

---

## SENATE RESOLUTION

---

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONDUCT A  
STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF 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  
32 a refugee, namely federal and state benefits, including medical  
33 services, housing, legal services, protection, victim



1 compensation and assistance, immigration benefits and programs,  
2 restitution, and translation and interpretation services; and  
3

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

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

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
21 that the Department of Human Services is requested to conduct a  
22 statewide needs assessment of non-citizen victims of human  
23 trafficking; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in completing the needs  
26 assessment, the Department of Human Services:  
27

- 28 (1) Collaborate with the task force that was established,  
29 to determine how Hawaii can best combat and deter  
30 human trafficking, pursuant to Act 260, Session Laws  
31 of Hawaii 2006;  
32
- 33 (2) Identify existing obstacles, in statute, rule, or  
34 policy, that limit or deny benefits to non-citizen  
35 victims of human trafficking; and  
36
- 37 (3) Identify appropriate social, financial, and other  
38 services for victims of human trafficking, in general,  
39 including gaps in the services offered by state,  
40 county, and private agencies for victims of human  
41 trafficking; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services and  
3 the Attorney General.

