

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1364

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

July 1, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate,  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura  
Speaker, and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 1, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 292, S.D. 1,  
H.D. 2, C.D. 1

RELATING TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.  
**ACT 261**

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on JUL 1 2025

THE SENATE  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025  
STATE OF HAWAII

**ACT 261**  
**S.B. NO.** 292  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 2  
C.D. 1

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sex trafficking is a  
 2 form of modern-day slavery. According to a 2018 report  
 3 published by Arizona State University and the Hawaii state  
 4 commission on the status of women, one out of every eleven adult  
 5 male residents of the State are online sex shoppers. The report  
 6 also estimated that there were 74,362 potential sex buyers in  
 7 the State. Moreover, Imua Alliance, a victim service provider  
 8 for survivors of sex trafficking and sexual violence, estimates  
 9 that one hundred fifty establishments participate in the  
 10 commercial sex trade in the State, increasing the high risk for  
 11 sex trafficking. During the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic,  
 12 a service provider for sex trafficking victims in the State  
 13 reported seeing a three hundred per cent increase in demand for  
 14 services.

15 The legislature additionally finds that Pacific Islanders,  
 16 specifically Native Hawaiians, are disproportionately  
 17 overrepresented in the State's sex trafficking survivor



1 population. In a survey conducted by the Hawaii state  
2 commission on the status of women and Arizona State University,  
3 sixty-four per cent of sex trafficking victims identified as  
4 having at least partial Native Hawaiian ancestry. According to  
5 the report, "overutilization of Native Hawaiians to meet sex  
6 buyer demand may be directly linked to structural economic  
7 coercion and vulnerabilities connected to land dispossession,  
8 exposure to sexual violence, hypersexualization, incarceration,  
9 cultural dislocation, intergenerational trauma, mental and  
10 emotional distress, racism, poverty, and ongoing inequities".

11 The legislature further finds that victims of sex  
12 trafficking should not be criminalized for their own  
13 exploitation. Immunizing sex trafficking survivors from being  
14 faced with the prospect of prosecution advances the delivery of  
15 social services and trauma-informed care for those in need. It  
16 would also help to end the social stigma that retraumatizes  
17 survivors of sexual exploitation, while empowering victims to  
18 obtain financial security for the harm that they have endured  
19 and pursue legal persons and commercial entities that profit  
20 from exploitation.



1           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish safe  
2 harbor protections for survivors of sexual exploitation who seek  
3 medical or law enforcement assistance.

4           SECTION 2. Section 712-1200, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6           "**§712-1200 Prostitution.** (1) A person commits the  
7 offense of prostitution if the person engages in, or agrees or  
8 offers to engage in, sexual conduct with another person in  
9 return for a fee or anything of value.

10           (2) As used in this section:

11           "Minor" means a person who is less than eighteen years of  
12 age.

13           "Seeks medical or law enforcement assistance" includes but  
14 is not limited to making, or assisting someone who is making, a  
15 report to the 911 system, a poison control center, a medical  
16 provider, a reproductive health provider, or any law enforcement  
17 agency or providing care to someone who is awaiting the arrival  
18 of medical or law enforcement personnel.

19           "Sexual conduct" means "sexual penetration", "deviate  
20 sexual intercourse", or "sexual contact", as those terms are



1 defined in section 707-700, or "sodomasochistic abuse" as  
2 defined in section 707-752.

3 (3) Prostitution [~~is~~] shall be a petty misdemeanor;  
4 provided that if the person who commits the offense under  
5 subsection (1) is a minor, prostitution [~~is~~] shall be a  
6 violation.

7 (4) A person convicted of committing the offense of  
8 prostitution as a petty misdemeanor shall be sentenced as  
9 follows:

10 (a) For the first offense, when the court has not deferred  
11 further proceedings pursuant to chapter 853, a fine of  
12 no less than \$500 but no more than \$1,000 and the  
13 person may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of  
14 no more than thirty days or probation; provided that  
15 in the event the convicted person defaults in payment  
16 of the fine, and the default was not contumacious, the  
17 court may make an order converting the unpaid portion  
18 of the fine to community service as authorized by  
19 section 706-605(1);

20 (b) For any subsequent offense, a fine of no less than  
21 \$500 but no more than \$1,000 and a term of



1 imprisonment of thirty days or probation, without  
2 possibility of deferral of further proceedings  
3 pursuant to chapter 853 and without possibility of  
4 suspension of sentence; and

5 (c) For the purpose of this subsection, if the court has  
6 deferred further proceedings pursuant to chapter 853,  
7 and notwithstanding any provision of chapter 853 to  
8 the contrary, the defendant shall not be eligible to  
9 apply for expungement pursuant to section 831-3.2  
10 until three years following discharge. A plea  
11 previously entered by a defendant under section 853-1  
12 for a violation of this section shall be considered a  
13 prior offense.

14 (5) This section shall not apply to any member of a police  
15 department, a sheriff, or a law enforcement officer acting in  
16 the course and scope of duties; provided that the member of a  
17 police department, sheriff, or law enforcement officer is  
18 engaging in undercover operations; provided further that under  
19 no circumstances shall sexual contact initiated by a member of a  
20 police department, sheriff, or law enforcement officer; sexual



1 penetration; or sadomasochistic abuse be considered to fall  
2 within the course and scope of duties.

3 (6) A minor may be taken into custody by any police  
4 officer without order of the judge when there are reasonable  
5 grounds to believe that the minor has violated subsection (1).  
6 The minor shall be released, referred, or transported pursuant  
7 to section 571-31(b). The minor shall be subject to the  
8 jurisdiction of the family court pursuant to section 571-11(1),  
9 including for the purposes of custody, detention, diversion, and  
10 access to services and resources.

11 (7) Notwithstanding this section or any other law to the  
12 contrary, a person who in good faith seeks medical or law  
13 enforcement assistance for themselves or another person, or is  
14 the subject of another person's good faith act seeking medical  
15 or law enforcement assistance, shall not:

16 (a) Be arrested, charged, prosecuted, or convicted;  
17 (b) Have their property be subject to civil forfeiture; or  
18 (c) Otherwise be penalized,  
19 pursuant to this section if the probable cause or evidence for  
20 the arrest, charge, prosecution, conviction, seizure, or penalty  
21 was gained as a result of seeking medical or law enforcement



1 assistance; provided that this subsection shall not apply to any  
2 other criminal offense."

3 SECTION 3. Section 712-1206, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "~~{}~~§712-1206~~{}~~ **Loitering for the purpose of engaging in**  
6 **or advancing prostitution.** (1) For the purposes of this  
7 section~~[, "public]~~:

8 "Public place" means any street, sidewalk, bridge, alley or  
9 alleyway, plaza, park, driveway, parking lot or transportation  
10 facility or the doorways and entrance ways to any building  
11 ~~[which]~~ that fronts on any of the aforesaid places, or a motor  
12 vehicle in or on any such place.

13 "Seeks medical or law enforcement assistance" includes but  
14 is not limited to making, or assisting someone who is making, a  
15 report to the 911 system, a poison control center, a medical  
16 provider, a reproductive health provider, or any law enforcement  
17 agency or providing care to someone who is awaiting the arrival  
18 of medical or law enforcement personnel.

19 (2) Any person who remains or wanders about in a public  
20 place and repeatedly ~~[beckons]~~:





1        (a) Beckons to [~~or repeatedly~~], stops, or [repeatedly]  
2        attempts to stop[~~τ~~] or [~~repeatedly attempts to~~] engage  
3        passers-by in conversation[~~τ or repeatedly stops~~];

4        (b) Stops or attempts to stop motor vehicles[~~τ~~]; or  
5        [~~repeatedly interferes~~]

6        (c) Interferes with the free passage of other persons,  
7        for the purpose of committing the crime of prostitution as that  
8        term is defined in section 712-1200[~~τ~~] shall be guilty of a  
9        violation.

10        (3) Any person who remains or wanders about in a public  
11        place and repeatedly [~~beckons~~];

12        (a) Beckons to, [~~or repeatedly~~] stops, or [repeatedly]  
13        attempts to engage passers-by in conversation[~~τ or~~  
14        repeatedly stops];

15        (b) Stops or attempts to stop motor vehicles[~~τ~~]; or  
16        [~~repeatedly interferes~~]

17        (c) Interferes with the free passage of other persons,  
18        for the purpose of committing the crime of advancing  
19        prostitution as that term is defined in section 712-1201(1) [~~is~~]  
20        shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor.



1        (4) Notwithstanding this section or any other law to the  
2 contrary, a person who in good faith seeks medical or law  
3 enforcement assistance for themselves or another person, or is  
4 the subject of another person's good faith act seeking medical  
5 or law enforcement assistance, shall not:

6        (a) Be arrested, charged, prosecuted, or convicted;

7        (b) Have their property be subject to civil forfeiture; or

8        (c) Otherwise be penalized,

9 pursuant to this section if the probable cause or evidence for  
10 the arrest, charge, prosecution, conviction, seizure, or penalty  
11 was gained as a result of seeking medical or law enforcement  
12 assistance; provided that this subsection shall not apply to any  
13 other criminal offense."

14        SECTION 4. Section 712-1207, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16        "**§712-1207 Street prostitution and commercial sexual**  
17 **exploitation; designated areas.** (1) It shall be unlawful for  
18 any person within the boundaries of Waikiki and while on any  
19 public property to:



- 1           (a) Offer or agree to engage in sexual conduct with  
2                   another person in return for a fee or anything of  
3                   value; or
- 4           (b) Provide, agree to provide, or offer to provide a fee  
5                   or anything of value to another person to engage in  
6                   sexual conduct.
- 7           (2) It shall be unlawful for any person within the  
8 boundaries of other areas in [~~this~~] the State designated by  
9 county ordinance pursuant to subsection (3), and while on any  
10 public property to:
- 11           (a) Offer or agree to engage in sexual conduct with  
12                   another person in return for a fee or anything of  
13                   value; or
- 14           (b) Provide, agree to provide, or offer to provide a fee  
15                   or anything of value to another person to engage in  
16                   sexual conduct.
- 17           (3) Upon a recommendation of the chief of police of a  
18 county, that county may enact an ordinance that:
- 19           (a) Designates areas, each no larger than three square  
20                   miles, as zones of significant prostitution-related



1 activity that is detrimental to the health, safety, or  
2 welfare of the general public; or

3 (b) Alters the boundaries of any existing area under  
4 paragraph (a);

5 provided that not more than four areas may be designated within  
6 the State.

7 (4) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any person  
8 violating this section shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor  
9 and shall be sentenced to a mandatory term of thirty days  
10 imprisonment. The term of imprisonment shall be imposed  
11 immediately, regardless of whether the defendant appeals the  
12 conviction, except as provided in subsection (5).

13 (5) As an option to the mandatory term of thirty days  
14 imprisonment, if the court finds the option is warranted based  
15 upon the defendant's record, the court may place the defendant  
16 on probation for a period not to exceed six months, subject to  
17 the mandatory condition that the defendant observe geographic  
18 restrictions that prohibit the defendant from entering or  
19 remaining on public property, in Waikiki and other areas in the  
20 State designated by county ordinance during the hours from 6  
21 p.m. to 6 a.m. Upon any violation of the geographic



1 restrictions by the defendant, the court, after a hearing, shall  
2 revoke the defendant's probation and immediately impose the  
3 mandatory thirty-day term of imprisonment. Nothing contained in  
4 this subsection shall be construed as prohibiting the imposition  
5 of stricter geographic restrictions under section 706-624(2)(h).

6 (6) Any person charged under this section may be admitted  
7 to bail, pursuant to section 804-4, subject to the mandatory  
8 condition that the person observe geographic restrictions that  
9 prohibit the defendant from entering or remaining on public  
10 property, in Waikiki and other areas in the State designated by  
11 county ordinance during the hours from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

12 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any  
13 person who violates these bail restrictions shall have the  
14 person's bail revoked after a hearing and shall be imprisoned  
15 [~~forthwith~~]. Nothing contained in this subsection shall be  
16 construed as prohibiting the imposition of stricter geographic  
17 restrictions under section 804-7.1.

18 (7) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a  
19 police officer, without warrant, may arrest any person when the  
20 officer has probable cause to believe that the person has  
21 committed a violation of subsection (5) or (6), and the person



1 shall be detained, without bail, until the hearing under the  
2 appropriate subsection can be held, which [~~hearing~~] shall be  
3 held as soon as reasonably practicable.

4 (8) For purposes of this section:

5 "Area" means any zone within a county that is defined with  
6 specific boundaries and designated as a zone of significant  
7 prostitution by this section or a county ordinance.

8 "Public property" includes any street, highway, road,  
9 sidewalk, alley, lane, bridge, parking lot, park, or other  
10 property owned or under the jurisdiction of any governmental  
11 entity or otherwise open to the public.

12 "Seeks medical or law enforcement assistance" includes but  
13 is not limited to making, or assisting someone who is making, a  
14 report to the 911 system, a poison control center, a medical  
15 provider, a reproductive health provider, or any law enforcement  
16 agency or providing care to someone who is awaiting the arrival  
17 of medical or law enforcement personnel.

18 "Sexual conduct" has the same meaning as in section  
19 712-1200(2).

20 "Waikiki" means that area of Oahu bounded by the Ala Wai  
21 canal, the ocean, and Kapahulu avenue.



1 (9) This section shall apply to all counties; provided  
2 that if a county enacts an ordinance to regulate street  
3 prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation, other than an  
4 ordinance designating an area as a zone of significant  
5 prostitution-related activity, the county ordinance shall  
6 supersede this section and no person shall be convicted under  
7 this section in that county.

8 (10) Notwithstanding this section or any other law to the  
9 contrary, a person, except for a person who provides, agrees to  
10 provide, or offers to provide a fee or anything of value to  
11 another person to engage in sexual conduct, who in good faith  
12 seeks medical or law enforcement assistance for themselves or  
13 another person, or is the subject of another person's good faith  
14 act seeking medical or law enforcement assistance, shall not:

- 15 (a) Be arrested, charged, prosecuted, or convicted;
  - 16 (b) Have their property be subject to civil forfeiture; or
  - 17 (c) Otherwise be penalized,
- 18 pursuant to this section, if the probable cause or evidence for  
19 the arrest, charge, prosecution, conviction, seizure, or penalty  
20 was gained as a result of seeking medical or law enforcement



1 assistance; provided that this subsection shall not apply to any  
2 other criminal offense."

3 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.





S.B. NO. 292  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 2  
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 1st day of July, 2025

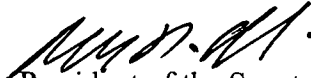
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I**

Date: April 30, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2025.

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 292, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives