender equality advocates; and
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8 WHEREAS, twenty-five percent of child sexual predators
9 arrested for arranging sex with a thirteen-year old online on
10 Oahu in 2019 and thirty percent of arrests in January 2023
11 through Operation Keiki Shield were active duty military; and
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13 WHEREAS, none of the thirty-two active duty military
14 personnel arrested for soliciting sex from a twelve- to fifteen-
15 year-old child online through Operation Keiki Shield since 2019
16 have been women; and
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18 WHEREAS, sex trafficking is a form of recruitment of
19 vulnerable people into the sex trade that is a causal factor for
20 missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the United States Army Schofield Barracks is the
23 only domestic military base in the United States that is
24 conducting proactive investigations into sex trafficking, but
25 these efforts are embryonic; and
26

27 WHEREAS, seventy-three percent of child sex trafficking
28 victims in Hawai'i were sexually abused as minors; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Action Center identified two
31 hundred military batterers in fiscal year 2022 and served one
32 hundred nine military victims of domestic violence without any
33 compensation for these services from the United States
34 Department of Defense; and
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36 WHEREAS, in January 2023, United States Senator Mazie
37 Hirono convened a public roundtable to bring attention to the
38 crisis of missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls
39 and expressed concern about the inadequate military response;
40 and
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1 WHEREAS, Hale Kipa leadership testified at a January 2023
2 roundtable that United States military personnel and tourists
3 constitute the majority of perpetrators commercially sexually
4 exploiting at-risk youth served by the agency; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the majority of sex trafficking victims in Hawai'i
7 are Native Hawaiian women and girls; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women
10 has been leading state government efforts to expose and address
11 the connection between the military and sex trafficking since
12 2018; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of
15 Women, Native Hawaiian organizations, and community advocates do
16 not have ready access to data critical to implementing sex
17 trafficking prevention; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women
20 can assist in developing an anti-trafficking response that is
21 gender transformative and victim-centered; now, therefore,

22
23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
25 that the United States Indo-Pacific Command is urged to:

- 26
27 (1) Issue a public statement committing to zero tolerance
28 for sex buying, sex trafficking, child sexual abuse
29 material consumption, and child sexual exploitation by
30 United States Indo-Pacific Command personnel;
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32 (2) Share gender-based violence prevalence data with the
33 Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls
34 Taskforce; and
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36 (3) Implement an anti-commercial sexual exploitation
37 program aimed at informing military personnel,
38 including through the placement of posters and signage
39 in visible areas, at all Hawai'i military installations
40 of the consequences for sex buying and holding sex
41 buyers accountable; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of Hawai'i's
2 Congressional delegation are requested to submit an amendment to
3 the next National Defense Authorization Act requiring the
4 Department of Defense to submit an annual report on efforts to
5 combat commercial sexual exploitation, including sex buying, and
6 non-commercial sexual exploitation, including child sexual
7 abuse, by service members to the United States House of
8 Representatives Committee on Armed Services and United States
9 Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Commander of the United States
13 Indo-Pacific Command, each member of Hawai'i's congressional
14 delegation, the Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
15 Board of Trustees, Executive Director of the Hawai'i State
16 Commission on the Status of Women, and Executive Director of
17 Kamāwaelualani.

