

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES TO FACILITATE
PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING PENDING REPATRIATION OR DETERMINATION OF
RESIDENCY STATUS.

1 WHEREAS, trafficking in persons – the illegal and highly
2 profitable recruitment, transport, or sale of human beings into
3 all forms of forced labor and servitude, including trafficking
4 into forced marriage – is a tragic and complex human rights
5 abuse; and

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7 WHEREAS, women and children are particularly vulnerable to
8 this slavery-like practice, due largely to the persistent
9 inequalities they face in status and opportunity worldwide; and

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11 WHEREAS, corrupt officials facilitate the trafficking,
12 accepting bribes to falsify documents and provide protection;
13 and

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15 WHEREAS, many governments treat trafficked persons as
16 illegal aliens, criminals, or both, exposing them to further
17 abuse; and

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19 WHEREAS, there is a need to curtail this human rights abuse
20 through legal regulations and punitive measures as well as by
21 creating institutional mechanisms for the protection and support
22 of trafficked persons while in the United States, including
23 support in either becoming citizens or repatriation to their
24 home countries; and

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26 WHEREAS, House Bill No. 1784 makes trafficking of humans a
27 crime with penalties, it does not address the need to find
28 solutions to trafficking, giving in-country support to the
29 victims of this crime while they are in the State of Hawaii by



1 either assisting these victims to become residents or citizens
2 of Hawaii or by facilitating a return to their home country; and
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4 WHEREAS, in the Philippines Republic Act 9208, Section 14,
5 the court shall order the confiscation and forfeiture in favor
6 of the government of all the proceeds and properties derived
7 from the commission of the crime and put them into a trust fund
8 which shall be administered by an Inter-Agency Council Against
9 Trafficking for programs that will prevent acts of trafficking
10 and protect, rehabilitate, and reintegrate trafficked persons
11 into the mainstream of society; and
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13 WHEREAS, trafficked persons in Hawaii who are nationals of
14 a foreign country should also be entitled to appropriate
15 protection, assistance, and services such as legal services,
16 health care, emergency shelters, skills training, and
17 educational assistance to trafficked children; and
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19 WHEREAS, a single state agency should be designated to take
20 primary responsibility for facilitating the repatriation of
21 trafficked persons unless repatriation would expose the victims
22 to greater risks, in which case this agency should undertake
23 such efforts as may be necessary for the extension of
24 appropriate residency permits and protection, as may be legally
25 permissible in the State of Hawaii; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Human
30 Services is requested to facilitate the provision of social
31 services by public and private agencies to victims of
32 trafficking until such time as the person secures a visa,
33 certification, or a work authorization card from the Department
34 of Homeland Security or other federal agency or to facilitate
35 the person's return to their country of origin if they wish to
36 do so; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
40 Services.
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OFFERED BY:

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