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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE FEDERAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that one of the goals of  
2 the federal Violence Against Women Act is to protect women who  
3 are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, including  
4 undocumented immigrants, from their perpetrators.

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

17           However, despite the provisions of the Violence Against  
18 Women Act, many domestic violence or sexual assault victims do



1 not report perpetrators or help to prosecute them because of  
2 fear of deportation. Also, many victims are unfamiliar with the  
3 laws that protect them and their children. Additionally, women  
4 who have cooperated with authorities have been unable to  
5 financially support their families because of a lack of job  
6 experience, job training, and interviewing skills.

7 The purpose of this Act is to request that the department  
8 of human services establish a pilot project to enable community-  
9 based organizations to provide legal advice and social services  
10 to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault who are  
11 undocumented immigrants, in accordance with the goals of the  
12 federal Violence Against Women Act.

13 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services may  
14 establish a pilot project to assist undocumented immigrants who  
15 are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, including  
16 assistance qualifying for protection under the federal Violence  
17 Against Women Act.

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

21 (1) Assistance with restraining orders;



- 1 (2) Assistance with applications for petitions under the  
2 federal Violence Against Women Act, U-visas, 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;
- 14 (9) Post-employment services;
- 15 (10) Legal assistance with divorces, child custody and  
16 support, housing and consumer issues, and other family  
17 law issues; and
- 18 (11) Case management needs, including language learning,  
19 and information and assistance using public  
20 transportation, obtaining identification, and other  
21 skills as necessary.



1 (c) If the pilot project is established, the department of  
2 human services shall submit a report to the legislature no later  
3 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
4 of 2011, including the number of victims who received services  
5 and the types of assistance they received.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval  
7 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2011.



**Report Title:**

Domestic Violence; Undocumented Immigrants; Pilot Project

**Description:**

Allows the department of human services to establish a pilot project to assist undocumented immigrants who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. (HB872 HD1)

