

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **62**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 06, 2023

RE: H.B. No. 552
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 552 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to support survivors of sex trafficking by:

- (1) Converting the Human Trafficking Victim Services Fund to the Human Trafficking Reparations Fund to provide direct financial assistance to survivors of sex and labor trafficking; and
- (2) Requiring the Department of Human Services, rather than the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, to administer the fund.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Community Services, Imua Alliance, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that demand for services for victims of sex trafficking in the State increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are disproportionately overrepresented in the State's sex

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trafficking survivor population. Your Committee further finds that broadening the scope of the State's existing efforts to address human trafficking to include direct financial assistance to victims of sex trafficking and labor trafficking will allow those victims to receive the economic assistance they need to help recover from the trauma they have endured.

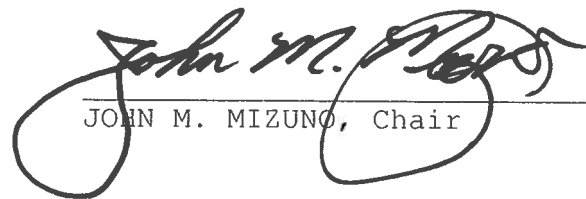
Your Committee notes the testimony from the Office of Community Services indicating that transferring the Human Trafficking Reparations Fund from the Office of Community Services to the Department of Human Services may allow for consolidation of the fund with funds from other sources. Your Committee also notes the concerns raised during testimony, including that this fund lacks sufficient funding to adequately provide direct financial assistance for victims of trafficking.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 552, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 552, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services,


JOHN M. MIZUNO, Chair



