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DEPT. COMM. NO. 106

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December 12, 2025

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

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Department of the Attorney General's Report on the State's Efforts to Address the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, as required by Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023. In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at <https://aq.hawaii.gov/publications/reports/reports-to-the-legislature/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at (808) 586-1500.

Sincerely,

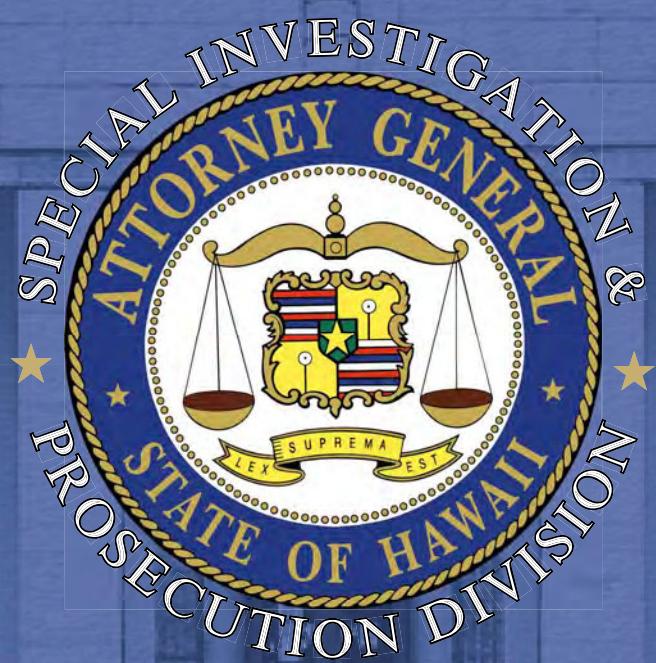
Anne E. Lopez

Anne E. Lopez
Attorney General

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Stacey A. Aldrich, State Librarian, Hawaii State Public Library System
Wendy F. Hensel, President, University of Hawaii

Enclosure

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA



**REPORT ON THE STATE'S EFFORTS TO
ADDRESS THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN
PURSUANT TO ACT 83, SESSION LAWS OF
HAWAI'I 2023**

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I.

Comments from the Hawai'i Attorney General

I. Comments from the Hawai'i Attorney General

Commercial sexual exploitation of children takes place every day—across our nation, within our state, and in our communities. My department stands fully committed to combatting this heinous criminal activity.

The Human Trafficking Prevention Program was established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 2023. It has rapidly become a critical component of Hawaii's fight against commercial sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking. By taking a comprehensive approach centered on prevention, protection, and prosecution, the program has already achieved meaningful progress.

I commend the dedicated team within our Special Investigation and Prosecution Division for taking the lead in developing and launching this program. Their multifaceted efforts include creating and delivering training curricula, organizing community outreach events, launching a public-facing website, and investigating and prosecuting offenders.

While addressing commercial sexual exploitation of children is our kuleana, we are not in this fight alone. We are proud to work alongside federal, state, and local partners and non-profit service providers who share this mission. I am confident that the release of this report will inspire continued and enhanced coordination among agencies,



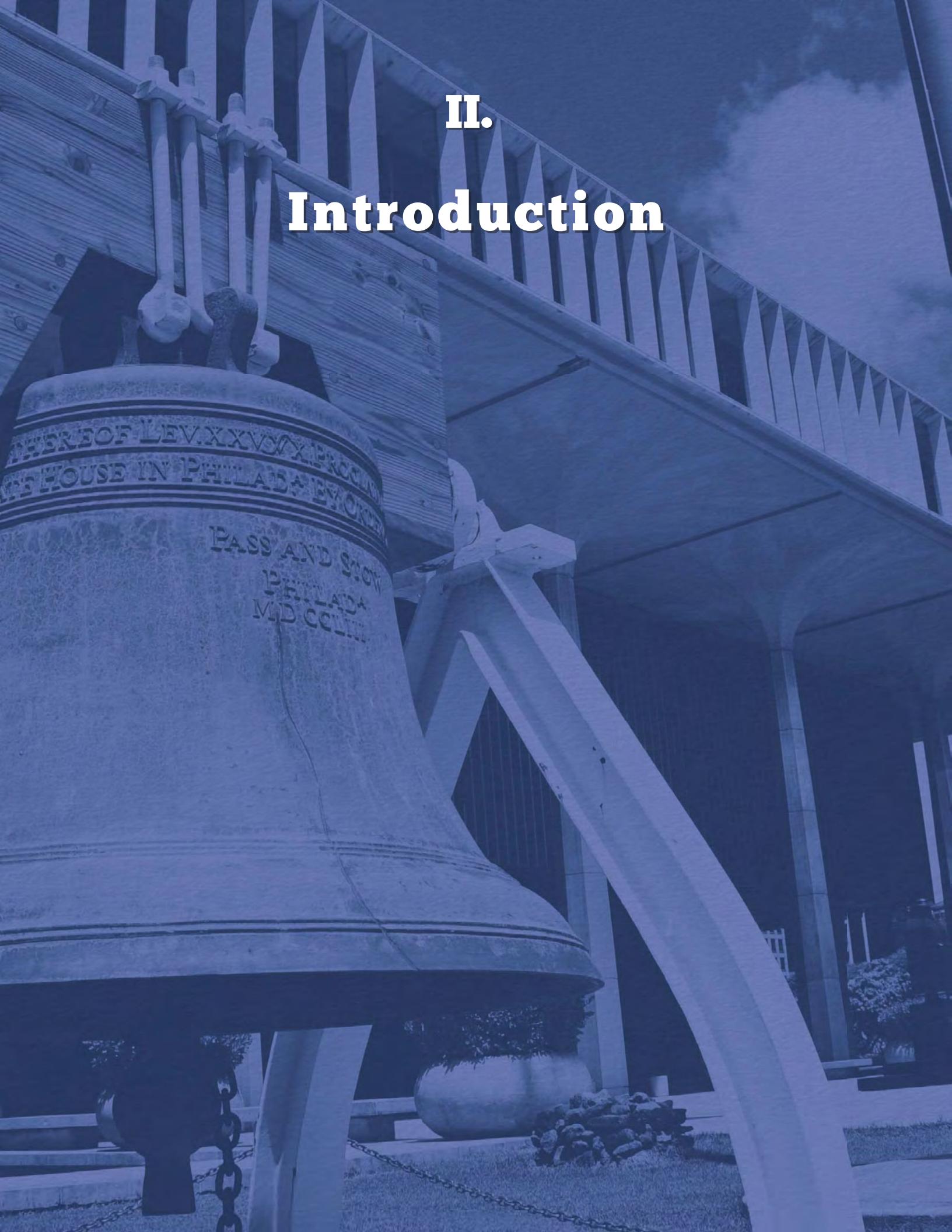
organizations, and individuals across Hawai'i. We hope that this report will serve as the foundation for future efforts to fight commercial sexual exploitation of our keiki and to hold traffickers accountable for their crimes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne E. Lopez".

ATTORNEY GENERAL
ANNE E. LOPEZ

II.

Introduction



II. Introduction

Human trafficking, particularly the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), continues to be a hidden yet urgent issue in Hawai'i. In 2019, Arizona State University and the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women partnered to conduct a study that identified nearly 100 individuals who had experienced sex trafficking while accessing social services in Hawai'i. Of those, 23% had been trafficked as children, the average age at the first instance of trafficking was just 11.3 years old, and 64% identified as Native Hawaiian.¹

Children and youth, especially those with histories of abuse, involvement with criminal justice or foster systems, or economic hardship, are more vulnerable to exploitation. Hawai'i's location, dependence on tourism, and unique cultural setting create both risks of CSEC and opportunities for targeted prevention efforts.

By passing Act 83, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023, the Legislature explicitly recognized the urgent need for a coordinated plan to combat human trafficking and CSEC. This report is submitted to the Legislature to provide an overview of the State's initiatives to combat human trafficking and CSEC, including protocols for identifying and responding to victims, evaluations of existing programs and services, strategies for training and education, and additional recommendations for strengthening the State's response.



¹ Roe-Sepowitz, D., & Jabola-Carolus, K. (2020). *Sex trafficking in Hawai'i: Part III. Sex trafficking experiences across Hawai'i* (pp. 5–6) [Research report]. Arizona State University & Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women. https://socialwork.asu.edu/sites/g/files/litvpz286/files/2022-08/final_report_sex_trafficking_in_hawaii_part_iii_0.pdf

Creation of the Special Investigation and Prosecution Division

The Special Investigation and Prosecution Division (SIPD) was created by the Legislature in 2022 to investigate corruption, fraud, economic crime, and human trafficking. SIPD is composed of deputy attorneys general, special agents, forensic analysts, a human trafficking abatement coordinator, a human services professional, and a skilled team of support staff. One of SIPD's core missions is to investigate, prosecute, and eradicate human trafficking in our communities.

Establishment of Act 83, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023, and the Hawai'i Human Trafficking Prevention Program

Act 83, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023, was enacted to strengthen Hawaii's response to human trafficking through a comprehensive and coordinated approach. Recognizing the increasing prevalence of human trafficking and its devastating effects on victims, the Legislature passed this bill to improve prevention, intervention, and enforcement efforts.

Mandated by Act 83 (2023) is a Human Trafficking Prevention Program within the Department of the Attorney General. The Human Trafficking Prevention Program is dedicated to addressing the needs of human trafficking victims through the development and implementation of comprehensive statewide strategies. These strategies focus on prevention, training, raising awareness, and assisting victims.

Key Achievements

Key achievements included establishing a dedicated website to educate the community about human trafficking and CSEC, creating an anti-trafficking informational brochure, and launching inaugural events for Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January 2025.² Human Trafficking Awareness Month featured a Lunch & Learn series, a sign-waving event, a resource fair, and a candlelight vigil to commemorate victims. Governor Josh Green, M.D. provided the capstone event by signing a proclamation that declared January 2025 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month.³

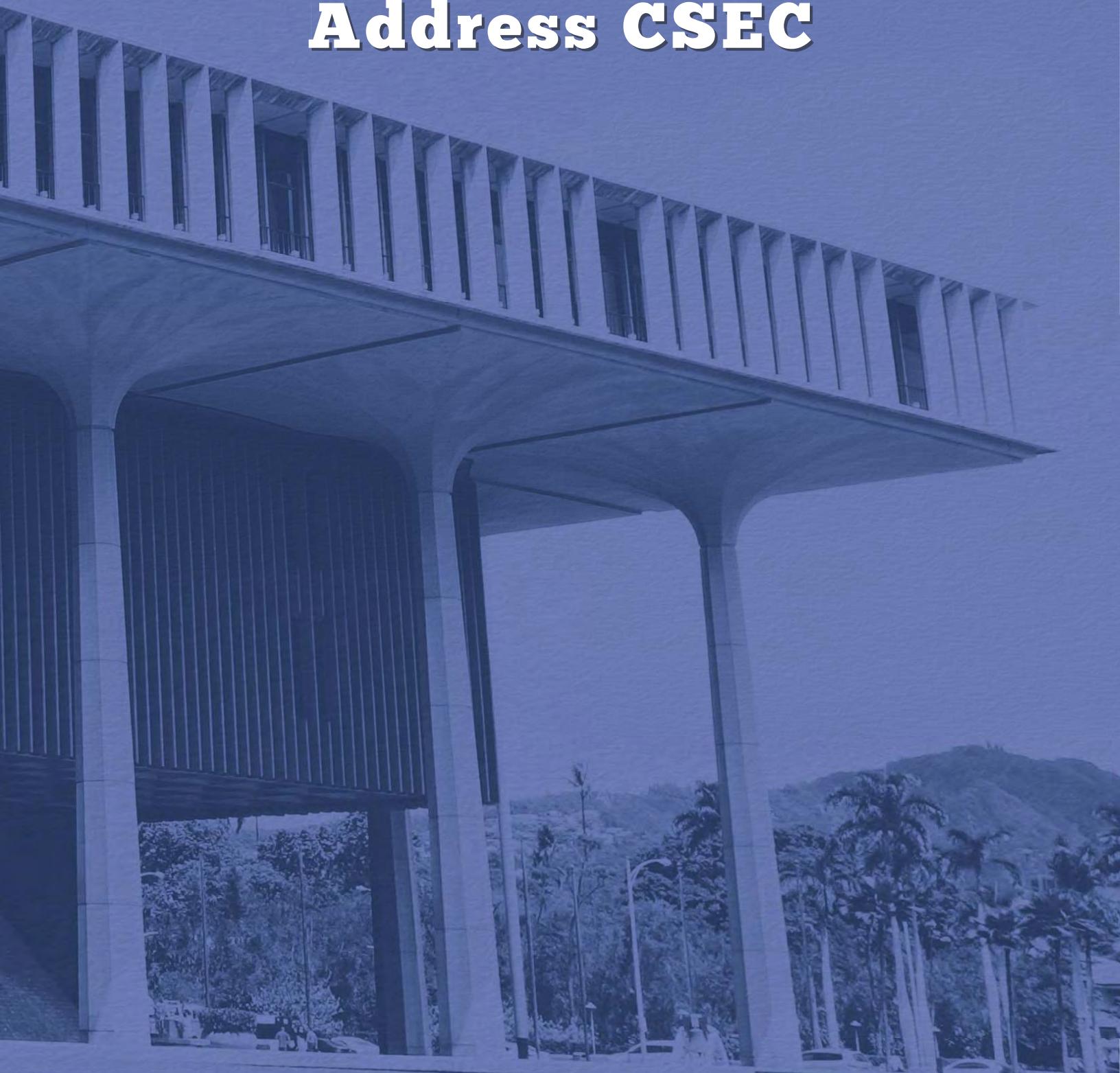
In addition, SIPD organized and participated in monthly tabling events at resource fairs to educate and raise public awareness on the prevalence and risks of CSEC. Equally as important, SIPD has investigated and prosecuted more than a dozen offenders with human trafficking related offenses.

² Department of the Attorney General. (2023). *Human Trafficking Prevention Program*. <https://ag.hawaii.gov/traffickingprevention/>

³ See Appendix B

III.

Hawaii's Initiatives to Address CSEC



A.

Identifying and Responding to Victims

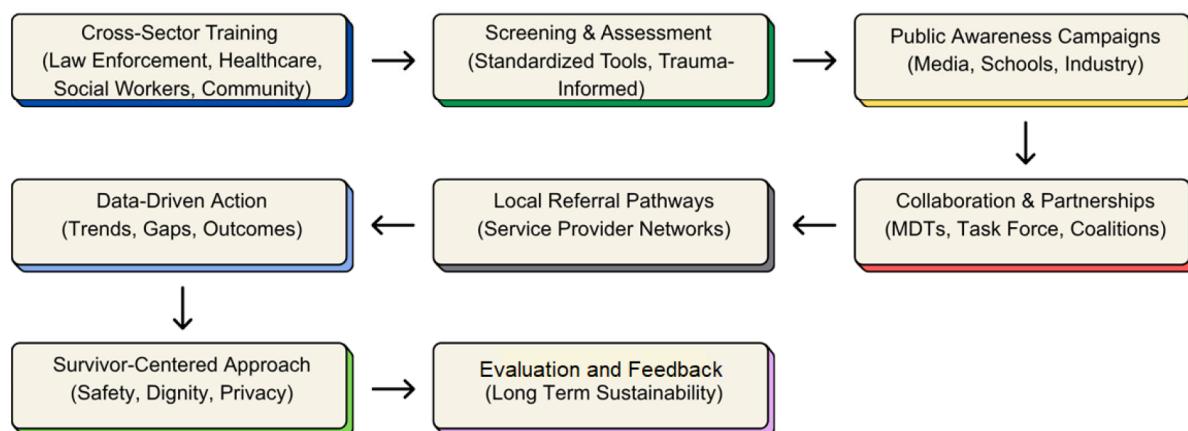
A. Identifying and Responding to Victims

CSEC is a complex challenge that involves health, education, law enforcement, the judiciary, and social service systems. Tackling CSEC requires a coordinated, statewide plan to ensure victims are identified early and provided trauma-informed care. State and county agencies, along with service providers, are key players in this effort; however, their success relies on access to effective training, clear protocols, sustainable resources, and strong partnerships.

This section outlines a framework to strengthen Hawaii's response by integrating prevention, protection, and prosecution strategies.

Eight interconnected strategies provide the foundation for this work:

1. Promote Cross-Sector Training to Strengthen CSEC Identification
2. Implement Screening Protocols – State Assessment Tools
3. Expand Public Awareness and Outreach
4. Strengthen Collaboration through Multidisciplinary Teams, Task Forces, and Steering Committees
5. Build Local Referral Pathways
6. Use Data to Inform Action
7. Prioritize Survivor-Centered Collaboration
8. Provide Evaluation and Feedback



» 1. Promote Cross-Sector Training to Strengthen CSEC Identification

Cross-sector training is vital for ensuring that children at risk of or experiencing CSEC are identified early and connected with trauma-informed care. Training should emphasize interviewing practices that prevent retraumatization, use survivor-centered language, and provide trauma-informed responses to foster trust and safety.

Sector-specific modules are available through resources like the Office of Victims of Crime's Training and Technical Assistance Center⁴, the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign⁵, the National Criminal Justice Training Center⁶, and the U.S. Department of Education's trafficking curriculum⁷.

Law Enforcement

The International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training, in partnership with the Community-Oriented Policing Services Office, has studied how officers across the country are trained on human trafficking. The study showed inconsistencies among states, with some states having human trafficking enforcement woven into the core curriculum for every officer, while in others, human trafficking is often lower on the priority.⁸

The association outlined nine key standards that should be adopted:

1. Initial training for criminal justice personnel should be a minimum of 8 hours.
2. Periodic refresher in-service training should be a minimum of 4 hours.
3. Training should teach participants to recognize the different types of human trafficking.
4. Training should teach participants to identify common victim characteristics and vulnerabilities targeted by traffickers.

⁴ Office for Victims of Crime. (n.d.) *Human trafficking*. [Website]. U.S. Department of Justice. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/human-trafficking/training-and-technical-assistance>

⁵ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (n.d.). *Blue campaign training*. Blue Campaign. <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/blue-campaign-training>

⁶ Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College. (n.d.). *Creating a community action plan for the prevention of child sexual abuse*. [Live Online Instructor Led Training]. <https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/trainings/TR00314762/TRI2888451/creating-a-community-action-plan-for-the-prevention-of-child-sexual-abuse-1>

⁷ U.S. Department of Education. (n.d.). *Resources for combating human trafficking in America's schools*. <https://www.ed.gov/teaching-and-administration/supporting-students/resources-combatting-human-trafficking-americas-schools>

⁸ Copple, J. E. (2023, April). Human trafficking: The crucible of training. *Dispatch*, 16(4). U.S. Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services. https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/04-2023/crucible_of_training.html

5. Training should include best practices for conducting a preliminary human trafficking investigation.
6. Training should include best practices for gathering testimonial evidence from human trafficking survivors.
7. Training should include methods and strategies to identify human trafficking patterns.
8. Training should include methods and strategies to identify and collaborate with advocacy organizations and community resources that protect all survivors.
9. Training should include methods and strategies for collaborating with attorneys to ensure successful prosecutions.

In Hawai'i, Human Trafficking Basics have been included in the Honolulu Police Academy, in addition to their Crisis Intervention Team training. The Sex Trafficking Intervention Research Program conducted an Advanced Sex Trafficking Law Enforcement Training with the Maui Police Department in March 2025, followed by training on the Island of Hawai'i. This training included Human Trafficking Basics as well as training about runaways/missing youth, policing sex trafficking, search warrant wording, and victim maintenance.

In May 2024, the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project hosted a training for Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Attorneys, and Victim Advocates. This training included the dynamics and intersectionality of violent crime and human trafficking, the tactics traffickers employ, and guidance to minimize barriers to victim disclosures.

Educators, School Personnel, Mandated Reporters, and Students

The U.S. Department of Education offers a range of resources designed for educators, school staff, families, and students. These resources include guides and training tools, research briefs and reports, and webinars. The National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments also offers technical assistance and practical tools to help school communities prevent and respond to human trafficking.

The Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) has taken proactive steps aligned with these national efforts by launching its Sexual Violence Prevention Program. This prevention-focused initiative takes a comprehensive, three-part approach:

1. Sharing information and resources with parents and guardians to strengthen awareness and prevention at home.
2. Training all school personnel to recognize and respond effectively to signs of sexual violence and exploitation.

3. Providing age-appropriate, trauma-informed instruction to students in kindergarten to twelfth grade across all DOE schools.

HIDOE has partnered with key community-based organizations to deliver education tailored to Hawaii's unique needs. The Pacific Survivor Center offers its Sex Trafficking Outreach and Prevention Program in schools statewide, which is designed to equip students with tools to recognize unsafe situations, understand the risks of trafficking in their communities, and know how to seek help. The same program provides educators and staff with practical guidance on identifying red flags, engaging vulnerable students, and responding appropriately when concerns arise.

By the 2025–2026 school year, HIDOE expects all school personnel to have completed training on the prevention of sexual violence. This professional development ensures that adults in the schools are equipped to:

- Talk to students about sexual violence prevention.
- Understand the effects of sexual violence on children.
- Handle any disclosures made by children.
- Fulfill their legal responsibilities as mandated reporters under Hawai'i law.

The Department of the Attorney General's SIPD has developed an interactive, age-appropriate training presentation designed to educate middle and high school students, as well as educators, mandated reporters, and school support staff, on the realities of human trafficking and CSEC in Hawai'i.

Key topics include:

- Understanding traffickers, buyers, and victims.
- Common vulnerabilities and risk factors.
- Recognizing signs and indicators of trafficking.
- Grooming and recruitment tactics.
- Sextortion.
- Hotlines and resources.

In April, June, and July 2025, SIPD delivered presentations at James Campbell High School and at the Kokua Kalihi Valley Waiwai Program. In June 2025, SIPD also participated in the HIDOE's annual Student Leadership Conference, co-hosted with the Hawai'i State Student Council, where SIPD provided back-to-back presentations and hosted a table at the resource fair with participations by more than 350 students.

Community

When community members are educated about the realities of CSEC, they become powerful allies in protecting children. Educated community members educate those around them and are more likely to intervene compassionately and advocate for stronger protections, creating a united front against exploitation.

Programs like Transit on the Lookout and Busing on the Lookout⁹ provide focused training for transportation workers, demonstrating how everyday employees can recognize and report signs of exploitation.¹⁰ In Hawai'i, the hotel industry has made progress: the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort mandates trafficking prevention training for all new employees.¹¹

Several local agencies provide CSEC awareness and prevention education training to communities. The Children's Justice Center offers training for its multidisciplinary team members. The Trafficking Victim Assistance Program delivers community training sessions. The Pacific Survivor Center provides culturally grounded outreach in underserved communities. Ho'ōla Nā Pua offers tailored educational programs for families, professionals, and community groups.

SIPD also provides training presentations that address human trafficking and its intersections with homelessness and substance use. These trainings have been delivered at events including the annual Partners in Care Homeless and Housing Conference, Hina Mauka's staff training, and to organizations such as the Maui Family Support Services, the Maui Ho'ōikaika Partnership, and the Kalihi Connection Coalition.

Healthcare Professionals

Healthcare professionals play a critical role in identifying and supporting victims of human trafficking, yet many do not receive formal training on this topic. One study found that 46% of trafficking victims reported seeing a healthcare professional while being exploited.¹² A different study found that a significant number (28% to 88%) of

⁹ Truckers Against Trafficking. (2022). *Busing and transit: Lookout training programs. Transit on the lookout to combat human trafficking: A toolkit for public transit agencies in the United States & Canada* (pp. 7–12). https://truckersagainsttrafficking.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/BOTtoolkit_transit_FINAL.pdf

¹⁰ Erase Child Trafficking. (2018, January 13). *Can you spot human trafficking in your neighborhood?* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJ2xCJMp7-c>

¹¹ AHLA Foundation. (2022, July 29). *Hotel industry launches free trafficking prevention training to mark World Day Against Trafficking in Persons: Training developed by Marriott International, free for hotels through support from AHLA Foundation.* <https://www.ahlafoundation.org/node/342/>

¹² Titchen, K. E., Chang, E., Kim, J., Tran, S., Nyhan, E., & Chisolm-Straker, M. (2025). Youth survivors of human trafficking: On improving healthcare access and treatment. *Academic Pediatrics*, 25(4), Article 102783. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acap.2025.102783>

trafficking victims who come into contact with healthcare professionals while trafficked are not recognized as victims.¹³ A survey of 180 emergency department workers found that only 5% had received training, and 73% believed their patients were not affected by trafficking. Less than 5% felt confident in their ability to identify a trafficking victim among their patients.¹⁴ This data strongly indicates the need for training in healthcare settings.

Hawai‘i Human Trafficking Prevention Training – Overview Table

TARGET AUDIENCE	TRAINING CONTENT	RECOMMENDATION (Mandatory/Frequency)
Educators, School Personnel, Mandated Reports, & Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs of trafficking • Risk Factors, vulnerabilities, & grooming tactics • Sextortion & online safety • Resources & hotlines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators/school personnel: mandatory at onboarding; repeat every 3 years. • Students: Mandatory in at least grades 7–12. Integrate into HIDOE’s SVPP & statewide curriculum.
Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human trafficking basics. • Risk factors & vulnerabilities • Investigative strategies. • Trauma-informed approach. • Collaboration with advocates & service providers • Laws & statutes • Resources & hotlines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit training: Mandatory 4-8 hrs minimum. • CIT training: Incorporate trafficking modules quarterly. • Veteran officers: Refresher every 3 years.
Community Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human trafficking basics. • Signs of trafficking. • Risk factors & vulnerabilities • Sextortion & online safety • Resources & hotlines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing year-round community training.
Healthcare Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing medical & behavioral signs of trafficking • Mandatory reporting • Trauma-informed medical care • Screening • Resources & hotlines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory: CME/CE every 3 years for healthcare workers.

¹³ Stoklosa, H., Dawson, M. B., Williams-Oni, F., & Rothman, E. F. (2016). A review of U.S. health care institution protocols for the identification and treatment of victims of human trafficking. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 3(2). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2016.1187965>

¹⁴ *Id.*

» 2. Implement Screening Protocols – State Assessment Tools

A key part of Hawaii's anti-trafficking efforts involves using validated screening tools that assist professionals in recognizing, identifying, and responding to potential trafficking situations. Standardized tools provide frontline staff across different agencies with consistent, evidence-based methods to spot trafficking indicators. Understanding these tools and choosing the most appropriate one for each sector is crucial.

Screening vs. Needs Assessment in CSEC and Child Sex Trafficking Response

It is important to differentiate between screenings and needs assessments. Screenings are structured tools used to identify potential trafficking cases, while comprehensive needs assessments create a complete picture of a youth's experiences and unmet needs. These assessments take into consideration a variety of factors, including immediate safety, housing stability, financial resources, education, health, mental health, cultural identity, and personal goals. By prioritizing the child's voice, assessments help ensure interventions are trauma-informed, survivor-centered, and tailored to individual needs.

CATEGORY	SCREENING	NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Purpose	To identify potential trafficking cases or red flags.	To gain a complete understanding of a child's experiences and needs.
Timing	Initial point of contact. Consists of brief, structured questions.	After identification, in-depth conversations occur over multiple sessions.
Focus	Flags possible victimization and determines if referral for further assessment is necessary.	Explores the needs of safety, housing, education, health, cultural identity, and personal goals.
Outcome	Referral for further evaluation or services if trafficking is suspected.	Individualized service plan, crisis response, and long-term support.
Child's Voice	Limited	Central

Validated and Evidence-Based Screening Tools

Effective screening depends on tools that are both valid and reliable, producing consistent results regardless of who administers them or when they are used. Here are some examples of Validated Screening Tools:

- **Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool** – tailored for youth and avoids invasive questioning. It guides professionals to assess 48 indicators of exploitation through observation, client interaction, and collateral information. This tool is designed for flexibility and multi-agency use, supporting identification even without self-disclose.¹⁵
- **Trafficking Victim Identification Tool** – validated for identifying sex and labor trafficking among individuals ages 13 and older. Interviewers are trained to build trust and engage victims with trauma-informed approaches.¹⁶
- **Short Screen for Child Sex Trafficking** – intended primarily for medical settings, it features 6 brief questions that highlight risk factors associated with CSEC. The SSCST is validated for adolescents ages 11–17.¹⁷
- **Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure** – used to screen young adults ages 18–23 experiencing homelessness, it features a structured questionnaire and uses non-invasive, youth-appropriate language.¹⁸
- **Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking** – a four-question screener designed to rapidly identify labor or sex trafficking experiences among homeless or runaway youths. This tool is validated for rapid use by outreach workers and youth service providers.¹⁹

¹⁵ Westcoast Children's Clinic. (2024). *Commercial sexual exploitation – identification tool*. <https://www.westcoastcc.org/cse-it/>

¹⁶ Vera Institute of Justice. (2014, June). *Screening for human trafficking: Guidelines for administering the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool*. <https://vera-institute.files.svcdn.com/production/downloads/publications/human-trafficking-identification-tool-and-user-guidelines.pdf>

¹⁷ RHYTTAC. (n.d.). *Short screen for child sex trafficking*. <https://resources.rhyttac.org/resources/screening-tool/short-screen-child-sex-trafficking-ssdst>

¹⁸ RHYTTAC. (n.d.). *Human trafficking and assessment measure*. <https://resources.rhyttac.org/resources/screening-tool/human-trafficking-and-assessment-measure-htiam-14>

¹⁹ RHYTTAC. (n.d.). *Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking*. <https://resources.rhyttac.org/resources/screening-tool/quick-youth-indicators-trafficking-qyt>

- **Rapid Appraisal for Trafficking** – designed to screen adults in emergency departments, this tool selects 5 most predictive questions from the TVIT for rapid assessment of labor and sex trafficking.²⁰

Evidence-Based Screening Tools

In cases where no validated tool exists for a particular setting, organizations can use evidence-based tools that are designed for specific populations.

- **Human Trafficking Screening Tool** – screens minors in the child welfare system, runaway youth, or youth experiencing homelessness.²¹
- **Adult Human Trafficking Screening Tool** – this tool is used to screen adults for trafficking.²²

Universal Education

Whether an organization uses a formal screening tool or a universal education approach, the foundation is the same: building trust and creating a safe, supportive environment for individuals.

Two examples of tools that support a universal health approach:

- **CUES (Confidentiality, Universal Education, Empowerment, Support)** is an evidence-based intervention that encourages providers to start conversations about domestic and sexual violence. CUES emphasizes collaboration between

²⁰ Chisolm-Straker, M., Singer, E., Strong, D., Loo, G. T., Rothman, E. F., Clesca, C., d'Etienne, J., Alanis, N., & Richardson, L. D. (2021, October 12). Validation of a screening tool for labor and sex trafficking among emergency department patients. *Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians Open*, 2(5), e12558. <https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12558>

²¹ Administration on Children and Families, Office on Trafficking in Persons. (2024, December 12). *Program instruction: Human trafficking screening tools (OTIP-IM-2024-03)*. <https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/PI-Human-Trafficking-Screening-Tools.pdf>

²² Administration for Children and Families, Office on Trafficking in Persons. (2018, January). *Adult human trafficking screening tool and guide: A guide for training public health, behavioral health, health care, and social work professionals who wish to use trauma-informed and survivor-informed practices to assess adult clients and patients for human trafficking victimization or risk of potential trafficking victimization*. National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center. https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/adult_human_trafficking_screening_tool_and_guide.pdf

health settings and domestic violence organizations to create a team-based approach to supporting survivors.²³

- **The PEARR (Privacy, Educate, Ask, Respect, Respond) Tool** is a trauma-sensitive conversational guide, providing a structured way for healthcare professionals to explain, ask, and respond to individuals who may be experiencing trafficking. PEARR is not a traditional questionnaire but a structured way for healthcare professionals to introduce the topic of abuse or trafficking safely.²⁴

Hawai‘i

In Hawai‘i, the Department of Human Services’ Child Welfare Services conducts the initial screening when a tip or intake is received. If the initial screening indicates sex trafficking or CSEC, victims are referred to the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program, which then carries out a detailed needs assessment to better understand each victim’s situation and to coordinate crisis response and long-term case management through statewide partners.

The following is the screening tool used by Child Welfare Services in Hawai‘i, the RST Loyola Rapid Screening Tool:

RAPID SCREENING TOOL (RST) FOR CHILD TRAFFICKING			
CHILD'S NAME:	CPSS #:	DATE:	
WORKER:	UNIT:		
Process-Action			
<i>Potential victim was or is currently being recruited, enticed, induced, harbored, transported, or obtained by family member, stranger, employer, or acquaintance.</i>			
Yes	No		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Child has been accompanied OR transported to current location from anywhere in the U.S. or from another country; OR	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Child has been promised things (e.g., job, payment, housing, school, legal status, improved circumstances/better life) in exchange for movement from one residence/community/city/state/country to another; OR	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Child is being kept or has been kept in someone's home or place of business without (or with undetermined) legal status, or lives with employer; OR	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Child appears to have been "bought" or "sold." (If "yes" to this particular action, consult with a supervisor for next steps)	

²³ Futures Without Violence. (n.d.). *CUES: An evidence-based intervention to address domestic and sexual violence in health settings – shown to improve health and safety outcomes for survivors.*

<https://ipvhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/CUES-graphic-2.25.pdf>

²⁴ HEAL Trafficking. (2025). *PEARR tool: Trauma-informed approach to victim assistance in healthcare settings.* <https://www.healtrafficking.org/resources/pearr-tool>

Means

Potential victim has suffered physical harm, physical restraint, abuse of legal process, withholding or control of identification documents, financial harm/control, enticement, coercion, verbal threats, threats to harm (physically or financially) family members, scheme or plan, intimidation.

Yes No

- Evidence or physical harm OR threats of harm to child or child's family or friends; OR
- Child told to distrust authority figures; OR
- Identification documents (legitimate or fraudulent) have been taken away or manipulated; OR
- Child is isolated (from family, friends, or community); OR
- Child is not receiving payment for employment or services, or has "quota" of money to be earned for labor or (sexual) services, or not in control of money earned; or broken promises over type of work (sexual or labor) engaged in.

Purpose

Potential victim has been forced into involuntary servitude, commercial sexual activity, debt bondage, or forced labor.

Yes No

- Child has engaged in any labor or services (e.g., retail, factory, farm, household, babysitting, cooking, restaurant, hotel, massage/spa, construction, exotic dancing, etc.)
- Evidence of prostitution or pornography (if "yes" to this particular action, consult with a supervisor for next steps)
- Child owes a debt (for any reason)

AFTER COMPLETING THE RAPID SCREENING TOOL:

If you answered YES at least once in two or more sections, there is a good chance human trafficking is involved. Always consult with a supervisor for next steps based on the circumstances of the situation and your agency's protocol.

Adapted from Center for the Human Rights for Children, Loyola University Chicago & International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)

Hawaii's Family Court, including its specialized Girls Court program, frequently encounters youth who are victims or at risk of CSEC. The Family Court of the First Circuit has established specific policies and procedures for cases in which CSEC is suspected. These procedures include the administration of a CSEC screening tool developed by local psychologist Dr. George Rhoades, Jr.

When the screening indicates potential CSEC involvement, a referral is immediately made to Child Welfare Services. The following is the CSEC identification survey currently utilized by Family Court.

CSEC Identification Survey
George F. Rhoades, Jr., (2014)

Please read each item, and then indicate if you have experienced this event by circling the yes or no next to the item or by circling the number of times/years.

1. Have you ever run away from home?	Yes	No					
2. How many times have you ran away in the last year?	1X	1-3X's	4-6X's	7+			
3. Can you come and go as you please?	Yes				No		
4. Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or use the bathroom?	Yes				No		
5. Do you go to school?	Yes				No		
6. Do you ever skip school?	Yes				No		
7. Is anyone forcing you to do anything you don't want to do?	Yes				No		
8. Has anyone ever touched you or hurt you in any way?	Yes				No		
9. Has anyone ever threatened to hurt you or your family?	Yes				No		
10. Do you have a boy/girlfriend?	Yes				No		
11. How old is your boy/girlfriend?	18	18	25	30	>35	>40	
12. Are you sexually active?	Yes				No		
13. How many sexual partners in the last six months?	1	1-3	4-6	7-10	10+		
14. Ever had a sexually transmitted disease?	Yes				No		
15. Ever been pregnant?	Yes				No		
16. How often do you or your friends use drugs/alcohol?	1X/Wk.	2-3X/Wk.	4-6X/Wk.	Daily			
17. Do you have any tattoos or markings on your body?	Yes				No		
18. Are there pictures of you on the Internet? Are they on Facebook or another social networking site? Are they on Craig's List or another classified ad? (Circle location of ad)	Yes				No		
19. Has your body ever been used/exchanged for money, food, lodging and/or drugs?	Yes				No		
20. Are you being asked to have sex with men/women you don't want to have sex with?	Yes				No		
21. Do you feel like you are in danger?	Yes				No		
22. How long have you been in the "game?"	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	>6yrs
23. Please list your age _____; Male or Female _____; Today's Date _____ Years of education _____ Name _____ (names will not be published or listed in research). Where do you live now (before arrest or placement)? _____							

Assessments

Assessments come after screenings. Comprehensive needs assessments are vital tools to better understand the experiences, strengths, and unmet needs of those they serve. These assessments should be trauma-informed, culturally grounded, and developmentally suitable. They focus on building trust, honoring each person's story, and guiding services that truly meet them where they are.

Developed by the Polaris Project, a Comprehensive Human Trafficking Assessment is a tool designed to assist frontline professionals in identifying individuals who may be experiencing sex or labor trafficking.²⁵ While initially created for use by service providers, it can also be adapted for trained healthcare professionals and shelter staff. The assessment is structured as an interview and includes guidance for creating a safe, respectful, and nonjudgmental environment for disclosure. It begins with safety screening questions and moves to general trafficking indicators, followed by more specific questions that explore the individual's circumstances once trafficking is suspected or disclosed.

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths tool is also widely recognized as a flexible framework used across children's services in all 50 states across various areas, including child welfare, behavioral health, juvenile justice, and early intervention.²⁶ It helps guide decisions about the level of care a child may need, supports individualized service planning, and tracks progress over time. One of its most significant strengths is its multi-system design, which enables various agencies to work together around a shared understanding of a child's needs and strengths.

3. Expand Public Awareness and Outreach

SIPD's Outreach Efforts

In January 2025, SIPD led a statewide campaign for Human Trafficking Awareness Month that included:

- **12 virtual “Lunch & Learn” sessions** attended by approximately 500 participants from Hawai‘i and beyond, featuring local subject matter experts.

²⁵ National Human Trafficking Resource Center. (2011). *Comprehensive human trafficking assessment*. Polaris Project.

https://shaka.dhshawaii.net/greenbook/publishing12/ch03/other/sec13/nhtrc_polaris_project-comprehensive_human_trafficking_assessment.pdf

²⁶ The John Praed Foundation. (2024). *Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)*. <https://praedfoundation.org/tcom/tcom-tools/the-child-and-adolescent-needs-and-strengths-cans/>

- Human Trafficking 101 (Trafficking Victim Assistance Program and Susannah Wesley Community Center).
- Homelessness and Human Trafficking (Partners In Care).
- Labor Trafficking: Impact on Hawaii's Immigrant Survivors of Human Trafficking (Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i/Immigrant Justice Center).
- Connection & Compassion: Trauma-Informed Care with Youth & Survivors of Trafficking (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division).
- Mandated Reporter Training (Child Welfare Services).
- Human Trafficking and Foster Care (Family Programs Hawai'i).
- Services and Trauma Responsive Care for Survivors of Sex Trafficking (Sex Abuse Treatment Center).
- Breaking the Cycle: LGBTQIA+ Youth and Human Trafficking. (Spill The Tea Cafe).
- Sexual Violence Prevention (Hawai'i Department of Education).
- Immigrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking (Pacific Gateway Center).
- Family Homelessness and Human Trafficking (Family Promise Hawai'i).
- Vicarious Trauma: Addressing the Impact of Trauma on Providers and Community Members (Mental Health America Hawai'i).

- **Resource fair and sign-waving event** with approximately 100 participants to honor Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Participants included law enforcement, prosecution, mental health providers, the Honolulu County Human Trafficking Task Force, HIDOE, service providers, and members of the general community.
- **Governor's proclamation** declaring January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.
- **Candlelight vigil at the State Capitol**, lived-experience experts shared testimony with approximately 55 attendees from local universities, nonprofit organizations, law enforcement, the Legislature, and the general public.



In April 2025, SIPD hosted a Human Trafficking Keynote Panel at the 22nd Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Hawai'i Summit. Panelists included representatives from Susannah Wesley Community Center, the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i/Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center, the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, and the Honolulu Police Department.

SIPD also launched the Human Trafficking Prevention Program website, which offers information on laws, myths and facts, resources, recorded training sessions, and an event calendar. The site features a public service announcement by Hawai'i Attorney General Anne Lopez.

School-Based Prevention

Age-appropriate prevention programs should be implemented statewide to ensure that all children receive consistent and relevant education on this issue. With over 165,000 students, their families, and communities across 298 schools on 7 islands statewide, HIDOE can expand prevention efforts by integrating CSEC awareness into existing health, sexual education, or safety curricula. HIDOE's Sexual Violence Prevention Program is a promising step.

STUDENT TRAINING TOPICS	TEACHER TRAINING TOPICS
How to recognize grooming, recruitment tactics, and online risks	How to identify red flags and warning signs of trafficking among students.
The importance of personal boundaries and safe decision-making.	How to respond to disclosures using trauma-informed practices.
How to seek help safely and who to trust at school or in the community.	Clear referral pathways and protocols for suspected cases of trafficking.
Awareness of resources, hotlines, school counselors, and community programs.	How to collaborate with counselors, law enforcement, and service providers.
Empowerment to protect themselves and peers against exploitation.	Tools for creating safe, supportive school environments that reduce vulnerability.

Youth Peer Education and Leadership

Young people are not just beneficiaries of CSEC prevention; they are key leaders in the fight against it. Training youth ambassadors to lead peer-to-peer education programs creates a space where information is shared in ways that feel relatable, authentic, and

impactful. Creating a Youth Advisory Council gives young people a platform to share their perspectives and influence policies, programs, and priorities that affect them.

Local and national models:

- Department of Human Services: Hawai‘i State Youth Commission was established to “Advise the governor and Legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State.”²⁷
- City and County of Honolulu, Office of the Mayor: Honolulu Youth Commission “will serve to provide youth on O‘ahu with a voice and presence in local government.”²⁸
- Lili‘uokalani Trust: Na Leo O Kamaka‘eha’s vision is “A thriving Hawai‘i uplifted by Native Hawaiian voices, inspiring future generations. The mission is utilizing voices enriched in Hawaiian culture to ensure a prosperous Lāhui.”²⁹
- EPIC ‘Ohana: “HI H.O.P.E.S. (Hawai‘i Helping Our People Envision Success) Youth Leadership Boards are comprised of current and former foster youth between 14-26. Their *mission is to educate, advocate, and collaborate* for improvements in the foster care system and better outcomes for foster youth. HI H.O.P.E.S. youth boards also serve as the youth advisory council to the Child Welfare Services of the Department of Human Services.”³⁰
- Hawai‘i Public Health Institute: Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai‘i Youth Council: “This Youth Council is a youth-led organization for students from 8th grade through college. Members come from public and private schools representing six islands. The Youth Council has been recognized both locally and nationally for its advocacy work to create the first nicotine-free generation in Hawai‘i.”³¹

²⁷ State of Hawai‘i. (2021, July 30). *Department of Human Services, Hawai‘i State Youth Commission*. <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/hawaii-state-youth-commission/>

²⁸ City and County of Honolulu. (2025). *Office of the Mayor, Honolulu Youth Commission*. <https://www.honolulu.gov/mayor/honolulu-youth-commission/>

²⁹ Lili‘uokalani Trust. (2025). *Nā Leo o Kamaka‘eha*. <https://onipaa.org/programs/program/youth-advisory-committee>

³⁰ EPIC ‘Ohana. (n.d.). *HI H.O.P.E.S. Initiative, leaving, living and leading a legacy*. <https://www.epicohana.org/hyoii>

³¹ Hawai‘i Public Health Institute. (2025). *Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai‘i Youth Council: Peer-to-peer education and advocacy*. <https://www.hiphi.org/youth/>

- Families Together in New York State: “The Youth Peer Services Advisory Council is made up of youth, young adults, Youth Peer Advocates, and adult allies across the State who have personal experience as a young person with a disability, emotional and/or behavioral health challenge, or experience in New York State systems such as mental health, special education, juvenile justice, foster care, addiction recovery, health care, etc.” Their mission is to utilize personal lived experience and training to promote voice and choice for young people, enabling them to be actively engaged in their own services and the service delivery system.³²

Survivor-Led Advocacy

Survivors of CSEC bring critical insight and lived experience to the movement to end trafficking. Survivor voices are essential in creating programs, policies, and outreach efforts. The principle of *“Nothing about us without us”* reminds us that survivors must have a seat at the table, not only to share their stories, but to help shape the systems and solutions meant to support them.³³

Establishing a Survivor Advisory Council is another powerful step toward honoring this principle. It creates space for survivors to guide decisions, identify gaps in services, and hold systems accountable. When survivors lead, they not only help others heal, but they also help entire communities move toward understanding, resilience, and meaningful change. Perhaps as important, they help heal themselves while helping others.

Resource Distribution and Hotline Promotion

Making resources visible and accessible is a key part of protecting youth and raising awareness about CSEC. Distributing brochures, hotline cards, and posters in public spaces, such as libraries, clinics, schools, and community centers ensures that critical information reaches both potential victims and community members who may recognize warning signs.

³² Families Together in NYS. (2024). *Youth Peer Services Advisory Council*.

<https://www.ftnys.org/youthpower/ypsac/>

³³ Fight to End Exploitation. (2025). *Nothing about us without us. Human Trafficking 101* [Blog].

<https://fighttoendexploitation.org/nothing-about-us-without-us-lived-experience-leaders/>

RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS

SIGNS OF TEEN SEX TRAFFICKING

- Unexplained absence from school
- Running away from home
- Fearful, anxious, depressed, tense, or nervous behaviors
- Visible signs of abuse
- Insomnia or extreme fatigue
- Appearing malnourished
- A "boyfriend" or "uncle" or "daddy" who controls the teen's life or speaks for teen
- Tattoos of someone's name
- Multiple cell phones or social media accounts
- Lack of control of their own money or identification documents



SIGNS OF LABOR TRAFFICKING

- Being escorted to and from a worksite
- Living at or near the worksite
- Under constant surveillance
- Housed with coworkers or others from same worksite
- Extreme reluctance or fear of talking to others
- Visible signs of physical abuse
- Lack of wages
- Lack of control of their own money or identification documents



REPORT



National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888
Text* 233733 - BE FREE

State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services Child Trafficking

1-808-832-1999 (Oahu)
1-888-398-1188 (Neighbor Island)

Report missing children or
child sexual abuse material (CSAM):
National Center for Missing and
Exploited Children (NCMEC):
+1 (800) THE-LOST (843-5678)

Hawai'i CARES
text, call, chat to 988

Aloha United Way's 211



ag.hawaii.gov/traffickingprevention



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION PROGRAM



ag.hawaii.gov/traffickingprevention





LAWS & DEFINITIONS

- Hawai‘i law criminalizes two forms of trafficking: Sex Trafficking and Labor Trafficking.
- Under Hawai‘i Revised Statutes § 712-1202, a person commits Sex Trafficking if they knowingly:
 - (a) Advance prostitution by compelling or inducing a victim to engage in prostitution through force, threat, fraud, coercion, or intimidation; or
 - (b) Advance or profit from the prostitution of a victim who is under 18 years old.
- Under Hawai‘i Revised Statutes § 707-781, a person commits Labor Trafficking in the First Degree if they intentionally or knowingly provide or obtain a victim for labor or services through means such as extortion, force, fraud, debt bondage, withholding of identification documents, threats of harm, or coercion.



BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION

- Learn to recognize the signs of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Stay alert and aware!
- Report suspicious activity and share information about trafficking hotlines.
- Build a strong support system — connect with mentors, a stable family unit, community resources, and develop positive coping skills.
- Educate yourself and your family on how to stay safe from predators.
- Attend anti-trafficking trainings and events. For a list of upcoming trainings and events, visit aq.hawaii.gov/traffickingprevention and select "Event Calendar".

OUR MISSION

The Hawai‘i Human Trafficking Prevention Program, through the Special Investigation and Prosecution Division of the Department of the Attorney General, is dedicated to ending human trafficking in Hawai‘i by:

- Vigorously investigating and prosecuting traffickers;
- Creating a platform for collaboration between law enforcement agencies and service providers;
- Advocating for stronger public policy and legislation; and
- Raising public awareness and promoting education and training.



STAGES OF SEX TRAFFICKING GROOMING

- Targeting the Victim – identifying children who have vulnerabilities or unmet needs.
- Gaining Trust – posing as caring individuals, acting as good listeners who seem genuine.
- Meeting Needs – offering solutions to meet physical or emotional needs.
- Isolation – creating a complete dependency and demanding secrecy, often through drug/alcohol.
- Exploitation – slowly and gradually normalizing touch and sexualizing the relationship.
- Maintaining Control – manipulating and controlling the relationship, through force, coercion, or sometimes just by threatening to withdraw affection.

ONLINE SAFETY

The same stages of grooming can happen online, through social media, messaging apps, dating sites, video chats, group chat apps, or online gaming platforms.

Because the internet offers easy access and anonymity, predators can often hide in plain sight. Be vigilant and look for these red flags:

- ▶ Request to send images or videos of yourself.
- ▶ Request to meet up offline or in person.
- ▶ Invitations to move conversations to direct messages (DMs) or other private apps.
- ▶ Questions about whether adults are around or if anyone else can see your messages.

You can stay safe on the internet by these methods:

- ▶ Do not chat with anyone you do not know personally.
- ▶ Never share personal information, including your picture, address, school, or birthday.
- ▶ If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts.
- ▶ Speak to a trusted adult if someone asks you to do something you are not comfortable with
- ▶ And remember, grooming can happen to anyone, and it is never your fault.

4. Strengthen Collaboration through Multidisciplinary Teams, Task Forces, and Steering Committees

Multidisciplinary teams (MDTs), task forces, and committees offer structured platforms for coordinated responses and shared expertise. Strong partnerships enable joint case planning, facilitate real-time information sharing, and reduce service duplication. They also help build trust across agencies and offer a chance to identify systemic gaps and implement improvements.

Hawaii's Initiatives

Committees

The CSEC Steering Committee includes various government and law enforcement agencies. The committee promotes cooperation among key stakeholders to close gaps in prevention, protection, and prosecution efforts, and to develop and execute protocols for identifying and responding to cases of CSEC. Key members include: Judge (Ret.)

Karen Radius, Children's Justice Center (CJC), Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Child Welfare Services, Missing Child Center of Hawai'i, Family Court, Girls Court, Honolulu Police Department, Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, Office of the Public Defender, SIPD, Office of Youth Services, Homeland Security Investigations, and United States Attorney's Office.

Key Outcomes:

- Continuous Improvement of the Systemic, Statewide Response: implementing the protocol as needed, ensuring it remains relevant and effective in addressing the evolving challenges of CSEC.
- Defining Roles and Responsibilities: clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of each agency and partner involved in the CSEC response, ensuring accountability and efficiency.
- Promoting Collaboration and Information Sharing: enhance coordination and information sharing among multidisciplinary team members involved in addressing CSEC.

MDT

MDTs exist in each county (O'ahu, Kaua'i, Maui, and East and West Hawai'i) and are led by the corresponding CJC. The MDT model is nationally recognized as best practice. MDTs currently include members from the CJC, Missing Child Center of Hawai'i, SIPD, county police departments, county prosecutor's offices, Family Court, Girls Court, Sex Abuse Treatment Center, Hale Kipa/Susannah Wesley Community Center, YWCA (County of Hawai'i, Kaua'i), Parents and Children Together (O'ahu, Maui), Child Welfare Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, and United States Attorney's Office.

Key Outcomes:

- Improved Coordination: MDTs have enhanced coordination among various agencies, leading to more efficient and effective responses to CSEC cases.
- Victim-Centered Approach: By involving multiple disciplines, MDTs ensure that the needs of CSEC victims are addressed comprehensively, reducing trauma and improving support services.

Task Forces

The Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's Office led the Honolulu County Human Trafficking Task Force and was federally funded through the Office of Victims of Crime until September 2025. This task force concentrates on law enforcement while ensuring victim-centered approaches are applied. Key members include: Honolulu Prosecutor's Office, Honolulu Police Department, SIPD, Missing Child Center of Hawai'i, Family Court, Girls Court, Sex Abuse Treatment Center, Hale Kipa/Susannah Wesley, CJC, Pearl Haven, Homeland Security Investigations, and United States Attorney's Office.

» 5. Build Local Referral Pathways

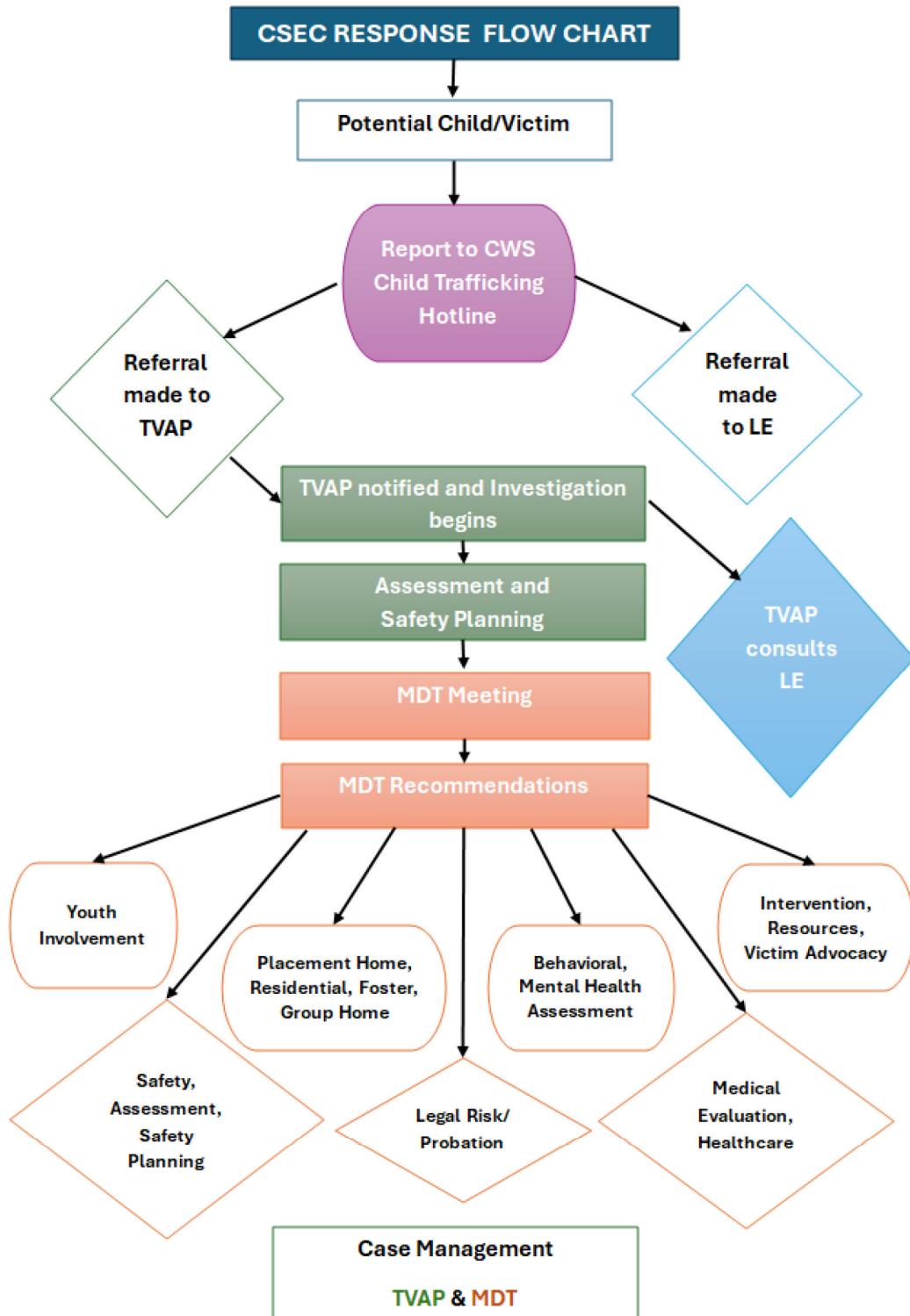
A strong referral network ensures survivors receive prompt, comprehensive services without unnecessary delays. Service mapping is especially important on the neighbor islands, where services are scarcer. Mapping should cover the entire spectrum of care, from emergency shelters to long-term case management.

Identification is only the first step; connecting individuals to care must follow immediately. Warm handoffs³⁴ are vital for building trust and reducing the chances of disengagement. Without strong referral pathways, victims risk falling through the cracks, being re-traumatized, or refusing services entirely. Comprehensive responses should include medical and mental health care, safe housing, legal support, education and employment assistance, counseling, and specialized case management.



³⁴ A warm handoff is a handoff that is conducted in person, between two members of the health care team, in front of the patient (and family if present).

CSEC Response Flow Chart



» 6. Use Data to Inform Action

Addressing CSEC in Hawai‘i requires decisions based on evidence. Reliable data helps agencies identify emerging trends, assess the effectiveness of programs, and direct limited resources where they will have the greatest impact.

Currently, Child Welfare Services and the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program collect valuable information such as victim demographics, service needs, and trafficking types. However, due to confidentiality and law enforcement sensitive material, not all information can be shared between various agencies. This lack of shared visibility creates gaps in understanding how children are being exploited and how the system responds.

To address these gaps, Hawai‘i should invest in secure, de-identified data systems that allow agencies to monitor referrals, demographics, services provided, and case outcomes, as well as develop data-sharing platforms.

» 7. Prioritize Survivor-Centered Collaboration

Survivor-informed programs have been shown to boost engagement, healing, and long-term recovery.³⁵ Hawaii’s long-term goal should include:

- Establish a Survivor Advisory Council to guide statewide anti-trafficking initiatives operating on the principle of *“nothing about us without us.”*
- Ensure trauma-informed engagement practices that build trust and minimize retraumatization.

Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking

Once victims are identified, support must be immediate, comprehensive, and based on trauma-informed care. This involves addressing both urgent needs and long-term recovery through coordinated services.

- **Immediate Safety:** Law enforcement engagement and rapid access to emergency shelter.
- **Trauma-Informed Care:** Respect for autonomy, emotional support, and confidentiality at every step.
- **Legal Assistance:** Help navigating immigration, restraining orders, and criminal justice proceedings.

³⁵ Fight to End Exploitation. (2025). *Nothing about us without us. Human Trafficking 101* [Blog]. <https://fighttoendexploitation.org/nothing-about-us-without-us-lived-experience-leaders/>

- **Medical & Mental Health Care:** Comprehensive physical and behavioral health services, including long-term counseling.
- **Safe Housing:** Secure, trauma-informed, and culturally supportive housing options.
- **Employment & Education:** Vocational training, workforce development, job placement, and education opportunities.
- **Case Management:** Coordinated support across systems to ensure continuity of care.
- **Victim Compensation:** Access to funds that cover medical expenses, lost wages, and other recovery costs.

» 8. Provide Evaluation and Feedback

Evaluation is essential to ensuring that anti-trafficking efforts remain effective, survivor-centered, and responsive to changing needs. Programs should be assessed regularly using measurable outcomes. Equally important is gathering feedback from survivors, service providers, and frontline agencies. Their insights help refine strategies, strengthen collaboration, and ensure services are practical and culturally grounded.

EVALUATION AREA	OUTCOME MEASURES	FEEDBACK SOURCES
Training Programs	Percent of staff trained. Increase in knowledge/skills.	Participant surveys. Trainer evaluations.
Screening & Identification	Number of screenings conducted. Number of victims identified.	Case file reviews. Frontline staff feedback.
Referral Pathways	Timeliness of referrals. Percent or number of warm handoffs completed.	Service provider feedback. Survivor input.
Survivor Support Services	Retention in services. Improvement in safety, housing stability, mental health.	Survivor surveys. MDT case reviews.
Public Awareness Campaigns	Reach (social media, events, materials distributed); changes in public awareness	Community feedback. Survey data. Hotline call data.
System Coordination	Number of MDT/coalition meetings.	Partner agency feedback. Meeting evaluations.

B.

Best Practices in Other States to Identify and Serve Victims

B. Best Practices in Other States to Identify and Serve Victims

Most states use the MDT model and trauma-informed and victim-centered approaches in their fight against CSEC. Notably, some states have adopted innovative approaches that are worthy of examination:

Arizona

The Arizona Human Trafficking Council is a statewide group within the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family. The Council partners annually with Arizona State University to conduct the Youth Experience Survey among homeless young adults to identify challenges, including both sex and labor trafficking. The Council found that 31% of homeless youth had been sex trafficked. This data helps service providers gain a better understanding of the young people they serve.³⁶

California

In 2017, California became the first state to mandate human trafficking prevention education for both students and educators in grades seven to twelve. Through the Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Training Act, California created the PROTECT program (Prevention Organized to Educate Children on Trafficking), which provides a comprehensive curriculum and educator training on the risks and warning signs of trafficking.³⁷ California also passed laws requiring awareness training for workers in industries likely to encounter victims (hospitality, transportation, healthcare).³⁸

California's National Center for Youth Law helped establish an Advisory Board comprised of adults with lived CSEC experience. This board ensures that California's policies and practices are designed to improve identification, support, and services to children, youth, and their families.³⁹

The California Hotel & Lodging Association offers its members an online training program to equip hotel staff with the tools to spot and respond to potential trafficking

³⁶ Roe-Sepowitz, D., & Bracy, K. (2021). *Youth Experiences Survey (YES) study: Exploring the human trafficking experiences of homeless young adults in Arizona year eight*. Arizona State University Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research. https://socialwork.asu.edu/sites/g/files/litvpz286/files/2022-08/combinedyes2021_report.pdf

³⁷ California Department of Education. (2024, January 16). *The commercial sexual exploitation of children*. <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/vp/commsexexploitationchild.asp>

³⁸ Manoukian, M., Congliu, M. G., Marculewicz, S. J., & Wijekoon, L. V. (2018, October 2). *California enacts two laws aimed at combating human trafficking*. Littler. <https://www.littler.com/news-analysis/asap/california-enacts-two-laws-aimed-combating-human-trafficking>

³⁹ National Center for Youth Law. (2022, April 2). *First of its kind advisory board led by survivors of CSEC*. <https://youthlaw.org/news/first-its-kind-advisory-board-led-survivors-csec>

situations on their properties. This training is tailored to various hospitality roles, including housekeeping, restaurant service, front desk, and security.⁴⁰

Colorado

Colorado passed HB18-1018 in 2018, which added human trafficking education to the training required to obtain a commercial driver's license.⁴¹

Florida

In 2019, Florida became the first state to require child trafficking prevention education across all grade levels.⁴²

Georgia

The Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council created its own statewide screening tool for Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation.⁴³ The Council also released, through its Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, their first Technical Assistance Resource Guide. This guide provided schools and youth-serving organizations with practical tools to educate young people on prevention and safety.⁴⁴

Georgia built on that foundation by enacting Senate Bill 401, known as "Jenna's Law" or "Erin's Law," requiring all public schools to offer sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education for students in grades kindergarten to ninth grade.

Maine

Maine made history by becoming the first state to adopt the Equality Model approach to "prostitution" laws.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ California Hotel & Lodging Association. (n.d.). *California Hotel Lodging Association announces training program for hotel employees to identify and respond to human trafficking*. <https://calodging.com/news/chla-announces-training-program-hotel-employees-identify-and-respond-human-trafficking/>

⁴¹ State of Colorado, 75th General Assembly, First Regular Session. (2018). *HB18-1018: Human trafficking commercial driver's license. Concerning a requirement that education to prevent human trafficking be included in the training to obtain a commercial driver's license* [Legislation]. Colorado General Assembly. <https://www.leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb18-1018>

⁴² Florida Department of Education. (2019, September 30). *Florida first state in nation to teach K-12 child trafficking prevention*. <https://www.fl DOE.org/newsroom/latest-news/florida-first-state-in-nation-to-teach-k-12-child-trafficking-prevention.shtml>

⁴³ Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Human Trafficking Task Force. (n.d.). *Statewide screening tool*. <https://cjcc.georgia.gov/human-trafficking-task-force/statewide-screening-tool>

⁴⁴ The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy. (2025). *Technical Assistance Resource Guide, prevention*. <https://georgiacenterforchildadvocacy.org/what-we-do/prevention/technical-assistance-resource-guide-targ.html>

⁴⁵ Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. (2023, June 26). *Maine listens to sex trade survivors, passes the Equality Model*. <https://catwinternational.org/2023/08/mainelistens-to-sex-trade-survivors-passes-the-equality-model/>

In 2023, Governor Janet Mills signed two major laws:

- One law decriminalizes people who are sold in the sex trade, meaning they will not be arrested or jailed just for being prostituted. Instead, the law focuses on holding sex buyers and traffickers accountable.
- The second law ensures survivors get support, including access to services to help them rebuild their lives. It also allows past “prostitution”-related convictions to be sealed, so survivors can move forward without facing discrimination.

Maryland

The Maryland CARE Healing Center plays a pivotal role in the fight against human trafficking through its Regional Navigator Program, created in response to the Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act of 2019. This law requires each county to develop a coordinated approach to human trafficking, ensuring that suspected or confirmed victims receive immediate and appropriate services.⁴⁶

The Regional Navigator serves as a central point of contact for victims and their families, providing information, advocacy, and connections to essential services such as safety planning, emergency response, trauma counseling, legal assistance, and case management.

Massachusetts

For individuals aged 13 years and older, the Massachusetts General Hospital Freedom Clinic provides trauma-informed, LGBTQ2S+-friendly preventative care for survivors of human trafficking, free of charge. The clinic offers specialized services in a safe and non-judgmental setting. It also provides mental health and case management services and refers patients as needed, including substance use disorder services.⁴⁷

In late July 2025, House Bill 4360 was introduced, which requires a visual warning of the dangers of human trafficking to be displayed in the lobby and public restrooms of every hotel, motel, and bed and breakfast in the Commonwealth, and mandates that all hospitality staff participate in an approved training program designed to identify and report human trafficking.

⁴⁶ Care Healing Center. (2025). *Human trafficking regional navigator*.

<https://carehealingcenter.org/services/human-trafficking-regional-navigator/>

⁴⁷ Massachusetts General Hospital. (n.d.). *Mass General Freedom Clinic*.

<https://www.massgeneral.org/emergency-medicine/divisions-centers-and-programs/mass-general-freedom-clinic>

Minnesota

Minnesota's Youth Trafficking and Exploitation Identification tool and guide were developed to identify youth who have experienced or are experiencing human trafficking. It is designed for non-clinical staff who work with youth and link directly to service referrals under the state's No Wrong Door framework.⁴⁸

New York

New York's Anti-Trafficking Coalition, composed of over 140 organizations, launched landmark laws like the *Safe Harbor for Exploited Youth Act* and the *Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act* to ensure that CSEC victims are treated as victims, not criminals.⁴⁹

New York State's Office of Victim Services launched several effective strategies:

- Comprehensive Training: Providing extensive training for law enforcement, healthcare providers, and community organizations to recognize and respond to victim needs.
- Victim Compensation: Offering financial compensation for medical expenses, counseling, and lost wages to help victims recover.
- 24/7 Helpline: Maintaining a 24/7 helpline to provide immediate assistance and referrals.

In New York City, the Administration for Children's Services Child Welfare Services created a cloud-based application that houses an electronic web-based version of the screening tools, known as The Child Trafficking Database.

Tennessee

In 2019, Tennessee passed a law requiring public schools to include instruction on the detection, intervention, and treatment of human trafficking. The law also requires teachers to receive one-time in-service training. In 2022, Tennessee expanded this bill to include all other school personnel, including bus drivers, janitors, and cafeteria workers. All staff are now required to complete the training every three years.⁵⁰

AncoraTN, an organization serving Middle Tennessee, offers long-term, comprehensive aftercare services for survivors.⁵¹ Their work extends beyond direct care; AncoraTN

⁴⁸ Minnesota Department of Human Services. (n.d.). *Safe Harbor/No Wrong Door*. <https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/program-overviews/child-protection-foster-care-adoption/safe-harbor/>

⁴⁹ Photoville Festival. (n.d.). *New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition*. <https://photoville.nyc/organization/new-york-state-anti-trafficking-coalition/>

⁵⁰ Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration. (2019, August 30). *Human trafficking education required; state agency develops curriculum*. <https://www.tn.gov/finance/news/2019/8/30/human-trafficking-education-required--help-available-thru-state-agency.html>

⁵¹ AncoraTN. (n.d.). *Human trafficking: Our approach*. <https://www.ancoratn.org/ourapproach>

educates communities, trains frontline professionals, and advocates for stronger legal protections to prevent trafficking before it occurs. AncoraTN also engages the public through its podcast *Someone Like Me*, which amplifies survivor voices, explores the realities of exploitation, and examines the complexities of trauma. This blend of education, advocacy, and holistic support has positioned AncoraTN as one of the most innovative and effective trafficking restoration programs in the country.

Texas

The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council is codified by law and includes mandatory representatives from state agencies, ensuring consistent strategy implementation from prevention to prosecution. The Coordinating Council published a five-year strategic plan assessing Texas' human trafficking partnerships, prevention, investigation, prosecution, and support services.⁵²

In 2023, the Texas Governor and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission released a "Stop Human Trafficking" specialty license plate.⁵³ This unique license plate not only raises awareness about human trafficking but also supports survivors and reminds Texans to report suspicious activity to the Texas Department of Public Safety through the iWatchTexas community reporting system.

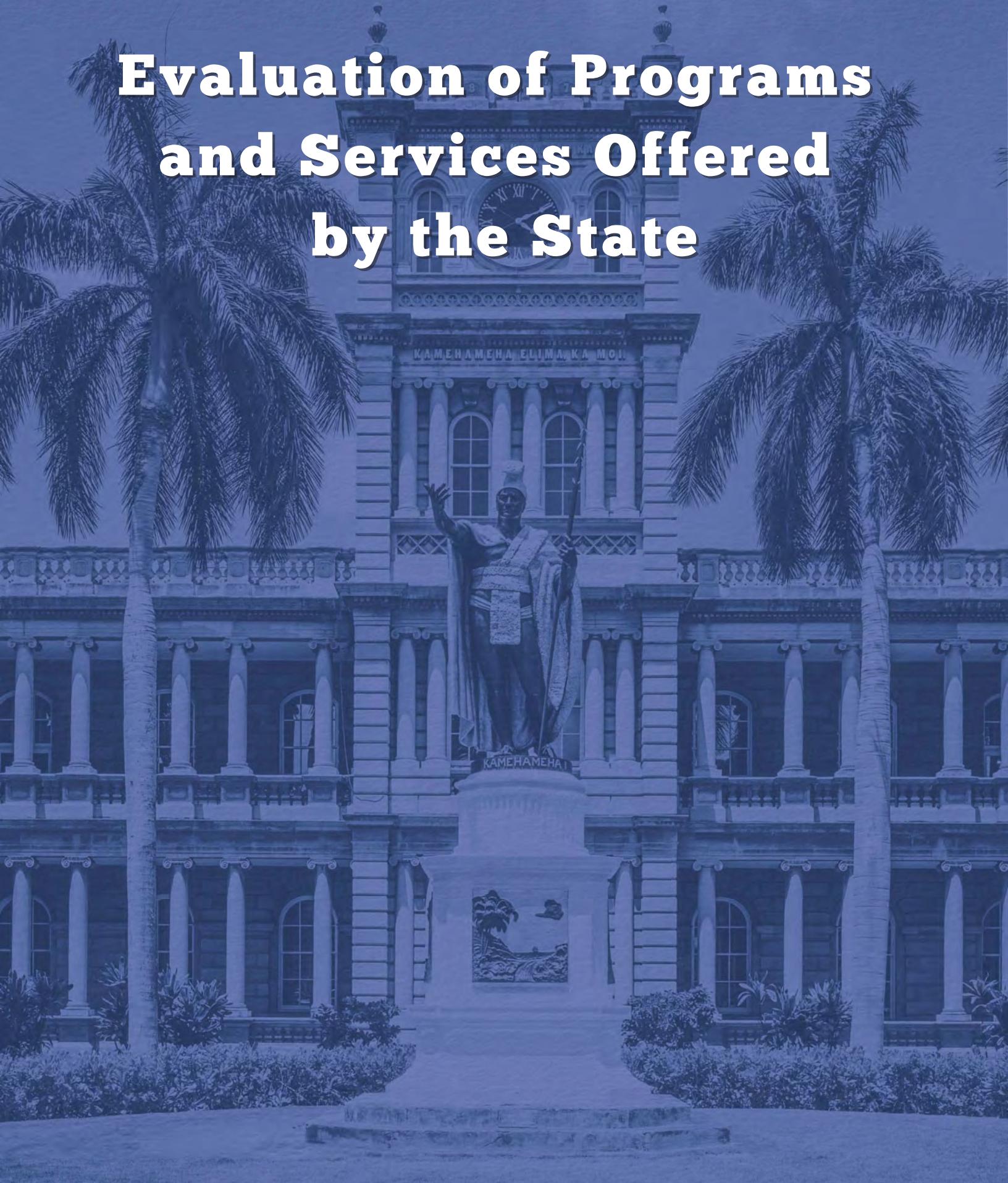


⁵² Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council, Attorney General of Texas. (2019). *Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council*. <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/human-trafficking-section/texas-human-trafficking-prevention-coordinating-council>

⁵³ The State of Texas Governor. (2023, January 19). *Governor Abbott, HHSC unveil new 'Stop Human Trafficking' specialty license plate*. <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-hhsc-unveil-new-stop-human-trafficking-specialty-license-plate>

C.

Evaluation of Programs and Services Offered by the State



C. Evaluation of Programs and Services Offered by the State

Department of Human Services Social Services Division Child Welfare Services

The Department of Human Services, Social Services Division, through its Child Welfare Services Branch, plays a key role in identifying and supporting victims of child trafficking and CSEC. Child Welfare Services runs a statewide hotline for child trafficking to receive and address reports of suspected exploitation.

To provide comprehensive care, Child Welfare Services contracts with the Susannah Wesley Community Center through the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program to address the needs of youth who have experienced sex trafficking and/or CSEC. Child Welfare Services handles the intake and screening of suspected victims. Referrals are then made to the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program for assessments. If appropriate or necessary, referrals are also made to the Children's Justice Center, MDTs, and law enforcement agencies. Child Welfare Services also develops individualized care plans and ensures placement in safe environments such as foster homes, shelters, and group homes.

In addition to these services, Child Welfare Services offers a range of programs, including prevention, protection, and diversion services, as well as family support, foster care, adoption, legal guardianship, and independent living services. Child Welfare Services also serves as the licensing agency for resource caregivers, group homes, and child-placing organizations.

Child Welfare Services actively partners with other stakeholders and is a member of the statewide CSEC Steering Committee, providing essential input and quarterly data to help shape statewide strategies and initiatives.

Child Welfare Services' comprehensive approach ensures children and families receive the support and protection they need. Broadening public understanding of the hotline numbers will directly enhance Hawaii's capacity to identify and respond to CSEC victims and protect vulnerable children.



Department of Human Services Office of Youth Services

The Office of Youth Services offers balanced and comprehensive services for at-risk youth in Hawai'i, aiming to prevent delinquency, reduce recidivism, and maximize opportunities for youth. It emphasizes community-based and family-focused treatment interventions and coordinates a continuum of services designed to meet the complex needs of youth at-risk, including those vulnerable to CSEC.

As part of its mission, the Office of Youth Services funds and manages prevention, diversion, and rehabilitative services for at-risk youth and operates youth development programs that promote responsibility and accountability. It funds key programs such as Ho'ōla Nā Pua's Pearl Haven and Hale Kipa's Hale Ho'opakele, which provide specialized support and shelter for trafficked and exploited youth.

The Office of Youth Services also manages the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility and collaborates with State and local partners to ensure coordinated responses to child exploitation across Hawai'i. Their efforts and continued funding ensure that at-risk youth receive the necessary support and opportunities to thrive.



Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women serves as a statewide center for advocacy, resources, and services that promote the rights and well-being of women and girls. The Commission collaborates closely with policymakers to promote gender equity, offering testimony, research, and policy guidance to inform legislation.

The Commission leads public education campaigns, develops programs, and publishes research to raise awareness of systemic issues, including human trafficking in Hawai‘i. Through this work, the Commission highlights barriers to safety and equity while elevating solutions rooted in justice and community needs.

Collaboration is central to the Commission’s mission. The Commission partners with State agencies, nonprofits, and grassroots organizations to strengthen Hawaii’s response to gender-based violence and exploitation.



Department of the Attorney General Special Investigation and Prosecution Division



Launched in 2022, SIPD has two sections: the Corruption, Fraud, and Economic Crimes Section and the Human Trafficking Abatement Section. The Human Trafficking Abatement Section’s mission is to investigate and prosecute all forms of human trafficking, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The Human Trafficking Prevention Program was established by the Legislature in 2023 and is being effectuated by SIPD.

SIPD actively collaborates as a partner on the CSEC Steering Committee, the MDTs on all islands, as well as the Honolulu County Human Trafficking Task Force. Since 2023, SIPD’s deputy attorneys general have prosecuted more than a dozen offenders for criminal offenses including sex trafficking, labor trafficking, electronic enticement of a child, and commercial sexual exploitation of a minor.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ Department of the Attorney General, Special Investigation and Prosecution Division, Human Trafficking Prevention Program. (2023–2025). *News releases*. <https://ag.hawaii.gov/traffickingprevention/news-releases/>

To promote prevention and awareness, SIPD provides community presentations, agency training, and public outreach activities. The division organized multiple events for Human Trafficking Awareness Month 2025, including a Lunch and Learn Speaker Series, a sign-waving event and a resource fair, a proclamation signing with the Governor, and a candlelight vigil to honor victims and survivors.

**Department of the Attorney General
Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force**



The Hawai'i Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) is part of a nationwide network dedicated to protecting children in online environments. ICAC offers internet safety education and resources for Hawaii's children, parents, and educators, including materials that address sextortion and other online threats.

ICAC also coordinates Operation Keiki Shield statewide, which targets predators attempting to exploit minors online, and co-initiated Operation Shine the Light, a collaborative effort to recover endangered and runaway youth. These programs further demonstrate their commitment to protecting Hawaii's children and promoting justice.

Operation Keiki Shield and Operation Shine the Light have both been successful in their missions. Since its first Operation Keiki Shield in 2019, the Task Force has conducted more than 25 operations, resulting in more than 150 arrests. Operation Shine the Light has recovered more than 40 victims, including 10 in a single operation in October 2025.

**Department of the Attorney General
Missing Child Center - Hawai'i**

The Missing Child Center - Hawai'i is a specialized criminal justice program operated under the Department of the Attorney General's Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division. The program is dedicated to locating and protecting missing children. It operates as a clearinghouse and resource center, providing vital support and coordination for efforts to find and safeguard these vulnerable individuals.



The Missing Child Center – Hawai'i also administers the Maile Amber Alert System. The MAILE AMBER Alert (MAILE - Minor Abducted In Life-threatening Emergency,

AMBER - America's Broadcast Emergency Response) is a voluntary multi-agency collaboration. This partnership is designed to rapidly distribute critical public information to assist law enforcement in locating missing children. The Center coordinates with law enforcement agencies statewide, providing critical training to law enforcement officers to ensure effective responses to cases of missing children.

The Missing Child Center – Hawai‘i also co-initiated Operation Shine the Light and actively participates in several collaborative efforts, including the CSEC Steering Committee, the Honolulu County Human Trafficking Task Force, and the Children’s Justice Center MDTs. These partnerships strengthen Hawaii’s capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to cases involving missing children across the State.

Department of the Attorney General Hawai‘i Sexual Assault Response and Training

The Hawai‘i Sexual Assault Response and Training program, operated under the Department of the Attorney General’s Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, leads statewide efforts to address and prevent sexual violence through a series of coordinated initiatives. This program manages the Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Tracking System. It convenes a MDT that brings together law enforcement, medical professionals, advocates, and other stakeholders to strengthen collaboration in responding to sexual assault cases.

In addition to its response efforts, the program prioritizes training and education to equip professionals with the knowledge and tools needed to provide trauma-informed, victim-centered services. The program also offers comprehensive victim support services, offering essential assistance and resources to those affected by sexual violence.

Department of Health Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division



Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Hawai‘i Department of Health provides free mental health services to eligible children and youth across the State who are experiencing severe emotional and behavioral challenges. It delivers a range of services, including comprehensive assessments, case management, and therapeutic support offered in-home, within the community, or through temporary out-of-home placements when necessary.

Recognizing the complex needs of trafficking survivors, the program offers trauma-informed mental health services to address conditions such as PTSD, depression,

anxiety, suicidality, and substance use. The division also raises public awareness through campaigns, publications, trainings, and the dissemination of trafficking hotline information.

Hawai‘i State Judiciary Children’s Justice Centers



The CJC^s of Hawai‘i provide child-friendly environments designed to support developmentally appropriate forensic interviews for children who are victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. CJC^s facilitate coordinated responses among law enforcement and service providers to ensure a holistic and trauma-informed approach.

Trained professionals conduct forensic interviews at the CJC^s and are video recorded to reduce the need for repeated questioning and minimize additional trauma for children. With locations on O‘ahu, East Hawai‘i, West Hawai‘i, Maui, and Kaua‘i, the centers ensure accessibility and meet the needs of children statewide.

A hallmark of the CJC model is the MDT approach, bringing together professionals from diverse agencies to coordinate investigations and responses to child abuse and neglect cases, including those involving CSEC. The CJC^s coordinate MDT meetings on all islands to strengthen collaboration and service delivery as well as ensure alignment with statewide anti-trafficking initiatives.

Unique to Hawai‘i, the CJC^s reflect strong public-private partnerships. They were founded by local Rotary Clubs and are supported by community organizations, such as the Friends of the Children’s Justice Center.

Hawai‘i State Judiciary Family Court - Girls Court

The Hawai‘i State Judiciary’s Girls Court is a program designed to prevent and reduce female juvenile delinquency by fostering healthy attitudes, behaviors, and lifestyles. This innovative, gender-specific program takes a positive, proactive, and strength-based approach to meet the unique needs of girls involved in the juvenile justice system.



Girls Court emphasizes active family participation. The program offers a comprehensive suite of services, including family and individual counseling, community service opportunities, educational and recreational activities, and group court sessions that reinforce accountability and support personal growth.

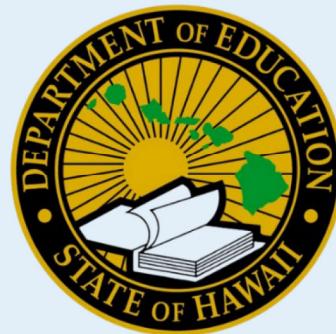
Hawai‘i Department of Education

HIDOE acknowledges the crucial role in preventing sexual violence and is committed to supporting students’ academic, social, physical, and emotional well-being. It conducts mandated reporter training across the state. The department also manages the McKinney-Vento program, making sure that homeless and unaccompanied youth have access to education and related services.

In the 2023–2024 school year, HIDOE launched its Sexual Violence Prevention Program, aligning with Erin’s Law, an initiative that aims to provide age-appropriate education on sexual abuse prevention. This program offers essential resources connecting families and schools with local and national supports for sexual violence and human trafficking prevention, ensuring the safety of Hawaii’s children.

The prevention program emphasizes training school staff, involving parents and guardians, and educating students on topics like healthy relationships, consent, personal safety, and spotting abusive behaviors. By the 2025–2026 school year, all school staff will have completed training on sexual violence prevention, including modules on the mandated reporting requirements and how to respond to disclosures.

HIDOE also partners with other agencies to achieve its objective. The Pacific Survivor Center offers its Sex Trafficking Outreach and Prevention Program, an evidence-based training for students in grades seven through twelve. SIPD and Ho‘ōla Nā Pua are also invited regularly to provide anti-trafficking presentations in schools, supporting statewide efforts to raise awareness and prevent exploitation.



Crime Victim Compensation Commission

The Crime Victim Compensation Commission operates as a statewide program to provide support and financial assistance to victims of crime, including human trafficking. The Commission works in close collaboration with county-based Victim-Witness Assistance Programs. Victim Witness Assistance advocates play a critical role in

guiding victims through the complexities of the criminal justice system, while the Commission covers expenses such as medical care, counseling, relocation, and other needs arising from victimization.

Susannah Wesley Community Center



The Susannah Wesley Community Center manages the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program for both minors (statewide) and adults (on O'ahu) through Fiscal Year 2025. The program provides a wide range of services aimed at meeting the complex needs of trafficking survivors and supporting their long-term recovery.

Key services offered include 24-hour crisis response and support, basic needs assistance, trauma assessments, therapy, court advocacy, and a comprehensive range of wraparound services to address the physical, emotional, and social needs of survivors. Additional offerings include psychoeducation, consultation, housing support, transportation, job readiness training, and other case management services.

The program also engages in community training, outreach, and service referrals. As a core member of the MDTs, Susannah Wesley Community Center ensures close collaboration with state and county agencies, law enforcement, and community-based partners. The organization also works closely with Child Welfare Services to track child trafficking data and strengthen statewide responses to CSEC.

Hale Kipa



Beginning in July 2025, Hale Kipa inherited the Child Welfare Services contract and now implements the Trafficking Victims

Assistance Program. It continues the vital work of providing trauma-informed, comprehensive care to vulnerable youth. The program offers a wide range of support services, including 24-hour crisis response, basic needs assistance, trauma assessments, therapy, court advocacy, wraparound case management, job readiness training, housing assistance, transportation, outreach, service referrals, and tip reporting. As previously mentioned, Child Welfare Services handles the intake and screening, while the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program conducts the assessment.

In addition, Hale Kipa runs the Hale Ho'opakele program, which supports youth victims and survivors of CSEC and sex trafficking. This program provides specialized, trauma-informed care, with services including 24-hour nurturing care, safe emergency housing, basic needs support, and strength-based individual, group, and family stabilization services. Hale Ho'opakele operates with five beds for trafficked youth.

Parents And Children Together

Parents And Children Together (PACT) is contracted to deliver trauma-informed case management to confirmed youth on Maui through the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program. PACT also provides youth counseling, advocacy, and prevention programs to meet the needs of vulnerable children and families.



PACT actively participates in the O'ahu and Maui MDTs and the Ho'oikaika Partnership, a coalition of community-based organizations, individuals, county, and State agencies. They contribute to coordinated community responses for at-risk youth, including CSEC victims and survivors.

On O'ahu, PACT is contracted with the CJC for crisis response. Through these efforts, PACT continues to play a vital role in creating safe and supportive environments for families and children.

Pacific Survivor Center



The Pacific Survivor Center is a multidisciplinary organization made up of professionals with expertise in medicine, medical forensics, public health, international humanitarian aid, law, and nonprofit leadership. Guided by its mission to promote health and human rights in the Hawai'i-Pacific area, Pacific Survivor Center emphasizes direct services, education, research, and advocacy to support survivors and prevent exploitation.

The organization offers a variety of services, including medical, dental, and mental health care; forensic medical evaluations; expert testimony; and training for medical professionals.

One of its key initiatives is the Sex Trafficking Outreach and Prevention Program, a free, interactive curriculum for middle and high school students that uses animation based on survivor stories from Hawai'i. The program educates youth, families, educators, and

professionals about the risks of sex trafficking and incorporates best practices and evidence-based research.

Ho‘ōla Nā Pua

Ho‘ōla Nā Pua focuses on preventing child exploitation and offering comprehensive care for youth who have been victims of sex trafficking and CSEC. At the core of the organization’s efforts is Pearl Haven, Hawaii’s first licensed residential treatment campus for survivors of CSEC. Pearl Haven is a 32-bed residential treatment center that provides therapeutic care for youth with complex trauma or Severe Emotional and Behavioral Disturbances resulting from abuse, exploitation, or other traumatic events.

The program provides comprehensive therapeutic, educational, and life skills services, including counseling, substance use groups, grief and loss groups, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, relationship building, and youth development groups. Pearl Haven uses an evidence-based approach to treating trauma, with interventions that are gender-specific and tailored to each youth’s individual treatment goals.

In addition to clinical services, Pearl Haven offers therapeutic enrichment programs such as the Kapena School of Music, Dance, and Unspoken Word; therapeutic gardening; expressive arts groups (including jewelry making, sewing, clay modeling, art, and lei making); Wave Alliance surf therapy; and animal-assisted programs.

Beyond Pearl Haven, the organization runs the Starfish Mentoring Program, providing one-on-one mentoring, and Hoku Group Services, which offers group sessions for youth. Ho‘ōla Nā Pua’s prevention and education initiatives include training, classroom presentations, as well as Coconut Wireless, a prevention education program. The Prevention Education, Empowerment, and Resilience program further prepares youth and communities with tools to fight exploitation and build resilience.



Conclusion

Hawai‘i has established a comprehensive network of programs and services to prevent, identify, and respond to CSEC. State agencies and the judiciary provide essential infrastructure for victim protection, investigations, mental health services, and trauma-

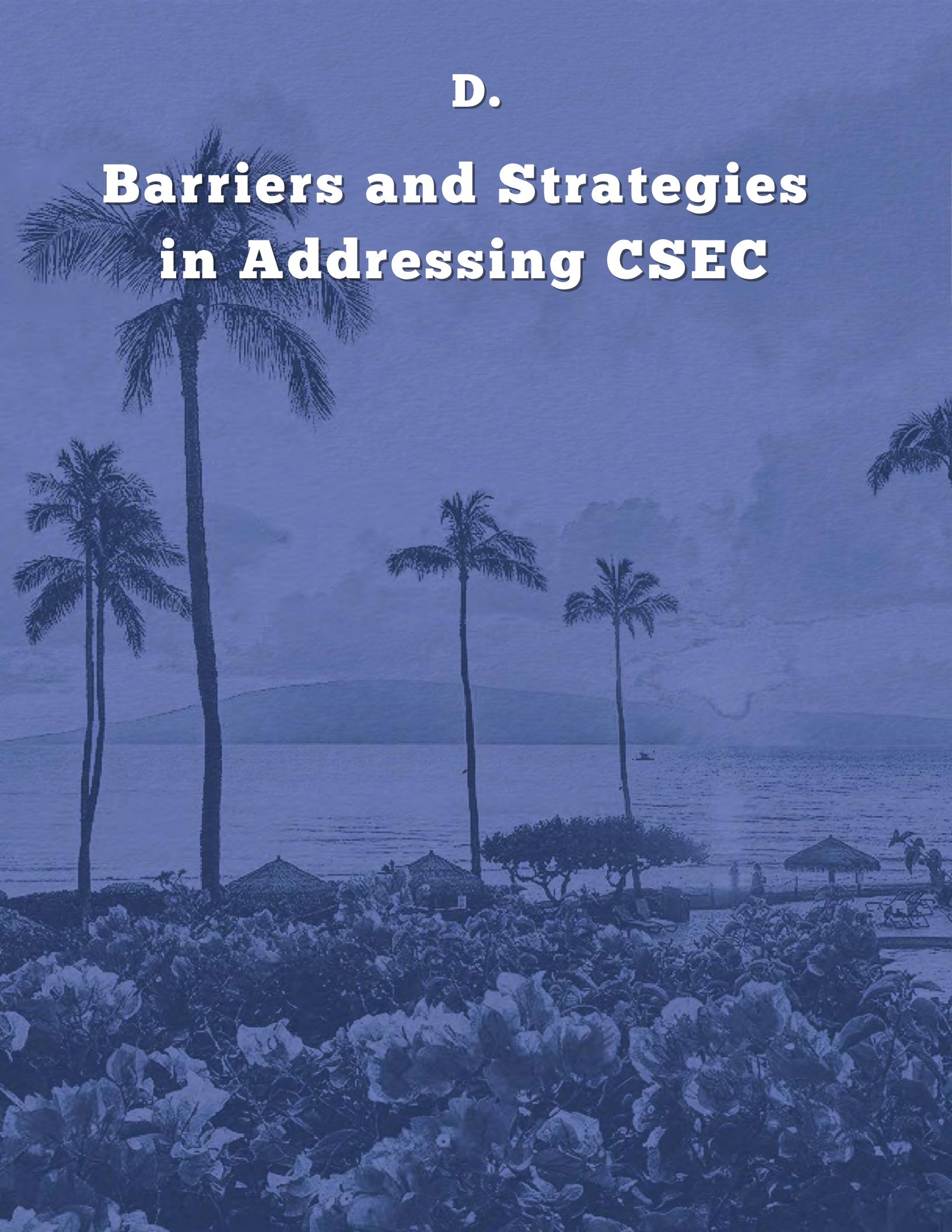
informed justice processes. Meanwhile, HIDOE has started integrating prevention education and mandated reporter training to improve early detection and student safety.

Equally important are community-based partners such as the Susannah Wesley Community Center, Hale Kipa, Parents And Children Together, the Pacific Survivor Center, and Ho'ōla Nā Pua, all of which provide direct services and comprehensive supports. These organizations bring expertise and strong community ties that enhance statewide efforts and ensure services are culturally relevant and survivor-centered.



D.

Barriers and Strategies in Addressing CSEC



D. Barriers and Strategies in Addressing CSEC

Identifying children who are victims of CSEC remains one of the most significant challenges for agencies, service providers, and law enforcement. A central obstacle is the lack of consistent education, training, and awareness among those most likely to encounter these youth. The hidden nature of this crime further complicates detection. Using standardized screening tools or incorporating a universal education approach, as well as trauma-informed interviewing techniques, identification rates can be improved.⁵⁵

Survivors often return to exploitative situations, making continuity of care essential. Stable housing, counseling, medical and mental health care, education, financial resources, and family support are all critical components of a successful exit from exploitation.

Prevention also plays a pivotal role. A victim-centered prevention strategy begins by identifying youth at heightened risk, such as those in foster care, child welfare or juvenile justice system, runaway, LGBTQ2S+, or children with a history of abuse, and connecting them to services before exploitation occurs.

Training

One of the most significant barriers in Hawai‘i, and nationally, is the lack of consistent, role-specific training. National research indicates that gaps in training directly affect the identification rates and follow-through on cases. Trauma from exploitation can cause victims to deny, minimize, or rationalize their abuse. Without training in trauma-informed interviewing and culturally responsive engagement, frontline workers may inadvertently retraumatize victims or fail to build trust.

Expanding and standardizing training in Hawai‘i would help ensure that every individual who encounters a vulnerable youth has the knowledge and tools to identify exploitation and connect survivors with support services.

⁵⁵ Simich, L. (2014, June). *Out of the shadows: A tool for the identification of victims of human trafficking* [Research summary]. <https://vera-institute.files.svcdn.com/production/downloads/publications/human-trafficking-identification-tool-summary-v2.pdf>

Screening

An obstacle in Hawaii's response to CSEC is the uncertainty surrounding mandated reporting and the use of screening practices. Once Child Welfare Services receives a call to the Child Trafficking Hotline, it conducts the initial screening. A referral is then made to the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program for assessment, followed by case management by the program and further referral to CJC and law enforcement, if warranted.

Some professionals are unaware of the Child Trafficking Hotline and their obligations as mandated reporters. In addition, service providers and hospitals may have their own screening tools, or none at all. Thus, potentially trafficked children may be missed or misclassified, creating gaps in protection and delaying access to services.

Fear, Coercion, and Mistrust of Authorities

A barrier to identifying and assisting survivors of CSEC is the pervasive climate of fear, coercion, and mistrust that traffickers deliberately create. Traffickers frequently threaten victims to maintain control.

Fear of law enforcement compounds these challenges. For some, the fear of arrest for offenses they were coerced into committing further suppresses their willingness to disclose. Survivors also experience trauma symptoms, such as hypervigilance, shame, non-linear memory recall, loss of time, and distrust that can make disclosure difficult.

The consequences of these dynamics are profound. Underreporting and lack of cooperation with authorities weaken the ability of government agencies and law enforcement to hold traffickers accountable. At the same time, survivors are left without access to the legal aid, financial restitution, and long-term support necessary for recovery, reintegration, and healing.

Public Awareness

Public awareness is an essential tool for preventing and responding to CSEC. Broad anti-trafficking campaigns increase visibility on the surface; still, they do not always reach places where children are most at risk. Misconceptions also create barriers. Many people still see child exploitation as something that happens elsewhere, not in Hawai'i. Others confuse trafficking with "bad choices" by youth, rather than recognizing it as abuse and a crime against children.

For Hawai'i, strengthening public awareness on CSEC means moving beyond broad messaging and investing in targeted, culturally grounded approaches.

Resources and Services

One significant challenge is the lack of adequate, safe, trauma-informed housing for victims and survivors. Emergency shelter beds for CSEC victims are severely limited, while longer-term housing options, such as transitional or permanent supportive housing, are scarce. Specialized housing for particularly vulnerable groups, including LGBTQ2S+ youth, pregnant or parenting survivors, is nearly nonexistent. Survivors often face the impossible choice of returning to unsafe environments, increasing their risk of re-exploitation.

Another challenge for victims and survivors is limited access to long-term, wraparound care. In Hawai'i, most programs are designed for short-term interventions. However, survivors often require years of trauma-informed care and stability to recover and remain engaged with services and/or legal proceedings.

Survivors on neighbor islands face particularly steep barriers due to thinner provider networks, fewer specialized services, and longer wait times for critical support. Rural communities on each island also report shortages of trained staff and culturally responsive services, leaving survivors isolated and without meaningful access to help.

Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Language, and Cultural Barriers

Human trafficking does not affect all communities equally in Hawai'i. Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander survivors are disproportionately represented among identified cases, and the systemic inequities that contribute to this disparity also shape how government agencies, law enforcement, and service providers can respond. A 2020 study by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and Arizona State University found that 64% of trafficking survivors identified in Hawai'i were Native Hawaiian.⁵⁶ This overrepresentation is rooted in long-standing inequities, including intergenerational poverty, high incarceration rates, and historical and generational trauma. These systemic harms create conditions of vulnerability, making these communities more susceptible to exploitation.

These realities create barriers to building trust and providing effective services. Many survivors may feel alienated by systems that have historically marginalized them. This

⁵⁶ Roe-Sepowitz, D., & Jabola-Carolus, K. (2020). *Sex trafficking in Hawai'i: Part III. Sex trafficking experiences across Hawai'i* (pp. 5–6) [Research report]. Arizona State University & Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women. https://socialwork.asu.edu/sites/g/files/litvpz286/files/2022-08/final_report_sex_trafficking_in_hawaii_part_iii_0.pdf

mismatch limits participation in services and weakens the ability of agencies to hold offenders accountable when victims and survivors disengage.

Language and cultural access present another significant barrier. Hawaii's diverse population includes large immigrant and visitor communities, many of whom face language barriers that prevent them from seeking help or cooperating with investigations.

Data

A persistent barrier to effectively addressing CSEC in Hawai'i is the lack of coordinated, reliable, and comprehensive data. While government agencies, law enforcement, and service providers all collect information on trafficking cases, the systems they use are often siloed and use inconsistent methodology.

Hawai'i faces the added complexity of multiple islands and county-based systems, making coordination even more challenging. Without standardized protocols, policies, procedures, and definitions, it is nearly impossible to track trends across the State or evaluate whether interventions are effective.

Privacy rules and ethical considerations add another layer of difficulty. Agencies are rightfully cautious about sharing sensitive information, but without privacy-protecting agreements and clear data-sharing protocols, agencies are left working in isolation.

Other jurisdictions have demonstrated that better data systems can improve outcomes. Where cross-agency agreements exist, states are better equipped to monitor trafficking trends, identify at-risk populations, and evaluate the effectiveness of services.

Funding and Staffing

A significant barrier to effectively addressing CSEC in Hawai'i lies in the persistent shortage of funding and staffing. Many organizations operate on short-term grants or unstable funding cycles, making it challenging to provide the long-term, trauma-informed services that survivors need. Housing, behavioral and mental health treatment, legal advocacy, and vocational support are all areas where demand far exceeds capacity.

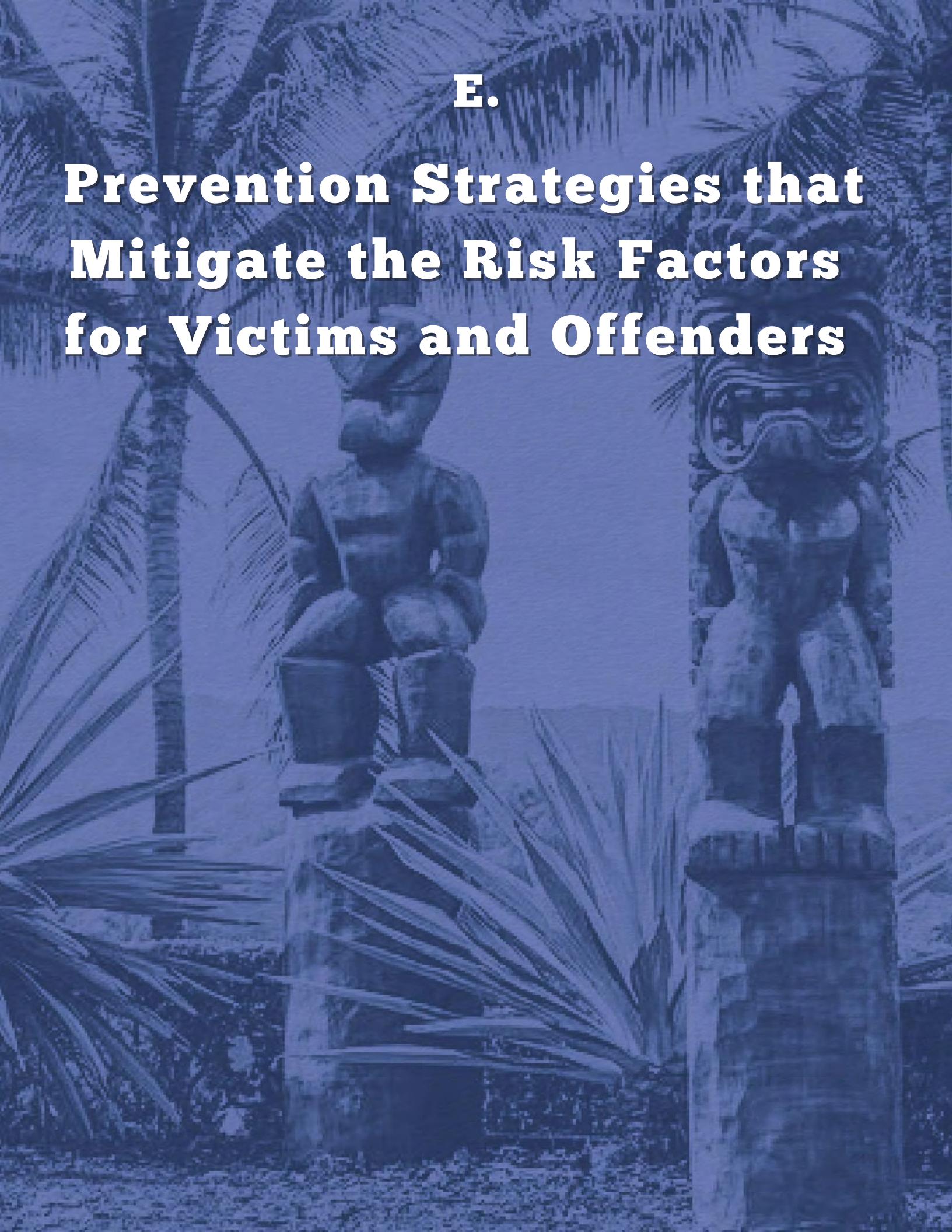
Workforce capacity presents an equally pressing challenge. High caseloads, limited staffing, and frequent staff turnover, often due to low salaries and vicarious trauma, mean that victims encounter a fragmented response.

The strain on providers has intensified in recent years, partly due to government contract rates that are set below the true costs of providing services. Service providers often rely on private donations and fundraising to provide these services to victims and survivors, which is limited especially during economic downturns.



E.

Prevention Strategies that Mitigate the Risk Factors for Victims and Offenders



E. Prevention Strategies that Mitigate the Risk Factors for Victims and Offenders

CSEC in Hawai'i is shaped by a combination of long-standing social challenges and the islands' unique cultural, geographic, and economic landscape. A strong prevention strategy requires a multi-layered approach. Two tools, the Spectrum of Prevention and the Nine Principles of Effective Prevention Programs, provide Hawai'i with a practical and research-informed roadmap.

The **Spectrum of Prevention**⁵⁷ emphasizes that prevention is not just education; it requires coordinated action across six levels.

1. **Influencing Policy and Legislation** means ensuring strong protective laws, sustainable funding, and mandated prevention education in schools.
2. **Changing Organizational Practices** ensures that institutions like hospitals and schools adopt trauma-informed, survivor-centered protocols.
3. **Fostering Coalitions and Task Forces** builds multi-sector partnerships, elevates survivor leadership, and strengthens collaboration.
4. **Educating Providers** equips teachers, health care workers, and first responders to recognize red flags and connect youth with help.
5. **Promoting Community Education** engages the public through campaigns and industry partnerships to reduce demand and increase awareness.
6. **Strengthening Individual Knowledge and Skills** empowers children and families with prevention programs that build resilience and protective factors.

While the Spectrum of Prevention tells us *where* to act, the Nine Principles of Effective Prevention Programs remind us *how* to make those efforts last.⁵⁸

Nine Principles of Effective Prevention Programs

1. **Comprehensive Services** - Programs and services must be working across multiple settings, schools, families, and communities.
2. **Varied Teaching Methods** - combining skills practice, role-playing, and interactive learning rather than relying only on lectures.
3. **Sufficient Dosage** - include repeated, sustained exposure over time.
4. **Theory Driven** – research- and evidence-based programs to reduce exploitation risk and increase protection.
5. **Positive Relationships** - prevention should build trust between youth and adults who can guide and protect them.
6. **Appropriately Timed Interventions** - starting in early childhood and continuing through adolescence.

⁵⁷ Prevention Institute. (n.d.). *The spectrum of prevention*.

<https://www.preventioninstitute.org/tools/spectrum-prevention-0>

⁵⁸ Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs. (n.d.). *The 9 principles of prevention*.

<https://www.wcsap.org/prevention/concepts/9-principles-prevention>

7. **Socio-Culturally Relevant** - tailoring approaches to diverse communities, including Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and rural populations.
8. **Outcome Evaluation** - strategies are continuously assessed, improved, and held accountable for real impact.
9. **Well-Trained Staff** - not only in knowledge but also in cultural humility, trauma-informed care, and survivor-centered approaches.

Integrating Both Frameworks

SPECTRUM OF PREVENTION	INFLUENCING POLICY AND LEGISLATION
Goal	Strengthen legal frameworks and policies to support the prevention of CSEC and the protection of its victims.
How it Reduces Victim Risk	Guarantees consistent protection for all children
How it Reduces Offender Risk	Regulates accountability structures that deter buyers
Action Steps	Review and analyze current legislation and identify gaps. Propose funding for survivor services. Mandate prevention education in schools.
Nine Principles of Prevention	Theory-Driven Outcome Evaluation Well-Trained Staff

SPECTRUM OF PREVENTION	CHANGING ORGANIZATION PRACTICES
Goal	Institutionalize policies and procedures to prevent and respond to CSEC. Embed trauma-informed and culturally relevant practices.
How it Reduces Victim Risk	Safer schools and agencies, lower exposure to exploitation opportunities.
How it Reduces Offender Risk	Buyer diversion and education programs reduce recidivism and future demand.
Action Steps	Conduct assessments to identify gaps in current practices and procedures. Integrate survivor-informed policies. Implement CSEC protocols.
Nine Principles of Prevention	Well-Trained Staff Sufficient Dosage

SPECTRUM OF PREVENTION		FOSTERING COALITIONS AND TASK FORCES
Goal	Strengthen collaboration to create a unified approach to CSEC and to prevent duplication and close service gaps.	
How it Reduces Victim Risk	Provides a seamless safety net so youth do not fall through the cracks.	
How it Reduces Offender Risk	Shared accountability ensures consistent response to offenders.	
Action Steps	<p>Facilitate regular meetings to coordinate efforts and share best practices.</p> <p>Develop data sharing agreements.</p>	
Nine Principles of Prevention	<p>Comprehensive Services</p> <p>Positive Relationships</p> <p>Outcome Evaluation</p>	

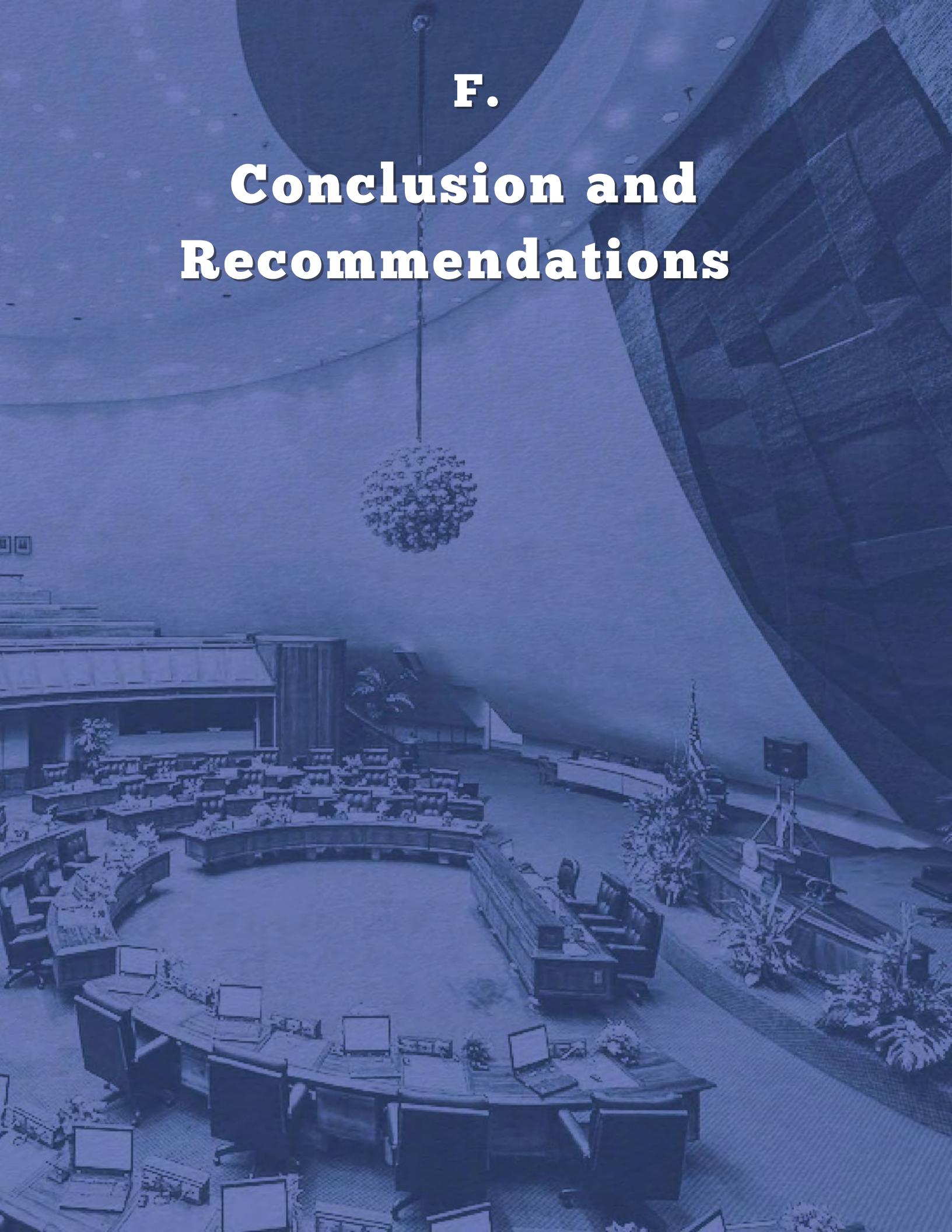
SPECTRUM OF PREVENTION		EDUCATING PROVIDERS
Goal	Equip professionals with the knowledge and tools to identify and respond to CSEC.	
How it Reduces Victim Risk	Ensures early identification of at-risk youth.	
How it Reduces Offender Risk	Early intervention.	
Action Steps	<p>Collaborate with professional associations to integrate CSEC training into continuing education requirements.</p> <p>Deliver ongoing trainings.</p>	
Nine Principles of Prevention	<p>Varied Teaching Methods</p> <p>Sufficient Dosage</p> <p>Well-Trained Staff</p>	

SPECTRUM OF PREVENTION		PROMOTING COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Goal		Increase public awareness and community engagement.
How it Reduces Victim Risk		Expands knowledge and awareness to recognize red flags and reporting.
How it Reduces Offender Risk		Raises community awareness of buyer activity, increasing deterrence.
Action Steps		Create a Human Trafficking Prevention Program website. Create resource materials. Deliver anti-trafficking presentations in the community.
Nine Principles of Prevention		Varied Teaching Methods Appropriately Timed Interventions Socio-Culturally Relevant

SPECTRUM OF PREVENTION		Strengthening Individual Knowledge and Skills
Goal		Empower individuals with knowledge and skills to recognize, avoid, prevent, and respond to CSEC.
How it Reduces Victim Risk		Equips youth to recognize grooming and avoid risky situations.
How it Reduces Offender Risk		Early intervention with youth decreases likelihood of future offending.
Action Steps		Integrate CSEC topics into existing health or safety education programs. Peer-to-peer education – youth advisory council.
Nine Principles of Prevention		Appropriately Timed Interventions Positive Relationships Sufficient Dosage

F.

Conclusion and Recommendations



F. Conclusion and Recommendations

Hawai‘i is at a critical point in its fight against CSEC. Over the last decade, state agencies, law enforcement, the judiciary, and nonprofit partners have developed a network of prevention, intervention, and recovery services. Victims are now more likely than ever to be identified and supported.

At the same time, significant gaps still exist. Short-term grants and underfunded government contracts limit services. Workforce turnover, secondary trauma, and the lack of statewide use or consistency in screening tools and referral pathways weaken the safety net for children and youth at risk.

Hawai‘i could build a comprehensive, coordinated response to CSEC that both protects victims and prevents future exploitation. By investing in cross-sector training, trauma-informed screening and assessment, public awareness, collaborative partnerships, data-driven strategies, and sustainable funding, the State can create a safety net that is responsive and resilient.

Investing in this response not only ensures traffickers are held accountable but also gives survivors the resources and support they need to heal, rebuild, and thrive. When layered prevention strategies, such as the Spectrum of Prevention and the Nine Principles of Effective Prevention Programs, are used together, Hawai‘i gains a roadmap that is both comprehensive and culturally sensitive. These frameworks ensure that prevention is not fragmented but integrated into every level, from policy to community education to individual empowerment.

Recommendations

1. Strengthen Coordination and Collaborations

CSEC Steering Committee

- Replicate similar regional committees on other islands to build consistent responses and share lessons learned across counties.
- Create a statewide protocol and communication network so that members are informed on the agencies and their responsibilities, as well as the opportunities to share resources, best practices, and data.
- Develop consistent training standards, statewide protocols, and policy recommendations.
- Include healthcare providers to address the physical health needs of the victims and victim advocates to offer support and resources to the victims.
- Invite survivor voices and culturally specific organizations to attend as guests to ensure responses are trauma-informed and culturally responsive.

MDTs

- Include healthcare providers, including those serving high-risk populations.
- Implement regular training and cross-training sessions to ensure all members are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills to handle CSEC cases effectively.

Advisory Councils

- Create Survivor and Youth Advisory Councils to ensure lived experience guides policy and peer-to-peer education increases awareness.

2. Improve Identification & Data Systems

- Implement standardized screening tools tailored for educators, healthcare, first responders, law enforcement, and service providers, based on what tool is best suited for each sector.
- Build a secure, statewide system for data collection and sharing across agencies and providers.

3. Expand Prevention, Awareness & Training

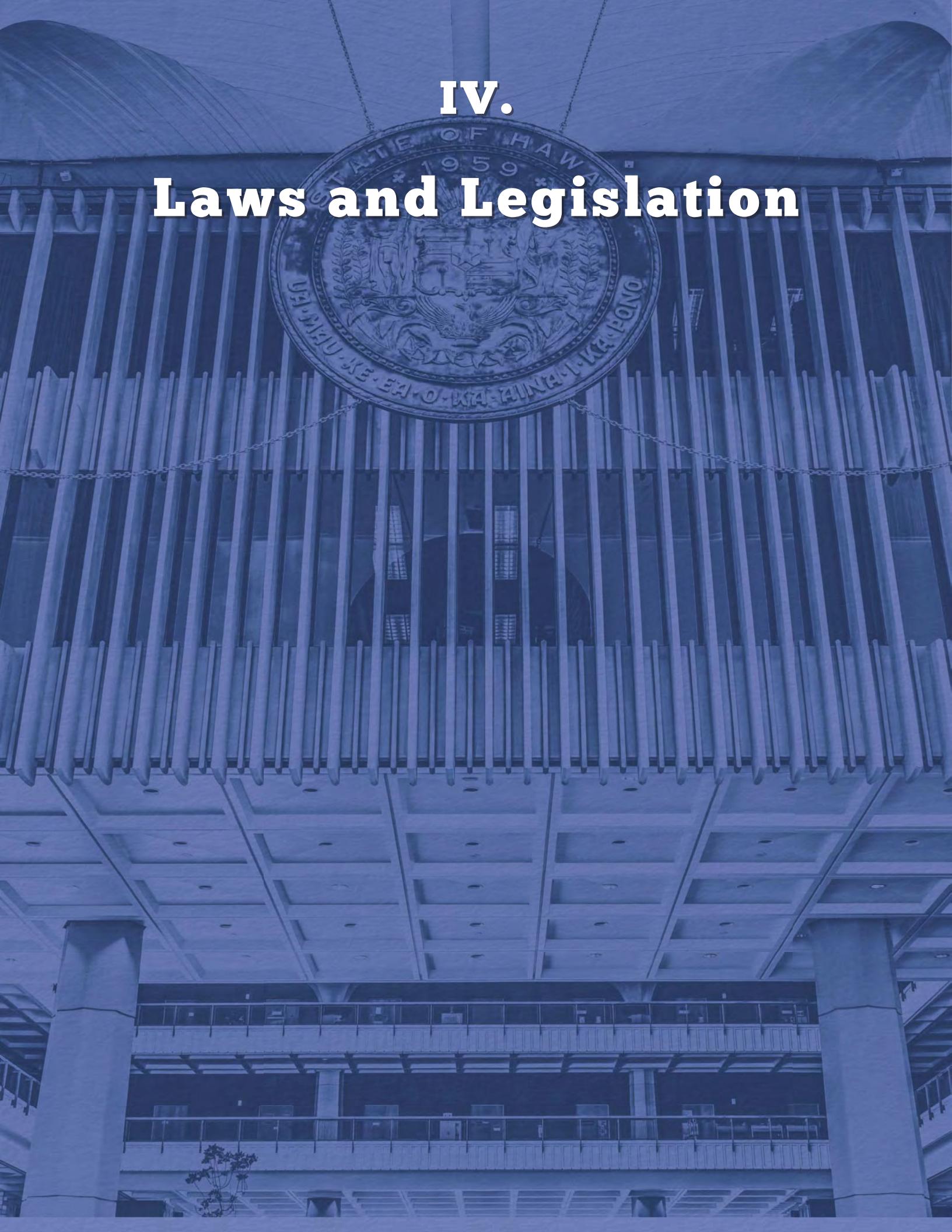
- Increase statewide prevention campaigns.
- Require educators, healthcare, first responders, law enforcement, service providers, and mandated reporters to complete mandatory training.
- Support ongoing community education, “Talk Story” events, and culturally grounded outreach.

4. Strengthen Services & Safety Nets

- Provide sustainable funding for victim services, coalition, and task forces.
- Invest in shelters and treatment facilities to provide trauma-informed, survivor-centered care.
- Ensure basic needs: housing, food security, healthcare, and mental health care access.

IV.

Laws and Legislation



IV. Laws and Legislation

In recent years, the Hawai‘i State Legislature has made considerable strides in strengthening the law enforcement response to CSEC. These efforts have included enhancing investigative capabilities, improving interagency coordination, and increasing efficiency for prosecution. However, recent judicial rulings have created legal precedents that limit the effectiveness of current laws in securing successful prosecutions against traffickers.

» A. Current Law

S – “Survivors” / P – “Pimps” / J – “Johns”

Sections of Hawaii Revised Statutes	Prohibited Conduct	Target Population			Grade of Offense
		S	P	J	
§712-1200(1) Prostitution	“engages in, or agrees or offers to engage in sexual conduct with another for a fee”	X			Petty Misdemeanor; Violation if the offender is a minor
§712-1200.5 Commercial Sexual Exploitation	“provides, agrees to provide, or offers to provide a fee to another to engage in sexual conduct”			X	Petty Misdemeanor
§712-1202 Sex Trafficking	“(a) advances prostitution by compelling or inducing a person by force, threat, fraud, coercion, or intimidation to engage in prostitution, or profits from such conduct by another; or (b) advances or profits from prostitution of a minor”		X		Class A
§712-1203 Promoting Prostitution	“advances or profits from prostitution”		X		Class B
§712-1206(2) Loitering for the Purpose of Engaging in or Advancing Prostitution	“remains or wanders about in a public place and repeatedly beckons to or repeatedly stops, or repeatedly attempts to stop, or repeatedly attempts to engage passers-by in conversation, or repeatedly stops or attempts to stop motor vehicles, or repeatedly interferes with the free passage of other persons for the purpose of committing the crime of prostitution”	X		X	Violation
§712-1206(3) Loitering for the Purpose of Engaging in or Advancing Prostitution	“remains or wanders about in a public place and repeatedly beckons to, or repeatedly stops, or repeatedly attempts to engage passers-by in conversation, or repeatedly stops or attempts to stop motor vehicles, or repeatedly interferes with the free passage of other persons for the purpose of committing the crime of advancing prostitution”		X		Petty Misdemeanor

Sections of Hawaii Revised Statutes	Prohibited Conduct	Target Population			Grade of Offense
		S	P	J	
§712-1207(1)(b) or (2)(b) Street Prostitution and Commercial Sexual Exploitation; Designated Areas	“within the boundaries of Waikiki (or other areas designed by county ordinance as designated areas) and while on any public property to: provide, agree to provide, or offer to provide a fee to another person to engage in sexual conduct”			X	Petty Misdemeanor + mandatory 30 days jail or geographic restrictions
§712-1208 Promoting Travel for Prostitution	“sells or offers to sell travel services that include or facilitate travel for the purpose of engaging in what would be prostitution if occurring in the state”		X	X	Class C
§712-1209 Commercial Sexual Exploitation near Schools or Public Parks	“within 750 feet of a school or public park, the person provides, agrees to provide, or offers or provide a fee to another person to engage in sexual conduct”			X	Misdemeanor
§712-1209.1 Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor	“(a) offers or agrees to provide anything of value to a law enforcement officer who represents that person's self as a minor to engage in sexual conduct; (b) provides anything of value to a minor or third person as compensation for having engaged in sexual conduct with a minor; (c) agrees to provide or offers to provide anything of value to a minor or third person for the purpose of engaging in sexual conduct with a minor; or (d) solicits, offers to engage in, or requests to engage in sexual conduct with a minor in return for anything of value”			X	Class B + mandatory fine of no less than \$5,000
§712-1209.5 Habitual Commercial Sexual Exploitation	“had two or more convictions of Commercial Sexual Exploitation within 10 years, and provides, agrees to provide, or offers to provide a fee to another person to engage in sexual conduct”			X	Class C
§707-756 Electronic Enticement of a Child in the First Degree	“using a computer or electronic device, communicates with a minor with the intent to promote or facilitate the commission of a felony that is a sexual offense, agrees to meet with the minor and travels to the agreed upon meeting place at the agreed upon meeting time”			X	Class B; mandatory 10 years prison

»» B. Recent Legislation

Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2023

Section 2 of Act 83, SLH 2023, which was codified as section 28-182, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), created the Human Trafficking Prevention Program within the Department of the Attorney General.

SIPD took on the responsibility of implementing the program. The Human Trafficking Prevention Program is a comprehensive initiative dedicated to addressing the complex and multifaceted needs of human trafficking victims. Its mission is to develop and execute statewide strategies that effectively prevent trafficking, support survivors, and mobilize communities in the fight against trafficking.

Act 244, SLH 2024

Act 244, SLH 2024 made amendments to section 712-1215, HRS. Since 2019, the Department of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force regularly conducts Operation Keiki Shield, where undercover law enforcement officers pose as minors on the internet to identify, locate, arrest, and prosecute offenders who solicit minors to engage in sexual activities. Offenders often send pornographic materials electronically to the undercover officers; however, before Act 44, SLH 2024, the offense of promoting pornography for minors did not specifically account for undercover operations.

Act 244, SLH 2024, drafted by SIPD, specifically enabled prosecution under this scenario.

SECTION 2. Section 712-1215, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (1) to read as follows:

“(1) A person commits the offense of promoting pornography for minors if:

- (a) Knowing its character and content, the person disseminates to a minor material [which] that is pornographic for minors; [or]
- (b) Knowing its character and content, the person disseminates material that is pornographic for minors to a law enforcement officer who represents that officer's self as a minor; or
- [b] (c) Knowing the character and content of a motion picture film or other performance [which] that, in whole or in part, is pornographic for minors, the person:
 - (i) Exhibits such the motion picture film or other performance to a minor;
 - (ii) Sells to a minor an admission ticket or pass to premises where there is exhibited or to be exhibited such the motion picture film or other performance; or
 - (iii) Admits a minor to premises where there is exhibited or to be exhibited such the motion picture film or other performance.”

Act 9, SLH 2025

To further enhance the efficacy of the Operation Keiki Shield, the Legislature has identified the need for timely prosecutorial action. Following the enactment of Act 244, SLH 2024, SIPD drafted Act 9, SLH 2025. This legislation amended section 806-83, HRS, authorizing the offense of promoting pornography for minors to be charged via felony information – a procedural change that eliminates the need for preliminary hearings or grand jury indictments in certain cases.

Act 20, SLH 2025

The Legislature found that in addition to criminal sanctions, civil liability also serves as a powerful deterrent and is an invaluable tool to fully address human trafficking and CSEC. Civil actions empower survivors to seek justice and compensation, while also holding accountable those who may evade criminal prosecution.

Act 20, SLH 2025 amended chapter 663J, HRS. The key provisions of Act 20 are:

- Expansion of civil liability: authorizing survivors to bring civil claims against a broad range of defendants, including individuals, businesses, and business owners and operators who profited from sex trafficking or sexual exploitation.
- Extension of the statute of limitations: extending the statute of limitations for filing civil claims to ten years. This change provides a more reasonable window to seek redress and hold perpetrators accountable.

Act 261, SLH 2025

Act 261, SLH 2025 established safe harbor protections for survivors of sexual exploitation, shielding them from prosecution for related offenses when seeking medical or law enforcement assistance. It reflects a growing recognition that survivors often face significant barriers to seeking help, including fear of criminalization. By shielding victims from prosecution in circumstances directly tied to their exploitation, the law encourages them to seek help without fear of legal repercussions.

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

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

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

(c) Otherwise be penalized,

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

»» **C. State v. Ibarra and “Profits from Prostitution”**

The Legislature has undertaken significant efforts since the 2010s to reduce and combat sex trafficking in the State and provide stronger protections for those who were victimized. In 2016, the enactment of Act 206, SLH 2016, established the current statutory framework governing sex trafficking related offenses. Key definitions are included in section 712-1201, HRS, as follows:

- (1) A person **“advances prostitution”** if the person knowingly causes or aids a person to commit or engage in prostitution, procures or solicits patrons for prostitution, provides persons for prostitution purposes, permits premises to be regularly used for prostitution purposes, operates or assists in the operation of a house of prostitution or a prostitution enterprise, or engages in any other conduct designed to institute, aid, or facilitate an act or enterprise of prostitution;
- (2) A person **“profits from prostitution”** if the person accepts or receives money, anything of value, or other property pursuant to an agreement or understanding with any person whereby the person participates or is to participate in the proceeds of prostitution activity.

In *State v. Ibarra*, 526 P.3d 575 (Haw. 2023), the Hawaii Supreme Court interpreted the definition for “profits from prostitution” and concluded that this definition did not encompass situations in which the proceeds received, albeit pursuant to an agreement

that the proceeds were from prostitution activities, were deemed to be repayments of a debt. In his dissent, Chief Justice Recktenwald cautioned that the majority holding created a loophole for human traffickers, particularly given that debt bondage is one of the most common schemes and tactics traffickers employ. As he observed:

While the majority's interpretation of HRS § 712-1701(2) would result in *Ibarra*'s acquittal, that approach risks making it more difficult to prosecute traffickers who coerce their victims using loans. Traffickers employ a variety of business models to keeping their victims tethered to them financially. Often, the targets of traffickers have a pressing need for money, lodging, for illicit substances, or to cross a border. The trafficker provides funds or assistance, and the trafficked victim agrees to repay the trafficker from the proceeds of the victim's prostitution. However, the loan proves prohibitively difficult to repay, and the victim is trapped in a coercive dynamic.

Id., at 587 (Recktenwald, C.J., dissenting)

In response to the concerns raised in *Ibarra*, there is a clear need to clarify the sex trafficking and promoting prostitution criminal offense statutes. Specifically, the definition should be amended to make clear that "profiting" does not require a net gain or financial surplus and should not exclude scenarios where the proceeds received are merely categorized as reimbursement or debt repayment. This clarification would ensure that traffickers who receive proceeds of prostitution under the guise of loan repayment do not escape liability.

v.

DATA



V. Data

» A. Data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline

From 2020 to 2024, Hawai'i reported a steady stream of signals⁵⁹ or messages (such as calls, texts, online reports, web chats, emails) to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. There are no significant trends throughout those years. It should be noted that sex trafficking remains the overwhelming majority of these signals; and the number of females overshadows males.

Adults made up the majority of victims (19–39 each year); minors were consistently present, with 12 children in 2023 and 13 children in 2024.

Most Hotline cases involved reporting a tip, but over time, they also involved more complex services, such as referrals (up to 16 in 2024) and crisis assistance. This indicates that victims and communities are both reporting and seeking assistance, underscoring the need for robust referral pathways to providers, shelters, and law enforcement.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Signals Received by the Hotline from Hawai'i	114	89	145	103	161
Cases Identified	40	31	36	29	55
Number of Victims Involved	96	51	68	49	96
TYPES OF TRAFFICKING					
Sex	28	24	27	17	32
Sex and Labor	0	0	3	6	12
Labor	6	0	3	3	7
Other	0	4	0	0	0

⁵⁹ The National Human Trafficking Hotline uses the term “signal” to refer to any contact or tip received through various channels, including phone calls, texts, emails, or online reports.

PRIMARY REQUEST					
Report a trafficking tip	26	21	23	19	38
Service referrals	0	5	12	9	16
Crisis Assistance	0	5	0	0	0
CASE DEMOGRAPHICS					
18+	22	25	25	19	39
<18	6	5	8	12	13
Female	29	25	27	22	43
Male	3	7	6	5	6

» B. Data from Susannah Wesley Community Center

Because all suspected child trafficking and CSEC cases go to Susannah Wesley Community Center, as contracted by the State, it maintains the most accurate data. Between Fiscal Year (FY) 20-21 and FY 24-25, the overwhelming majority of suspected referrals were sex trafficking cases (24–66 annually), while labor trafficking remained rarely reported (0–5 annually).

Confirmed cases⁶⁰ were highest in FY 20-21⁶¹ (28) but declined steadily to just 13 in FY 24-25.⁶² CSEC made up a significant share with a peak of 15 in FY 22-23, fluctuating between 10 and 15, before dropping sharply to only 2 in FY 24-25. Very few labor trafficking cases were confirmed, which might suggest that labor trafficking is more complex to detect and underreported compared to sex trafficking.

⁶⁰ Confirmation often does not correlate with the referral in the same fiscal year, due to challenges in locating clients and/or delayed disclosure. For instance, a client could be referred in FY 21-22 and not be recovered and confirmed until FY 23-24.

⁶¹ Due to updates in Susannah Wesley Community Center’s data collection system in 2021, the FY 20-21 data includes cases that remained unresolved at the time of the system transition. As a result, the FY 20-21 dataset contains several “carryover” cases and are so noted.

⁶² While this may appear as a significant drop, it is more likely due to the time required to formally confirm cases of trafficking. TVAP follows a trauma-informed, victim-centered approach in which self-disclosure is never pressured. As a result, this number is expected to increase once all cases have been fully confirmed.

Patterns observed here include a high referral-to-confirmation gap. This suggests difficulties in evidence collection, inconsistent use of validated screening tools and/or assessments, or barriers to victim disclosure.

	FY 20-21 (carryover)	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
Number of Referrals (suspected) TOTAL	25	70	57	65	52
Number of Referrals (suspected) Sex	24	66	56	59	48
Number of Referrals (suspected) Labor	0	4	0	5	2
Number of Referrals (suspected) Sex & Labor	1	0	1	1	2
<hr/>					
Number confirmed TOTAL	28	23	23	23	13
Number confirmed Sex	8	5	2	4	6
Number confirmed Labor	0	2	0	1	0
Number confirmed CSEC	10	12	15	12	2
Number confirmed CSEC & Sex	8	4	6	4	5
Number confirmed Sex & Labor	1	0	0	2	0
Number confirmed CSEC, Sex & Labor	1	0	0	0	0
<hr/>					

1. Demographic Information on Confirmed Cases

At the referral stage, no standardized protocol governs the entry of demographic data, resulting in frequent omissions or inaccuracies. Demographic data is verified only when cases are confirmed. To avoid unintentional bias in the findings, this report includes and analyzes demographic information only for confirmed cases, unless otherwise specified.

ETHNICITY

- **Native Hawaiian/Part-Hawaiian** make up the largest share of confirmed cases.
- **Caucasian/White** consistently appear in the data, ranging from 2 to 6 cases annually.
- **Filipino and Micronesian** show modest but persistent numbers (1–3 cases per year). These steady counts suggest ongoing vulnerabilities in these communities.
- **Japanese, Korean, and Southeast Asian** are rarely represented in the confirmed data, which could indicate under-identification or systemic barriers to case confirmation rather than the absence of harm.

ETHNICITY	FY 20-21 (carryover)	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
African American	0	1	0	0	1
Caucasian	5	5	2	4	6
Filipino	0	0	1	3	2
Hawaiian/Part-Hawaiian	21	13	11	11	1
Hispanic/Latino	0	0	2	2	0
Japanese	0	0	0	0	0
Korean	0	0	0	0	0
Micronesian	1	2	2	1	1
Multiple ethnicities (Not Part-Hawaiian)	1	1	5	0	1
Samoan	0	0	0	1	1
Southeast Asian	0	1	0	1	0
TOTALS	28	23	23	23	13

AGE

Early Adolescence (Ages 10–13)

Confirmed cases are relatively few among younger adolescents. This pattern indicates that while exploitation can start in early adolescence, it is less often confirmed. However, children in this age bracket often lack the vocabulary or confidence to report any abuse, which can hinder confirmation.

Mid-to-Late Adolescence (Ages 14–17)

Most confirmed cases tend to involve children in the mid-teen years.

- Age 14 consistently shows 2–6 confirmed cases annually.
- Age 16 consistently shows the highest counts across the dataset.

This concentration among ages 14–17 shows adolescents in this stage are at the highest risk for exploitation, likely due to independence, peer pressures, and online and in-person recruitment tactics.

AGE AT START OF SERVICES	FY 20-21 (carryover)	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
10	0	0	1	0	0
11	0	0	1	1	0
12	2	0	4	2	0
13	4	0	4	2	2
14	6	2	2	3	3
15	7	6	2	5	3
16	7	7	5	7	2
17	2	7	4	3	3
18	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	28	23	23	23	13

GENDER

Female Youth

Female-identifying youth constitute most confirmed cases each year, ranging from 25 in FY 20-21 to 12 in FY 24-25.

Male Youth

Male-confirmed cases are rare, with only 1–2 each year and none in FY 24-25. These low numbers probably reflect under-reporting rather than an absence of trafficking among boys. Male victims tend to be less visible due to stigma, stereotypes, and reluctance to disclose.

Transgender and Gender-Diverse Youth

Transgender females (male-to-female) are reported in the data each year from FY 22-23 to FY 24-25, with one confirmed case annually. This highlights the vulnerability of transgender girls. Other or non-conforming genders appear only twice. This suggests potential data improvements or continued underreporting.

GENDER	FY 20-21 (carryover)	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
Female	25	21	19	20	12
Male	1	2	2	2	0
Other (e.g., gender non-conforming, unidentified)	2	0	1	0	0
Transgender Female (Male to Female)	0	0	1	1	1
Transgender Male (Female to Male)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	28	23	23	23	13

ISLAND

O'ahu consistently reports the highest number of confirmed cases. As the most populated and urbanized island, O'ahu remains the main hub of trafficking activity.

The Island of Hawai'i (East/West Hawai'i) shows sharp fluctuations, from just one case in FY 22-23 to a peak of 8 cases in FY 23-24. The rise could be due to improved detection and reporting, possibly through stronger collaboration between local service providers and law enforcement.

Maui has a modest but notable presence in the data. The spike to 5 cases in FY 22-23 suggests either increased detection or a localized surge in trafficking activity.

Kaua'i has small numbers, but it could suggest underreporting due to the island's size, cultural dynamics and stigma, and possible gaps in detection capacity.

ISLAND	FY 20-21 (carryover)	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
East/West Hawai'i	3	3	1	8	5
Kaua'i	0	1	1	0	0
Maui	1	1	5	2	0
Moloka'i	0	0	0	0	0
O'ahu	23	18	16	13	8
U.S. Continent, Territories	1	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	28	23	23	23	13

ZIP CODE⁶³

O‘ahu continues to account for most confirmed cases:

- 96706 ('Ewa Beach) stands out as a consistent hotspot, appearing every fiscal year.
- 96792 (Wai‘anae) also stands out, with confirmed cases reported in FY 21-22, FY 22-23, and FY 23-24.
- 96789 (Mililani) and 96734 (Kailua) appear repeatedly.

The Island of Hawai‘i also has a strong presence in confirmed cases.

- 96720 (Hilo) appears repeatedly, reaching a peak of 6 confirmed cases in the carryover year, making it the highest single ZIP code count statewide that year.
- 96740 (Kailua Kona) consistently appears, emphasizing that trafficking happens on both sides of the island.

ZIP CODE	FY 20-21 (carryover)	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
96701 (Aiea)	2	2	0	0	0
96706 ('Ewa Beach)	2	4	2	5	1
96720 (Hilo)	6	1	0	1	1
96734 (Kailua)	1	1	1	2	1
96740 (Kailua Kona)	0	1	0	2	1
96786 (Wahiawa)	0	4	1	0	0
96789 (Mililani)	1	3	1	1	0
96792 (Wai‘anae)	1	1	2	3	0
96813 (Honolulu)	3	0	0	0	1
96917 (Honolulu)	2	0	0	2	1

⁶³ For the purposes of this analysis, we exclude aberrant or singular data and consider only ZIP codes with more than three (3+) confirmed cases. This approach helps protect the privacy of victims and prevents any inadvertent disclosure of their identities.

SCHOOLS⁶⁴

- **Wide-Spread but Uneven Reporting**

Referrals related to trafficking concerns came from a wide range of schools, including public schools, charter, and private schools.

- **Geographic and Community Variation**

Geographically, the data shows that trafficking concerns are not confined to one island or community.

Implications

- **Targeted school interventions:** Schools with higher referral rates could benefit from enhanced prevention programs, staff training, and partnerships with service providers. On the other hand, schools with higher referral rates could mean that staff have had some training to recognize exploitation in some form. Low confirmed numbers could mean not all referrals go through an assessment and interview to confirm trafficking. It could also mean parents or guardians have not given consent for youth to be assessed. Often, youth are not meeting with service providers, or they are on the run.
- **Data Gaps:** The “Unknown” category is large (24 referrals), highlighting challenges in tracking students who may be transient, unstably housed, or disconnected from institutions.

⁶⁴ For the purposes of this analysis, we exclude aberrant or singular data and consider only schools with more than three (3+) referrals from FY 20-21 through FY 24-25. This approach helps protect the privacy of victims and prevents any inadvertent disclosure of their identities.

SCHOOL NAME	REFERRALS	CONFIRMED
Aiea High	4	2
James Campbell High	9	1
HI Academy of Arts & Sci – PCS	3	2
Hilo High	5	4
Home Schooled	6	2
Kaiser High	3	1
Kalaheo High	4	0
Kalama Intermediate	4	3
Kalani High	3	1
Kapolei High	9	3
Keaau Elem	3	2
Keaau High	7	5
Keaau Middle	4	1
Kealakehe High	3	0
McKinley High	3	0
Royal Elem	3	0
Waianae High	3	2
Waipahu High	3	0
Unknown	24	3

2. Data on Services Provided by the State

TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED

This data presents the number of clients⁶⁵ assisted across various service types. The data indicates that the need for ongoing, stabilizing support is steadily increasing. Ongoing case management (from 40 to 64) and therapy (from 27 to 41) became more

⁶⁵ The term “client” refers to a child or youth who is a suspected or confirmed victim of CSEC and/or trafficking and is receiving services from the provider.

prominent, indicating a shift toward long-term healing rather than immediate crisis response.

Emotional support helped 23–31 clients annually, while criminal justice victim advocacy peaked in FY 23-24 (26) and FY 24-25 (25), indicating consistent need in these areas.

Finally, the rise in group and individual psycho-education and the implementation of screening and consultations by FY 23-24 show a focus on prevention and coordinated care.

Categories of Services:

- “Basic Needs” includes non-emergency support, i.e. food, clothing, hygiene products, bedding, etc.
- “Client Intake” includes completing consent forms and conducting a program orientation with the client.
- “Initial Assessment” is the trauma or comprehensive assessment used by Susannah Wesley Community Center to determine whether the client has experienced trafficking.
- “Criminal Justice Victim Advocacy” involves providing support, assistance, accompaniment, and advocacy to victims at any stage of the criminal justice process.
- “Crisis Intervention” refers to services that stabilize survivors during moments of danger or distress by ensuring their immediate safety, addressing urgent needs, and providing emotional support. It offers short-term planning and advocacy.
- “Emotional Support” involves helping clients cope by managing their emotions through reassurance and active listening.
- “Psycho-Education” involves informing the client or parents/caregivers about their trauma, which can be provided by a therapist or case manager.
- “Screening/General Consultation” is when a person discusses a particular client with Susannah Wesley Community Center, such as a Probation Officer or the client’s therapist.
- “Therapy” refers to therapy sessions provided by a licensed or trained therapist.

TYPES OF SERVICE	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
Basic Needs	2	2	15	11
Client Intake	12	4	14	16
Initial Assessment	22	35	30	20
Criminal Justice Victim Advocacy	11	12	26	25
Crisis Intervention	11	14	7	1
Emotional Support	23	31	27	29
Group Psycho- Education	3	0	10	11
House/Shelter Advocacy	11	11	3	2
Individual Psycho- Education	18	23	22	28
Medical	3	3	3	4
Ongoing Case Management	40	60	69	64
Screening/General Consultation	N/A	N/A	9	17
Interpreter Services	N/A	N/A	0	1
Transportation	6	24	14	14
Therapy	27	34	34	41
TOTAL	189	253	283	284

NUMBER OF OCCURRENCES BY SERVICE TYPE

Occurrences by service type show how often services were provided during the fiscal year. For example, if a client used case management 15 times in FY 23-24, that counts as 15. This helps identify which services clients rely on most.

TYPES OF SERVICE	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
Basic Needs	3	2	45	34
Client Intake	12	4	10	18
Initial Assessment	22	35	30	20
Criminal Justice Victim Advocacy	43	75	71	82
Crisis Intervention	26	26	9	2
Emotional Support	82	82	139	223
Group Psycho- Education	8	0	30	14
House/Shelter Advocacy	36	64	14	3
Individual Psycho- Education	29	70	98	131
Medical	4	3	7	8
Ongoing Case Management	398	823	688	583
Screening/General Consultation	N/A	N/A	12	28
Interpreter Services	N/A	N/A	0	1
Transportation	15	108	44	52
Mental Health SWCC	38	147	49	13
TOTAL	716	1439	1246	1212

MENTORSHIP SERVICES PROVIDED

This table shows the number of mentorship services provided to vulnerable youth across various service providers.

Hoʻōla Nā Pua/Pearl Haven has become the main provider. Smaller programs served only a few youth, and some data gaps remain (unknown providers served 7 clients), indicating that mentorship is happening, but unevenly and mainly dependent on a few key providers.

MENTORSHIP PROVIDERS	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	TOTAL
CAMHD	0	0	4	2	6
Epic 'Ohana Peer Partners	0	0	2	0	2
Hale Kipa	8	1	0	0	9
Hoʻōla Nā Pua/Pearl Haven	2	3	6	8	19
Kealahou	0	0	0	1	1
Kupu	1	0	0	0	1
NOSH	0	1	0	0	1
PACT	2	0	1	0	3
Sierra Sage Treatment Center, Nevada	0	0	2	0	2
Surf Rider Spirit Sessions	0	0	0	1	1
Youth Challenge	2	0	0	0	2
Unknown	2	0	2	3	7
TOTAL	17	5	16	15	53

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

A total of 179 mental health sessions were delivered to 55 clients between FY 21-22 and FY 24-25. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division accounted for 66 of those

sessions, increasing steadily each year. This trend indicates a growing reliance on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division as a key provider of youth mental health care.

Other providers played significant but smaller roles. Hoʻōla Nā Pua’s Pearl Haven conducted 28 sessions, demonstrating consistent involvement with higher-needs cases, while Hale Kipa provided 20 sessions over four years. PACT, private practice clinicians, and the Hawaiʻi Youth Correctional Facility also offered steady support.

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS	FY 21-22 NUMBER OF CLIENTS	FY 22-23 NUMBER OF CLIENTS	FY 23-24 NUMBER OF CLIENTS	FY 24-25 NUMBER OF CLIENTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS
“Big Island”	0	1	0	0	1
CAMHD	0	5	16	45	66
Catholic Charities	1	0	0	0	1
Detention Home (Home Maluhia)	0	1	0	0	1
Dr. Alex Felix	0	2	0	0	2
Dr. Annie	1	2	0	0	3
Dr. Rhoades	1	0	0	0	1
Family Tree Substance Abuse and Anger Management Counseling	1	0	0	0	1
Girls Court	4	0	2	2	8
Girls Home	0	0	1	2	3
Hale Kipa	10	1	4	5	20
Hawaiʻi Youth Correctional Facility	0	2	4	3	9
Kahi Mohala	0	1	0	0	1
Kaiser	0	2	0	0	2
Kealahou	0	0	0	1	1
Maui Family Support Services and Child and Family Services	0	0	0	1	1
NOSH	0	1	0	0	1
Unknown Agency	1	0	1	0	2
Parents And Children Together	4	1	2	2	9
Pearl Haven	1	12	4	11	28
Private Practice	5	2	1	2	10
Sierra Sage Treatment Center, Nevada	0	2	2	0	4
SWCC	0	4	0	0	4
TOTAL	29	39	37	74	179

3. Data on Costs of Services Provided

Until July 2025, under the contract with Child Welfare Services, the Susannah Wesley Community Center receives \$382,000 annually to deliver contracted services to suspected and confirmed minor victims of human trafficking, while therapy is funded separately through a \$250,000 annual grant from the Office of the Victims of Crime. This funding also covers subcontracted services provided by Hale Kipa and PACT.

According to the Susannah Wesley Community Center, about 99% of its budget goes to salaries, benefits, and indirect costs, leaving minimal funds for direct services like client assistance and program activities. In FY 24-25, \$1,149 was spent on client assistance (food, clothing), \$1,878 on program activities, and \$14,877 on mileage for case managers.

Hoʻola Nā Pua’s Pearl Haven is funded directly by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health. Pearl Haven reportedly received \$368,045.58 for the last quarter of 2023, \$2,060,000.77 in 2024, and \$2,573,951.43 in the first three quarters of 2025. This totals \$5,001,997.78, with allocations for personnel (payroll, benefits, staff training and recruitment, 53.06%), direct student care (food, clothing, personals, medical, medical supplies, facilities, resident transportation, 22.66%), direct student services (program supplies, events, athletics, vocational expense, behavior modification, 7.54%), and general and administrative expenses (administrative supplies, insurance, conferences, travel, office supplies, 16.74%). The daily cost of Pearl Haven for each resident is \$577.50, covering individual, group, and family therapy, case management services, group supervision, and room and board. An additional daily rate of \$486.00 applies for clinically necessary one-to-one supervision.

On average, Pearl Haven serves 18–22 youth per day who have experienced complex trauma or have been diagnosed with serious emotional and behavioral disturbances.

»» C. Data on Criminal Prosecution

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (ICAC) - CYBERTIPLINE

Due to recent changes in the ICAC reporting system, the data collected and analyzed for this report reflects the calendar year 2024 only.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children established the CyberTipline in 1998 to receive reports of suspected child sexual exploitation from both the public and electronic service providers. Its primary mission is to prevent child sexual exploitation and to disrupt the distribution of child sexual abuse material.

While the total number of CyberTips may appear high, the majority are automatically generated by electronic service providers through automated detection systems of child sexual abuse material. ICAC reviews every CyberTip it receives. When a tip appears credible and falls within the State's jurisdiction, the unit either initiates an investigation or refers the matter to the appropriate governmental agency.

In addition, ICAC routinely conducts Operation Keiki Shield, a proactive enforcement initiative in which undercover law enforcement officers pose online as minors to identify, locate, and apprehend individuals who solicit minors for sexual activity. Since its inception in 2019, Operation Keiki Shield has resulted in more than 100 arrests and convictions. Data from these operations are included in this report.

ICAC - 2024

Total CyberTips - National	20,512,803
Total CyberTips – Hawai‘i	Referrals: 2,453 Informational Reports: 532 Total: 2,985
Investigations	161
Total Digital Forensic Examinations	180
Arrests	49
Accepted for State Prosecution	22
Accepted for Federal Prosecution	12

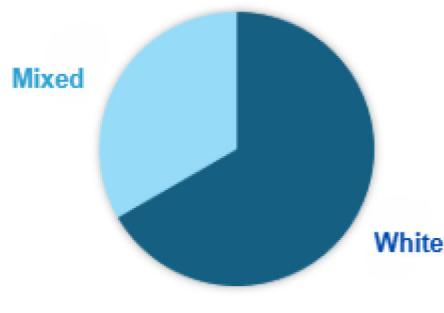
ARRESTS AND PROSECUTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING OFFENSES BY COUNTY

City and County of Honolulu (2020-2024)

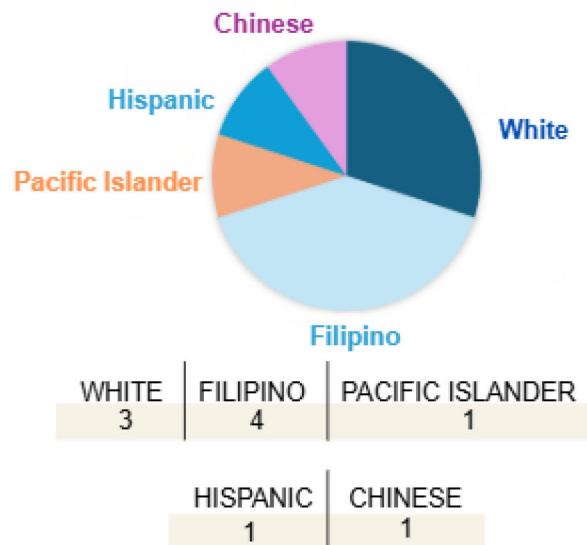


	Arrests ⁶⁶	Prosecutions	Convictions
Sex Trafficking	3	0	0
Promoting Prostitution	0	0	0
Labor Trafficking	0	1	0
Electronic Enticement of a Child	19	3	0 ⁶⁷
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor	24	10	8 ⁶⁸

Electronic Enticement of a Child:



Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor:



⁶⁶ Honolulu Police Department reported it is unable to provide data on specific race of the arrestees.

⁶⁷ Three (3) cases of Electronic Enticement of a Child are pending trial.

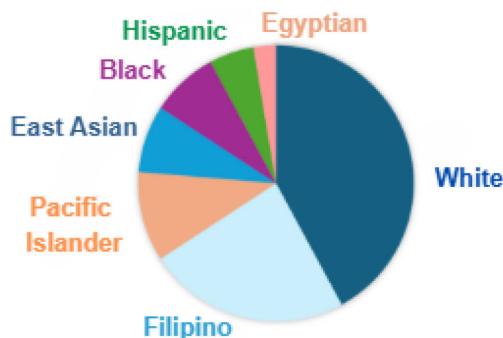
⁶⁸ Two (2) cases of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor are pending trial.



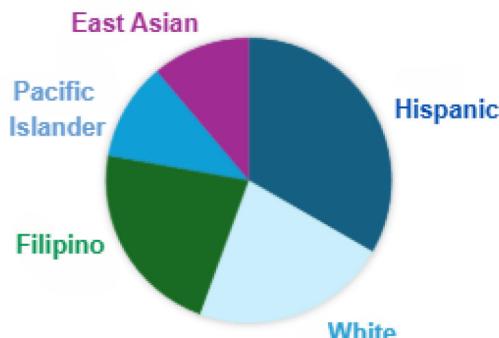
County of Maui (2020-2024)

	Arrests	Prosecutions	Convictions
Sex Trafficking	0	0	0
Promoting Prostitution	0	0	0
Labor Trafficking	0	0	0
Electronic Enticement of a Child	38	37	15
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor	9	10	1

Electronic Enticement of a Child:



Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor:



WHITE	FILIPINO	PACIFIC ISLANDER	EAST ASIAN
16	9	4	3
BLACK	HISPANIC	EGYPTIAN	
3	2	1	

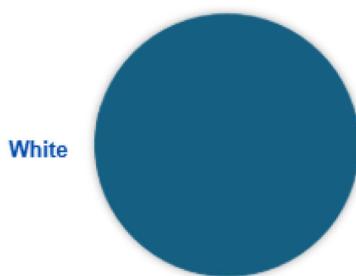
HISPANIC	WHITE	FILIPINO
3	2	2
PACIFIC ISLANDER	EAST ASIAN	
1	1	



County of Hawai'i (2020-2024)

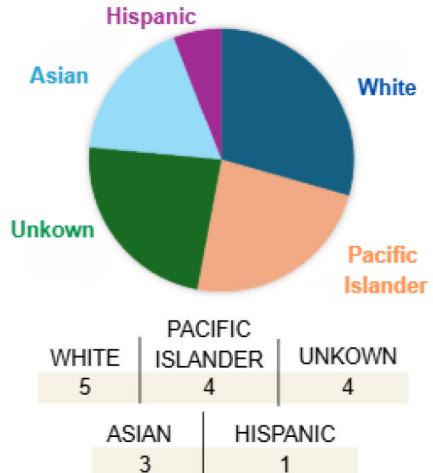
	Arrests	Prosecutions	Convictions
Sex Trafficking	0	0	0
Promoting Prostitution	2	0	0
Labor Trafficking	0	0	0
Electronic Enticement of a Child	17	8	3 ⁶⁹
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor	5	3	1 ⁷⁰

Promoting Prostitution:

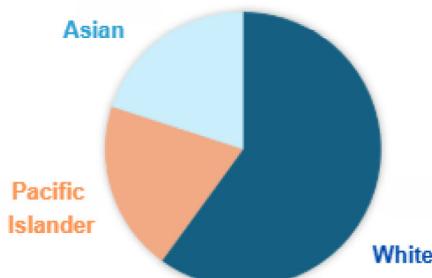


WHITE
2

Electronic Enticement of a Child:



Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor:

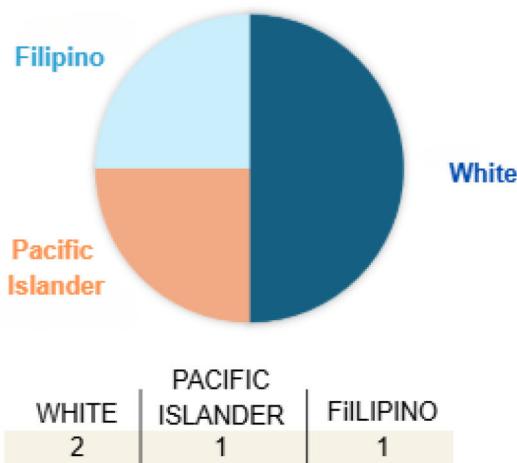


⁶⁹ Five (5) cases of Electronic Enticement of a Child are pending trial.

⁷⁰ One (1) case of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor is pending trial.



	Arrests	Prosecutions	Convictions
Sex Trafficking	0	0	0
Promoting Prostitution	0	0	0
Labor Trafficking	0	0	0
Electronic Enticement of a Child	4	4	0
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor	1	0	0

Electronic Enticement of a Child:**Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor:**

Prosecution by SIPD's Human Trafficking Abatement Section (2022-2025)

	Arrests	Prosecutions	Convictions
Sex Trafficking	1	1	1 ⁷¹
Promoting Prostitution	0	0	0
Labor Trafficking	2	2	0 ⁷²
Electronic Enticement of a Child	7	7	3 ⁷³
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor	10	10	7 ⁷⁴
Methamphetamine Trafficking	2	2	0 ⁷⁵



⁷¹ The convicted offense was amended to Kidnapping per plea agreement.

⁷² Both Labor Trafficking Cases are still pending trial.

⁷³ Three (3) Electronic Enticement of a Child cases are pending trial.

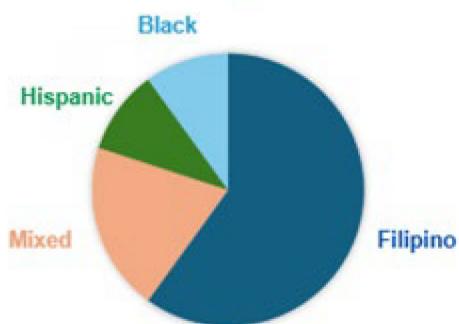
⁷⁴ Three (3) Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor cases are pending trial.

⁷⁵ Both cases resulted in felony convictions, per plea agreement.

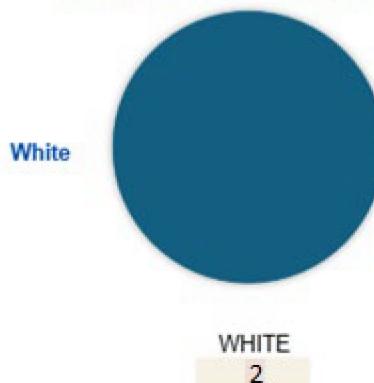
Electronic Enticement of a Child:



Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor:



Methamphetamine Trafficking:



»» D. Recommendations on Data Collection

IDENTIFICATION OF ANY GAPS IN THE STATE'S ABILITY TO COLLECT DATA

One of the main challenges to effectively tackling human trafficking in Hawai'i is the absence of a unified data system. Currently, agencies work separately, using different and incompatible methods. Child Welfare Services depends on spreadsheets, while community organizations like the Susannah Wesley Community Center and Hale Kipa use Apricot, and law enforcement has its own separate platforms.

This disjointed approach hampers the ability to get a full, shared statewide picture of trafficking data. Without unified standards, such as shared definitions, protocols, and outcome measures, Hawai'i cannot accurately track the number of victims, types of support, or the effectiveness of interventions. The State's geography and dispersed services make coordination even more challenging.

Privacy and ethics pose another challenge. Agencies are rightly cautious about safeguarding victims' and survivors' confidentiality, but without privacy agreements and clear data-sharing protocols, important information often remains isolated. This creates "blind spots" that impede both frontline responses and policymakers' ability to allocate resources effectively to areas of greatest need.

Other states demonstrate that coordinated data efforts are achievable. Cross-agency data agreements and uniform data sets enable identification of trafficking patterns, tracking of vulnerable groups, and assessment of interventions (U.S. Department of Justice, 2024). For Hawai‘i, prioritizing a statewide data strategy with clear standards and privacy protections is essential to inform action, drive accountability, and improve outcomes for survivors and communities.

Furthermore, there must be consistency in the data being collected and in basic data collection practices, such as ensuring all necessary information is gathered and recorded accurately.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION AND DATA SHARING

- **Develop a Minimum Data Set:** Identify essential fields such as demographics, referral source, service type, and case outcome to be consistently collected across all agencies.
- **Standardize Definitions and Protocols:** Employ consistent definitions for trafficking types, victim groups, and outcome measures to ensure data consistency across the State.
- **Standardize Terminology,** such as "trafficker" or "recruiter" instead of "pimp," "child sexual abuse material" instead of "pornography," and "commercial sexual exploitation" instead of "prostitution."
- **Pilot a Cross-Agency Data-Sharing Agreement:** Start with a small group of agencies, such as Child Welfare Services, law enforcement, the Department of the Attorney General SIPD, and one or two service providers, to test privacy-protected data sharing.
- **Invest in Technology Integration:** Consider statewide platforms or connectors that enable data exchange between various databases (spreadsheets, Apricot, law enforcement systems) using standardized formats.
- **Implement Privacy Safeguards:** Create Memoranda of Understanding and protocols to protect survivor confidentiality while allowing aggregate data sharing.
- **Invest in Sustainable Funding:** Guarantee long-term resources for technology, staffing, and training to sustain data quality, coordination, and system improvements over time.

VI.

APPENDICES

A. Definitions

A

Assessment

Assessment involves more in-depth information gathering to obtain a fuller understanding of the youth, their experiences of trafficking, risk factors, pathway of entry, and needs and strengths.

C

Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)

Any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a person less than 18 years old.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child (<18 yrs old) for the benefit of any person or in exchange for something of value (including monetary and non-monetary) or promise thereof.

A confirmed CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) victim

A minor who has been verified as having been involved in commercial sexual activities. This includes any situation where a child under the age of 18 is engaged in sexual acts or performances in exchange for something of value, such as money, goods, or services.

Consent

Informed, voluntary, and mutual agreement between people to engage in an activity. Consent cannot be given when an individual does not have the capacity or legal ability to consent.

Cultural Competence

Cultural competence refers to the ability to understand, communicate effectively with, and interact with people from diverse cultural backgrounds. It encompasses an awareness of one's own cultural worldview, the ability to recognize and appreciate cultural differences, and the skills required to navigate diverse cultural contexts.

Cultural Responsiveness

Cultural responsiveness is defined as an approach that acknowledges the importance of cultural diversity and seeks to integrate this understanding into policies, practices, and interactions.

Cultural Sensitivity

Cultural sensitivity refers to awareness, understanding, and respect for the cultural differences and practices of individuals from diverse backgrounds. It involves recognizing that cultural norms, values, and behaviors can significantly differ from one group to another. Being culturally sensitive means actively acknowledging these differences and adapting one's interactions accordingly to foster respectful and harmonious relationships.

D

Domestic Violence

A pattern of abusive behavior in a relationship by one individual to gain or maintain control over another individual, if those individuals live in the same domestic setting. This may include verbal, physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and/or psychological abuse as well as control, intimidation, threats, and/or stalking.

E

Evidence-Based

Evidence-based is an approach that emphasizes the practical application of the findings of the best available current research, where the information and advice given is backed up and supported by scientific research.

F

Force, Fraud, and Coercion

Force includes any instance of violence used to bring a person into a trafficking situation or to keep them feeling trapped. Fraud includes lies or deception and false promises. Coercion includes threats made against the victim or their loved ones.

Forensic Interview

A forensic interview is a neutral, non-leading, and developmentally and culturally appropriate fact-finding process to gather the information needed for an investigation. It is completed in a way that minimizes trauma to the child. This process both protects the integrity of the investigation and provides a victim-focused interview in a child-friendly setting.

G

Gender-Based Violence

Any act that is perpetrated against a person's will and is directed at an individual based on their sex assigned at birth and/or gender identity and is based on gender norms and/or unequal power relationships. It encompasses threats of violence and coercion and can include verbal, physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and/or psychological abuse, threats, coercion, whether occurring in public or private life, and can take the form of a denial of resources or access to services

Gender Identity

A person's internal, deeply felt sense of being male, female, or other, regardless of whether that gender-related identity differs from the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth.

L

Labor Trafficking

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Lived Experience Expert

Individuals who have lived through a form of commercial exploitation or human trafficking use the knowledge and insight gained from their experiences to help shape and inform various spaces within the anti-trafficking field.

O

Online Grooming

A process by which a predator establishes a connection on the internet with a minor by offering support and attention to gain the minor's trust, gathers personal information about them, desensitizes them to sexual content, and exploits any vulnerabilities the child may have. Often, online predators pretend to be minors themselves to manipulate children into providing nude or partially nude images or videos of themselves.

S

Safe Harbor Laws

State legislation designed to decrease or eliminate punitive measures for minors or victims involved in commercial sex and improve their access to therapeutic services.

Screening

Screening for CSEC involves a systematic process of targeted inquiry to identify youth with possible experiences of trafficking. It is broadly applied to all youth in a service population or a subset of youth with certain risk factors.

Self-Harm

Hurting or damaging one's own body on purpose, usually in response to intense emotional distress, negative thoughts or feelings, or peer pressure. This can include cutting, burning, biting, pulling out hair, punching, or hitting the body.

Sexting

Sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit messages, photos, or videos via a cellphone, computer, or other digital device.

Sextortion

1. Traditional sextortion occurs when an online predator threatens or blackmails a victim into providing sexually explicit content; the online predator threatens to share this content with the public.
2. Financial sextortion occurs when a predator demands money in exchange for keeping the victim's sexual content private.
3. Sadistic sextortion occurs when an online predator demands suffering or submission through violence, self-harm, or destruction. This type of sextortion is often organized through online Violent Extortion and Gore Networks.

Sex Trafficking

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.

Sexual Assault

The act of committing unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature on a person. Such contact is unwanted when it occurs without the person's consent, or when the person is incapacitated or otherwise incapable of giving consent.

Survival Sex

The exchange of sexual acts for basic needs to survive (i.e., food, shelter, safety, etc.) without the overt force, fraud, or coercion of a trafficker.

I

Trauma-Informed Approach

A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery; recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma and responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices, and seeks to resist retraumatization actively.

Trauma (Individual)

Individual trauma results from an event or set of circumstances as physically or emotionally harmful or life-threatening with lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual wellbeing.

Trauma (Systemic)

The contextual features of environments and institutions that give rise to trauma, maintain trauma, and impact posttraumatic responses.

Trusted Adult

A person to whom a student or child can turn in a time of need, who can offer support and guidance.

U

An unconfirmed CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) victim

A minor who is suspected of being involved in commercial sexual activities but has not yet been verified through formal identification processes.

Universal Education

Providers can use universal education to provide information and resources to anyone, whereas screening tools are created and intended for use in a specific setting with a specific population.

V

Victim Advocates

Victim advocates are trained to support victims of crime. They offer emotional support, information on victims' rights, help in finding necessary resources, and assistance with completing crime victim-related forms. Advocates frequently accompany victims and their family members through the criminal justice proceedings.

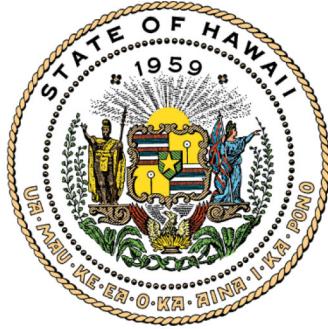
Victim Centered

A victim-centered approach prioritizes the victim's role in the planning and implementation of services in a meaningful way. This approach requires effort to engage and inform the victim, empowering them throughout the process, and encourages youth decision-making where consistent with safety.

Y

Youth

For statistical purposes, the United Nations defines 'youth' as persons aged between 15 and 24. However, this definition is not universal, as the experience of being young can vary substantially between countries and regions.



Proclamation

WHEREAS, January 2025 marks the 15th anniversary of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, providing an opportunity for communities across Hawai'i to join together to educate the public, advocate for victims and survivors, and strengthen efforts to prevent and address this abhorrent crime.

WHEREAS, January 2025 also marks the 25th anniversary of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which established a three-pronged approach to combat human trafficking that includes prevention, protection, and prosecution.

WHEREAS, human trafficking impacts millions of people worldwide, including the people of Hawai'i.

WHEREAS, human trafficking exists in many forms, including labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

WHEREAS, human traffickers use force, fraud, and coercion to target our most vulnerable populations, including children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, children in foster care, missing and homeless youths, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, people with substance use issues, migrant laborers, undocumented workers and participants in visa programs for temporary workers, people seeking asylum, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, and people with mental and behavioral health conditions;

WHEREAS, statistics from the National Human Trafficking Hotline show:

- Since its inception in 2007, the Hawai'i Hotline received 1,258 signals (tips);
- In 2023, the Hawai'i Hotline received 110 signals, of which human trafficking victims or survivors made 34; 19 provided a trafficking tip, nine requested access

to services; 17 reported sex trafficking; three reported labor trafficking; and six reported both sex and labor trafficking.

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Department of Health statistics show that from January to June 2024:

- There were 34 reports of human trafficking, 10 of which were confirmed human trafficking cases; the types of exploitation included 25 reports of sex trafficking and four reports of labor trafficking.
- 19 reports were made from O'ahu; four from Hawai'i Island; three from Maui; and one from Kaua'i.

WHEREAS, victims and survivors of human trafficking are more prone to substance abuse, financial and housing vulnerability, long- and short-term behavioral, mental, and physical health issues, continued physical and sexual violence, and further psychological manipulation from exploiters/traffickers.

WHEREAS, human trafficking can be prevented by building personal, community, and societal understanding and resilience, reducing social inequities, and addressing the conditions that contribute to exploitation.

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i is committed to protecting the rights and dignity of all people and to working tirelessly to prevent and combat human trafficking through legislation, law enforcement, and community support.

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General, law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and dedicated residents are working together to increase awareness, support victims and survivors, and bring traffickers to justice.

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i encourages all residents to be informed, vigilant, and proactive in recognizing the signs of human trafficking, supporting efforts to assist victims and survivors, and holding perpetrators accountable.

WHEREAS, by raising awareness and fostering a strong, united front against human trafficking, we can work towards a future where all people are free from exploitation and have the opportunity to live with dignity and respect.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Josh Green, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim January 2025 as

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

in the State of Hawai'i, and encourage all residents to join in activities and programs that increase awareness, promote advocacy, and support efforts to combat human trafficking in our communities across our islands.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Josh" and "Green" connected by a single stroke, and "M.D." in a smaller, more formal script.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this twenty-fourth day of January 2025.

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

Survivor Poem

I am Mana Wahine

I am Mana Wahine, born out of the darkest nights,
Embodyied in the fire-stained cloak that lifted my wings to rise above the darkest skies.

I am Mana Wahine, risen from the fiery slopes,
Crushed but not broken, my soul refused to let go.

Through shadows that whispered and chains that bound,
I found the strength within, a voice profound.

Each scar, a testament; each tear, a guide,
To the warrior within, that fear could not hide.

I am Mana Wahine, hear me as I cry,
A song of resilience that echoes through the sky.
A warrior crafted from pain, forged in the flame,
Destined to lift those in need from the pain-stricken shame.

No more will I wallow, no more will I sigh,
No longer will the lust of another determine my pride.
For I have reclaimed what was stolen from me,
Breaking the chains, setting my spirit free.

I am Mana Wahine, no longer afraid,
Each step I take, a new path is laid.
The fire within me burns steady and bright,
A beacon of hope in the heart of the night.

I am Mana Wahine, no longer ashamed,
Through courage and love, I have reclaimed my name.

I am Mana Wahine, and I will light the way,
Guiding the light for others to one day say
We are Mana lāhui, an unbreakable race!

A Poem of Resilience to Help Others Find Their Light

By Leinani Yahiku