
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO FACILITATE
PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO NON-CITIZEN VICTIMS OF
HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

1 WHEREAS, terrified and alone, many non-citizen victims of
2 human trafficking escape to safety with only the clothes on
3 their backs; and
4

5 WHEREAS, without resources to secure housing, food, medical
6 care, or other basic necessities, non-citizen victims of human
7 trafficking struggle to survive in our communities; and
8

9 WHEREAS, victim assistance and services for trafficked
10 persons are constrained by factors such as legal provisions
11 barring undocumented migrants from benefits and victim-related
12 services; and
13

14 WHEREAS, individuals that are trafficked but are not
15 identified or recognized by law enforcement as victims of a
16 severe form of trafficking may be expeditiously removed or
17 detained in criminal detention facilities across the country;
18 and
19

20 WHEREAS, trafficking victims' fear of removal is exploited
21 by traffickers to keep individuals isolated and under their
22 control; and
23

24 WHEREAS, federal law may protect trafficked persons by
25 providing immigration status, permission to work, and possible
26 United States permanent residence once the victim is certified
27 as a severe victim of trafficking; and
28

29 WHEREAS, once trafficked persons are identified,
30 "certification" is a process by which trafficked persons are
31 deemed eligible for benefits and services to the same extent as



1 a refugee, namely federal and state benefits (including medical
2 services), housing, legal services, protection, victim
3 compensation and assistance, immigration benefits and programs,
4 restitution, and translation and interpretation services; and
5

6 WHEREAS, because certification often requires a
7 considerable length of time to process, typically six months,
8 there is the need for pre-certification victim services, from
9 the time that individuals are identified as trafficked persons
10 until they are certified by federal law enforcement, during
11 which time trafficked persons may experience the greatest need
12 for services; and
13

14 WHEREAS, trafficking victims are eligible for certain
15 federally funded services, namely emergency medicaid,
16 immunizations, and access to domestic violence shelters and
17 other exempt services but they are ineligible for other
18 federally funded services such as cash assistance programs or
19 state funded comprehensive health care services; now, therefore,
20

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
22 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
23 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
24 Human Services is requested to:
25

- 26 (1) Identify existing obstacles, in statute, rule, or
27 policy, that limit or deny benefits to victims of
28 trafficking; and
29
- 30 (2) Conduct a needs assessment to identify appropriate
31 social and financial services for victims of
32 trafficking, by public and private agencies, until
33 such time as the person secures a visa, certification,
34 or a work authorization card from the Department of
35 Homeland Security or other federal agency or is able
36 to return to their country of origin, if they wish to
37 do so; and
38



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
 3 Services.
 4
 5
 6

OFFERED BY:

Marilyn B. Lee

Marilyn B. Lee

John Green
By a Joint

Cindy Evans

John White

Kal Wood

0242 -

John R. Pugh

John R. Pugh

