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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the federal Violence  
2 Against Women Act (VAWA) is targeted toward ensuring that women  
3 who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault,  
4 including undocumented immigrants, are protected from their  
5 perpetrators.

6           The United States Department of Justice, through the Office  
7 on Violence Against Women, encourages nonprofits, community-  
8 based organizations, and other social service organizations to  
9 aid victims of violence by providing legal and social services  
10 to enable women to report abuse and cooperate with law  
11 enforcement without fear of being legally reprimanded due to  
12 their immigration status. VAWA makes undocumented immigrants  
13 who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault eligible  
14 to apply for a work permit and a U-visa, which provides  
15 immigration status to non-citizens willing to assist authorities  
16 investigate crimes.

17           However, despite the provisions of VAWA, many victims do  
18 not report perpetrators or help to prosecute them because of



1 fear of deportation. Many victims are unfamiliar with the laws  
2 that may protect them and their children. Additionally, women  
3 who have cooperated with authorities have been unable to  
4 financially support their families because of a lack of job  
5 experience, job training, and interviewing skills.

6 The purpose of this Act is to establish a pilot project to  
7 enable community-based organizations to provide legal advice and  
8 social services to victims of domestic violence or sexual  
9 assault who are undocumented immigrants, in accordance with the  
10 goals of VAWA.

11 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall  
12 establish a pilot project to assist undocumented immigrants who  
13 are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. The  
14 department may contract with a nonprofit organization to operate  
15 the pilot project and shall only contract with a nonprofit  
16 organization providing services that has expertise relating to  
17 the federal Violence Against Women Act.

18 (b) The pilot project shall provide the following services  
19 to undocumented immigrants who are victims of domestic violence  
20 or sexual assault:

21 (1) Assistance with restraining orders;



- 1           (2) Assistance with applications for U-visas, petitions
- 2                   under the federal Violence Against Women Act, and work
- 3                   permits;
- 4           (3) Workshops on building self-esteem and self-confidence;
- 5           (4) Instruction on appropriate workplace etiquette and
- 6                   appearance;
- 7           (5) Training in effective job search techniques;
- 8           (6) Career assessments, when appropriate, to identify
- 9                   marketable skills and assess employability;
- 10          (7) Information about current labor market trends for
- 11                   employment and training;
- 12          (8) Placement with employers who agree to hire a
- 13                   prearranged number of victims; and
- 14          (9) Post-employment services.
- 15          (c) Funds received by an organization under this Act shall
- 16           only be used for services described in subsection (b).
- 17          (d) The department of human services shall submit a report
- 18           to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
- 19           convening of the regular session of 2010 that includes the
- 20           following:



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- 1           (1) A description of the process used to award contracts  
2           to nonprofit organizations that received funds  
3           pursuant to this section;
- 4           (2) A list of nonprofit organizations that were awarded  
5           contracts and the amount of funds awarded to each of  
6           the nonprofit organizations; and
- 7           (3) The number of victims that received services and the  
8           types of assistance they received.

9           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval  
10          and shall be repealed on June 30, 2010.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 14 2008



**Report Title:**

Domestic Violence; Pilot Project

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a pilot project to assist undocumented immigrants who are victims of domestic violence.

