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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PROSTITUTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that individuals who may  
2 be in violation of a law relating to prostitution may often be  
3 witnesses to crimes or victims of crimes. Their status as  
4 potential law violators may impede them from coming forward and  
5 reporting criminal activity in which they have been victimized  
6 or regarding which they may provide material evidence.

7           The legislature further finds that despite growing public  
8 concerns about persons who purchase sex, these persons are in  
9 fact often in the best position to identify and report instances  
10 of sex trafficking. Therefore, the legislature believes that  
11 there is a need to protect both buyers and sellers of sexual  
12 services who may report crimes to law enforcement.

13           The purpose of this Act is to provide immunity from  
14 prosecution for prostitution for certain potential violators.

15           SECTION 2. Chapter 712, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
17 designated and to read as follows:



# H.B. NO. 1517

1           "§712-           Prostitution offender witness; immunity from  
2 prosecution. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, if a  
3 person reports criminal activity to law enforcement or serves as  
4 a witness in a judicial proceeding that may reasonably lead to  
5 the investigation, prosecution, or conviction of another person  
6 for a felony, the reporting person or witness shall be immune  
7 from prosecution for a misdemeanor or lesser offense under this  
8 part if, as a result of the reporting person's or witness's  
9 provision of a truthful statement or truthful testimony of  
10 material fact for the alleged felony, it is revealed that the  
11 person committed the misdemeanor or lesser offense under this  
12 part."

13           SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
14 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
15 begun before its effective date.

16           SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

17           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:           *OCum*           B/R

JAN 24 2019



# H.B. NO. 1517

**Report Title:**

Crimes; Prostitution; Witnesses; Immunity; Prosecution

**Description:**

Provides immunity for certain violators of prostitution laws if they report or serve as witnesses to the commission of felony offenses by others.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

