



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke
Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine

Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women
Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director

Prepared for the House Committees on TIA & LAB

In Support of HB2429

Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 9:05 a.m. in Room 309

Dear Chair Onishi and Johanson, Vice Chairs, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports HB2429, which requires transient accommodations operators to provide training, signage, and reporting policies to employees regarding human trafficking awareness.

Hotels are part of the sex trafficking process in Hawai‘i. This measure could have a profound impact on the issue of sex trafficking. In 2018, the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women found that non-residents augment demand for transactional sex in Hawai‘i by up to 30%.¹ In 2019, tourists to Hawai‘i recently went over the 10 million benchmark.² In 2019, twenty-two sex trafficking victims and family members who participated in the State’s first qualitative research on sex trafficking reported that they were sold in multiple venues including hotels. The report concluded:

“Sex trafficking victims were seen by hotel staff during their sex trafficking experiences. None of these bystanders offered support to the victims in this study. Many of the participants reported a sense of shame and stigma.”³

¹ Roe-Sepowitz, D. & Jabola-Carolus, K., *Sex Trafficking in Hawaii Part I: Exploring Online Sex Buyers*, Arizona State University, Aug. 2018.

² Schaeffers, A., “Visitor Arrivals to Hawaii Exceeded 10 Million in 2019,” Jan. 29, 2020, <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/01/29/breaking-news/visitor-arrivals-to-hawaii-exceeded-10-million-in-2019/>.

³ Roe-Sepowitz, D. & Jabola-Carolus, K., *Sex Trafficking in Hawaii Part II: The Stories of Survivors*, Arizona State University, Jan. 2019.

Sex trafficking and sexual exploitation are occurring at scale in Hawai'i. From April to May 2019, Arizona State University and Child and Family Service conducted the first large-scale victimization survey focused on sex trafficking across Hawai'i. The study identified ninety-seven (97) sex trafficking victims, as defined by federal law. All sectors of Hawai'i, especially the tourist industry, should be actively engaged in tackling this crisis through prevention and intervention.

Accordingly, the Commission asks the Committee to pass HB2429.

Sincerely,
Khara Jabola-Carolus

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
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February 11, 2020

To: The Honorable Richard H.K. Onishi, Chair,
The Honorable Daniel Holt, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Tourism & International Affairs

To: The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair,
The Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2020

Time: 9:05 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 2429 RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The DLIR administers labor law and programs, not criminal law, and therefore requests that it not be given the additional responsibility as proposed in the measure. The DLIR strongly opposes this proposal.

The Department currently has insufficient resources to accomplish its core missions. DLIR is requesting a general fund increase of approximately 25% to its budget to address the lack of critical resources to carry out basic functions, including \$5,000,000 to the Unemployment Insurance Program.

Moreover, the measure may be flawed as the statute amended is chapter 371, but the Hawaii Tourism Authority's authority to accomplish the content of the measure is found in chapter 201B. In considering the combination of a critical lack of resources, the additional responsibilities required by this measure, and the flaws, the DLIR strongly opposes this measure.



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David Y. Ige
Governor

Chris Tatum
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
CHRIS TATUM

LATE

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Tuesday, February 11, 2020
9:05 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #309

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2429
RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Chairs Onishi and Johanson, Vice Chairs Holt and Eli, and members of the Committees on Tourism & International Affairs, and Labor & Public Employment: the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) would like to **offer comments** about House Bill 2429, which establishes training requirements for employees of transient accommodations in human trafficking awareness and response. It also requires operators of transient accommodations to display National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline information to employees, establish written human trafficking prevention policies, and implement procedures for reporting known or suspected human trafficking. It also requires HTA to monitor compliance, serve in an enforcement role, and levy fines for non-compliance.

We support the overall intent of HB2429, which would help Hawai'i in its efforts to fight human trafficking. We have been actively working with Ho'ōla Nā Pua (HNP), a Hawai'i nonprofit that helps victims of sex trafficking, to educate workers in Hawai'i's visitor industry on what they can do to help combat this crime. We have also been partnering with organizations, such as the Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association (HLTA) to further raise awareness and increase education.

The HTA is committed to continuing our work with, and support of, HNP, alongside and in cooperation with the Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association (HLTA), and other private sector partners, to expand training for employees throughout our visitor industry here in Hawai'i to help raise awareness and address this social ill.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony.



HB 2429, RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FEBRUARY 11, 2020 · HOUSE TOURISM AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND HOUSE
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE ·
CHAIRS REP. RICHARD H.K. ONISHI AND REP.
AARON LING JOHANSON

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports HB 2429, relating to the human trafficking, which establishes training requirements for employees of transient accommodations in human trafficking awareness and response; requires operators of transient accommodations to display National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline information to employees, establish written human trafficking prevention policies, and implement procedures for reporting known or suspected human trafficking.; and requires the Hawaii Tourism Authority to monitor compliance with this Act.

IMUAlliance is one of the state's largest victim service providers for survivors of sex trafficking. Over the past 10 years, we have provided comprehensive direct intervention (victim rescue) services to 150 victims, successfully emancipating them from slavery and assisting in their restoration, while providing a range of targeted services to over 1,000 victims and individuals at risk of sexual exploitation. Each of the victims we have assisted has suffered from complex and overlapping trauma, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, dissociation, parasuicidal behavior, and substance abuse. Trafficking-related trauma can lead to a complete loss of identity. A victim we cared for in 2016, for example, had become so heavily trauma bonded to her pimp that while under his grasp, she couldn't remember her own name.

Yet, sadly, many of the victims with whom we work are misidentified as so-called “voluntary prostitutes” and are subsequently arrested and incarcerated, with no financial resources from which to pay for their release.

Sex trafficking is a profoundly violent crime. At least 23 percent of trafficking victims in Hawai'i report being first exploited before turning 18, according to a recent report, with the average age of trafficked keiki's initial exposure to exploitation being 11. Based on regular outreach and monitoring, we estimate that approximately 150 high-risk sex trafficking establishments operate in Hawai'i. In a recent report conducted by the State Commission on the Status of Women, researchers from Arizona State University found that 1 in every 11 adult males living in our state buys sex online. When visitors are also counted, that number worsens to 1 in every 7 men walking the streets of our island home and a daily online sex buyer market of 18,614 for O'ahu and a total sex buyer population for the island of 74,362, including both tourists and residents.

ASU's findings are grim, but not surprising to local organizations that provide services to survivors of sex trafficking. IMUAlliance, for example, has trained volunteers to perform outreach to victims in high-risk locations, like strip clubs, massage parlors, and hostess bars. More than 80 percent of runaway youth report being approached for sexual exploitation while on the run, over 30 percent of whom are targeted within the first 48 hours of leaving home. With regard to mental health, sex trafficking victims are twice as likely to suffer from PTSD as a soldier in a war zone. Greater than 80 percent of victims report being repeatedly raped and 95 percent report being physically assaulted, numbers that are underreported, according to the United States Department of State and numerous trauma specialists, because of the inability of many victims to recognize sexual violence. As one underage survivor told IMUAlliance prior to being rescued, “I can't be raped. Only good girls can be raped. I'm a bad girl. If I *want* to be raped, I have to *earn* it.”

Accordingly, we support measures to advance our state's ability to crack down on sexual slavery, including this proposal's requirement that transient accommodations operators provide training, signage, and reporting policies to employees regarding human trafficking awareness and establish protocols for handling suspected cases of exploitation on their premises. **Hawai'i's visitor industry is plagued by sexual exploitation, with hotels serving as primary locations at which trafficking victims—especially those who are exploited through online**

advertisements—are forced to sexually service sex buyers. Moreover, the American Hotel and Lodging Association has launched “No Room for Trafficking,” a campaign to ensure that hotel employees are continuously developing a better understanding of ways to identify traffickers and potential victims in hotels, which includes free toolkits and training materials. Thus, this measure is in alignment with AHLA’s own efforts and commitment to end trafficking in the tourism sector.



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO

Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

LATE

Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

House Bill 2429: Relating to Human Trafficking

Chair Onishi, Chair Johanson and members of the Committees, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers —does not support House Bill 2429 which seeks to **require** operators of transient accommodations to establish written human trafficking prevention policies, and implement procedures for reporting known or suspected human trafficking, and requiring the Hawaii Tourism Authority to monitor the compliance of the industry with this Act.

We appreciate the intent of the measure, however, as an industry, we have already taken the first steps to proactively address the looming issue of human trafficking. In a joint partnership with the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and nonprofit organization Ho'ola Na Pua we have successfully held educational symposiums throughout the state for our industry members, putting an emphasis on sex trafficking training. As a follow-up to the symposiums we have also established a sex trafficking disruption plan for our association and have started speaking with Ho'ola Na Pua and HTA on how to make sex trafficking prevention practices an industry standard.

We commend the Legislature on working to address this issue and its efforts to bring a laser-like focus to the gravity of the situation. However, we are working with our members to address this issue without government mandates. Therefore, we feel that this measure is not necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

LATE

HB-2429

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 5:22:55 PM

Testimony for TIA on 2/11/2020 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Munoz	Ho'ola Na Pua	Comments	Yes

Comments:

Dear Reps. Ichiyama, Eli, Onishi,

Ho'ola Na Pua is thrilled to see the state of Hawaii taking steps to ensure the safety of those exploited through human trafficking. We are passionate about education and training for individuals working in the tourism industry, which is why we successfully partnered with the Hawaii Tourism Authority in November 2019 to provide the Campaign for a Safer Community symposium on Oahu, Maui, Hawaii Island, and Kauai.

After the Symposium, we received requests directly from those in the lodging industry to provide them training in-person in 2020. Already in January we have provided training to general managers for the Outrigger Hotel Group and have been in conversation with the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association (HLTA) developing a plan to reach more of their members.

We are excited to work with HLTA in support of their annual Visitor Public Safety Conference which will cover combatting human trafficking in the tourism industry. We also have many national connections with organizations such as BEST and Polaris who have done amazing work on the mainland to get the message about anti-trafficking out into their business communities, specifically in relation to the tourism sector. We look forward to more opportunities to meet with those in the tourism industry and develop individualized ways to support them in their workplace and equip them with the means to combat this issue how it makes sense for them.

Mahalo,

Jessica Munoz

President, Ho'ola Na Pua

HB-2429

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 10:03:34 AM

Testimony for TIA on 2/11/2020 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Maui Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

Proactive. Mahalo!

To: COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Title of Bill: House Bill 2429 - RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Hearing: Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 9:05 a.m., Conference Room 309

RE: IN SUPPORT of House Bill 2429

LATE

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS:

My name is Jenisha Aguon, and I am an MSW student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I am testifying in support of House Bill 2429.

Human trafficking is a nationwide crisis. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, there has been 243 reported cases of human trafficking and 442 reported victims in Hawai'i alone, since 2007. House Bill 2429 can help reduce those numbers significantly by requiring employees of transient accommodations to be trained in human trafficking awareness and response. Transient accommodations are highly trafficked areas due to the lack of its employees being adequately trained.

The future of many human trafficking victims depend on this bill. Pass House Bill 2429 today, and save a life tomorrow.

Thank you for allowing my testimony,

Jenisha Aguon