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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a disproportionately  
2 low number of the sex trafficking offenses that occur in the  
3 State are prosecuted in court. This is due in significant part  
4 to the fact that most sex trafficking victims delay reporting  
5 the crimes committed against them, and many do not report the  
6 crimes at all. Victims often feel complicit in the offense or  
7 carry a sense of guilt and shame. Most victims delay their  
8 reports until after they have been removed from their  
9 traffickers and the corresponding living conditions, and many  
10 undergo trauma-informed care and counseling before they speak  
11 out.

12           The legislature believes that in the interest of aiding  
13 victims who seek justice, prosecutors should have the power to  
14 pursue a criminal case for sex trafficking, regardless of when  
15 the offense was committed.

16           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize a  
17 prosecution for sex trafficking to be commenced at any time.



# H.B. NO. 2573

1 SECTION 2. Section 701-108, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsection (1) to read as follows:

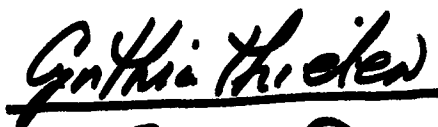
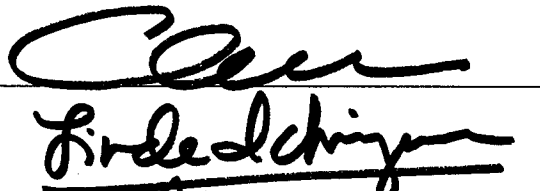
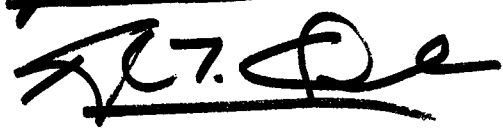



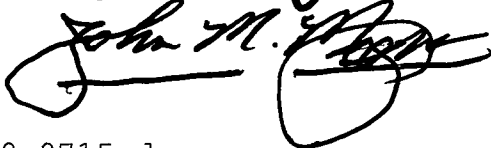


3 "(1) A prosecution for murder, murder in the first and  
4 second degrees, attempted murder, and attempted murder in the  
5 first and second degrees, criminal conspiracy to commit murder  
6 in any degree, criminal solicitation to commit murder in any  
7 degree, sexual assault in the first and second degrees, sex  
8 trafficking, and continuous sexual assault of a minor under the  
9 age of fourteen years may be commenced at any time."

10 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
11 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
12 begun before its effective date.

13 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.  
15

INTRODUCED BY:



# H.B. NO. 2573

**Report Title:**

Sex Trafficking; Statute of Limitations; Prosecution

**Description:**

Authorizes a prosecution for sex trafficking to be commenced at any time.

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

