



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services**

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair

Senator Kaiali‘i Kahele, Vice Chair

Monday, March 16, 2020, 2:45 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

by

Rodney A. Maile

Administrative Director of the Courts

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

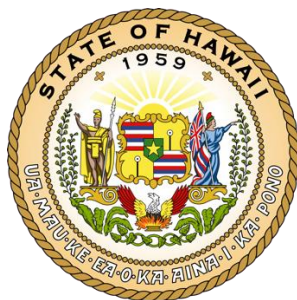
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**Bill No. and Title:** SCR 70 / SR 37, Requesting the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women to Convene a Task Force to Conduct a Study on Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls and to Submit a Report on the Study to the Legislature.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary supports the intent of SCR 70 / SR 37, which asks the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women to convene a task force to conduct a study on missing and murdered native Hawaiian women and girls, and is willing to participate on the task force described in the resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



‘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 Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs & Senate Committee on Human  
Services

In support of SCR70, SR37  
Monday, March 16, 2020, at 2:45 p.m. in Room 016

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Ruderman and Honorable Members,

I write in support of SCR70 and SR37, which requests the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women convene a task force to conduct a study on missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls and to submit a report on the study to the Legislature.

A lack of data collection and lack of awareness do not mean that a problem does not exist.

This legislation seeks to address the absence of information and concerted response around the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) in Hawai‘i. SCR70 was inspired by First Nations organizing in Canada and across Indian country in United States. The Commission is concerned about the high rate of sexual violence against Native Hawaiian women and believes a similar, invisible crisis exists across Hawai‘i.

Women’s advocacy in Hawai‘i has not adequately addressed the unique experiences of Native Hawaiian women. MMIWG is a conversation about sexual violence and colonization. There is a nexus between MMIWG and sex trafficking— a crime which has an intense impact on individual and community well-being. Sexual trafficking and rape are an assault on human dignity.<sup>1</sup> Yet until 2019, there was no comprehensive data on the prevalence of sex trafficking victimization among Native Hawaiians or the sex market in Hawai‘i.

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<sup>1</sup> See Christine Boyle, *What Makes “Model” Sexual Offenses? A Canadian Perspective*, 4 BUFF. CRIM.L. REV. 487, 492 (2000).

The Commission is mandated by law to serve as the state’s information center on women and girls. In 2018, the agency in partnership with Arizona State University’s Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention and Research embarked to produce the first comprehensive research on sex trafficking in the state’s 61-year history. The pre-inquiry process of interviews with social service providers and criminal justice personnel revealed that Native Hawaiian women and girls are being sex trafficked in Hawai‘i, over state lines and even across international borders.

In 2019, the Commission published peer-reviewed, empirical data that found:

- 77% of 22 sex trafficking victims were Native Hawaiian, and 100% identified as women<sup>2</sup>
- 64% of 97 sex trafficking victims, and 75% identified as women<sup>3</sup>
- Current overrepresentation of Native Hawaiian women and girls in sex trafficking at present may be directly linked to the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i—that is, land dispossession, exposure to sexual violence, hypersexualization, incarceration, cultural dislocation, intergenerational trauma, mental and emotional distress, racism, poverty, and ongoing inequities<sup>4</sup>

Accordingly, the Commission supports this legislation as an important step to radically improve the safety of Native Hawaiian women in Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,  
Khara Jabola-Carolus

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<sup>2</sup> Jabola-Carolus, K. & Roe-Sepowitz, D., *Sex Trafficking in Hawai‘i Part II: The Stories of Survivor*, Arizona State University, Jan. 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Jabola-Carolus, K. & Roe-Sepowitz, D., *Sex Trafficking in Hawai‘i Part III: Sex Trafficking Across Hawai‘i*, Arizona State University, Feb. 2020.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 1.



### SCR70/SR37

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS AND TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE STUDY TO THE LEGISLATURE

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 16, 2020

2:45 p.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR70/SR37. Particularly given recent indications that Native Hawaiians may be disproportionately represented among sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, and sex abuse victims – who in turn may be at a heightened risk of being murdered or going missing – **OHA supports the improved data collection, reporting, and analysis envisioned in this measure, as a critical first step to identifying and preventing what may be a serious problem affecting the Native Hawaiian community.**

Recent data indicate that Native Hawaiian women and girls may be disproportionately represented among victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.<sup>1</sup> Most recently, the Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women, in partnership with Arizona State University and Child and Family Services, published the third part of a multi-part report examining sex trafficking in Hawai'i. Although the survey underlying this most recent publication could rely on only a limited sample of 363 willing participants, nearly 27% of participants surveyed were identified as having been sexually trafficked, with 64% of these trafficking victims identifying as Native Hawaiian.<sup>2</sup> Alarming, 23% of the trafficking victims were first trafficked before the age of 18.<sup>3</sup>

This recent report supplements data that further demonstrate the high risk for sexual victimization within the Native Hawaiian community. For example, the Sex Abuse Treatment Center has indicated that, between 2001 and 2010, Native Hawaiians represented the largest ethnic group among their intake of sex abuse victims.<sup>4</sup> Further, a more recent OHA study also revealed that Native Hawaiian girls are vastly overrepresented among juvenile runaways,<sup>5</sup> and data show that one third of runaway

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<sup>1</sup> ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF SEX TRAFFICKING INTERVENTION & THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, SEX TRAFFICKING IN HAWAII PART III: SEX TRAFFICKING EXPERIENCES ACROSS HAWAII 5 (2020).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 4.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> DAWNA NELSON, EVELYN YANAGIDA & CAROL PLUMMER SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS IN HONOLULU: A 2001-2010 STATISTICAL PROFILE 24 (2012).

<sup>5</sup> OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, HAUMEA: TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND EMPOWERING WĀHINE WELL-BEING 74 (2018).

youth will be approached for sexual services within 48 hours of being on the street.<sup>6</sup> In addition to—and perhaps partially due to—“land dispossession, exposure to sexual violence, hypersexualization, incarceration, cultural dislocation, intergenerational trauma, mental and emotional distress, racism, poverty, and going inequities”<sup>7</sup>—Native Hawaiian youth may, therefore, be particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse.

**The potential prevalence of sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, and sexual abuse of Native Hawaiians heightens concerns that Native Hawaiians, and particularly Native Hawaiian women and girls, may be at a higher risk of being murdered or going missing.** However, as described in OHA’s report *Haumea: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian Women and Empowering Wāhine Well-Being*, there is a need for much better data collection generally on violence perpetrated against Native Hawaiian women, especially young women and girls, including through data disaggregated by age, race, and gender. Such data may be critical to better understanding and addressing the social and systemic contexts of violence against Native Hawaiian women and girls, including their murder or disappearance.<sup>8</sup>

**OHA accordingly appreciates and supports the improved data collection, reporting, and analysis envisioned by this measure, which constitute critical first steps to understanding and addressing the potentially heightened risk of Native Hawaiian women and girls going missing, being murdered, or being otherwise subjected to violence or abuse.**

To best represent the needs of OHA’s beneficiaries, specifically the Native Hawaiian women and girls whose data would be collected and analyzed by this resolution’s proposed Task Force, OHA requests to be represented among the members of the Task Force, and respectfully requests that an additional line be added to page 4, line 16, to read as follows:

“(14) The administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, or the administrator’s designee; and”

OHA fully supports this effort and looks forward to participating in this Task Force to better protect and uplift the most vulnerable of Native Hawaiian women and girls.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SCR70/SR37. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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<sup>6</sup> Ho’ōla Nā Pua, Re/imagine: A Capital Campaign to Rebuild Pearl Haven, <https://hoolanapua.org/re-imagine/> (last accessed Mar. 3, 2020).

<sup>7</sup> ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF SEX TRAFFICKING INTERVENTION & THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, SEX TRAFFICKING IN HAWAII PART II THE STORIES OF SURVIVORS 9 (2019).

<sup>8</sup> THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS HAUMEA: TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND EMPOWERING WĀHINE WELL-BEING 7, 84 (2018).

**Justin F. Kollar**  
Prosecuting Attorney



**Rebecca Vogt Like**  
Second Deputy

**Jennifer S. Winn**  
First Deputy

**Diana Gausepohl-White**  
Victim/Witness Program Director

**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

**County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i**

3990 Ka'ana Street, Suite 210, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766  
808-241-1888 ~ FAX 808-241-1758  
Victim/Witness Program 808-241-1898 or 800-668-5734

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**THE HONORABLE MAILE SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR  
THE HONORABLE RUSSELL RUDERMAN, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS and HUMAN SERVICES  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020  
State of Hawai'i**

March 10, 2020

**RE: S.C.R. 70, S.R. 37**

Dear Chairs Shimabukuro and Ruderman and Honorable Members,

Our Office is proud to submit this testimony in support of SCR70 and SR37, which requests the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) convene a task force to conduct a study on missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls and to submit a report on the study to the Legislature.

A lack of data collection and lack of awareness do not mean that a problem does not exist.

This legislation seeks to address the absence of information and concerted response around the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) in Hawai'i. SCR70 was inspired by First Nations organizing in Canada and across Indian country in United States. Our Office is concerned about the high rate of sexual violence against Native Hawaiian women and believes a similar, invisible crisis exists across Hawai'i.

Women's advocacy in Hawai'i has not adequately addressed the unique experiences of Native Hawaiian women. MMIWG is a conversation about sexual violence and colonization. There is a nexus between MMIWG and sex trafficking— a crime which has an intense impact on individual and community well-being. Sexual trafficking and rape are an assault on human

dignity.<sup>1</sup> Yet until 2019, there was no comprehensive data on the prevalence of sex trafficking victimization among Native Hawaiians or the sex market in Hawai‘i.

The HSCSW is mandated by law to serve as the state’s information center on women and girls. In 2018, the agency in partnership with Arizona State University’s Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention and Research embarked to produce the first comprehensive research on sex trafficking in the state’s 61-year history. The pre-inquiry process of interviews with social service providers and criminal justice personnel revealed that Native Hawaiian women and girls are being sex trafficked in Hawai‘i, over state lines and even across international borders.

In 2019, the HSCSW published peer-reviewed, empirical data that found:

- 77% of 22 sex trafficking victims were Native Hawaiian, and 100% identified as women<sup>2</sup>
- 64% of 97 sex trafficking victims, and 75% identified as women<sup>3</sup>
- Current overrepresentation of Native Hawaiian women and girls in sex trafficking at present may be directly linked to the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i—that is, land dispossession, exposure to sexual violence, hypersexualization, incarceration, cultural dislocation, intergenerational trauma, mental and emotional distress, racism, poverty, and ongoing inequities<sup>4</sup>

Accordingly, our Office supports this legislation as an important step to radically improve the safety of Native Hawaiian women in Hawai‘i.

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<sup>1</sup> See Christine Boyle, *What Makes “Model” Sexual Offenses? A Canadian Perspective*, 4 BUFF. CRIM.L. REV. 487, 492 (2000).

<sup>2</sup> Jabola-Carolus, K. & Roe-Sepowitz, D., *Sex Trafficking in Hawai‘i Part II: The Stories of Survivor*, Arizona State University, Jan. 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Jabola-Carolus, K. & Roe-Sepowitz, D., *Sex Trafficking in Hawai‘i Part III: Sex Trafficking Across Hawai‘i*, Arizona State University, Feb. 2020.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 1.

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/13/2020 2:47:12 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Field	Testifying for Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments:





**Papa Ola Lokahi**  
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

**Papa Ola Lokahi**

894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

**SENATE COMMITTEE HUMAN SERVICES**

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice-Chair

**IN SUPPORT**

**SCR 70 - REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE  
STATUS OF WOMEN TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE ON MURDERED AND  
MISSING NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**Monday, March 16, 2020, 2:45 PM, State Capitol Conference Room 016**

**Papa Ola Lokahi**

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

Authorized by the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (Title 42 USC 122) to address the health and well-being of native Hawaiians.

**Board of Directors**

*Member Organizations*

*Hoola Lahui Hawaii*

*Hui No Ke Ola Pono*

*Hui Malama Ola Na O'iwi*

*ALU LIKE*

*Ke Ola Mamo*

*E Ola Mau*

*University of Hawaii*

*Hawaii State Department of Health*

*Na Puuwai*

*Office of Hawaiian Affairs*

**Executive Director**

*Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD*

Aloha to the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committees.

Papa Ola Lōkahi is **IN SUPPORT** of this measure to convene a task force to conduct a study on missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls.

We were alarmed to learn earlier this year from a report conducted by Arizona State University that 64% of sex trafficking survivors are Native Hawaiians. This report identifies the risk factors for sex trafficking survivors, most of which align with the same risk factors impacting Hawaiian well-being: parent in prison, adverse childhood experiences, academic difficulties, experience with family violence, drug use, and more.

The insight gained from a comprehensive report would inform individual and collaborative strategies to reduce this shocking number. It would also help us fine-tune the recommendations offered by the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women to add a Hawaiian cultural lens. Some of these recommendations include:

- Develop an infrastructure for detection, intervention, and treatment for victims
- Develop screening protocols for children and adults
- Offering education in schools and greater public awareness
- Implementing trauma-informed trainings on sex trafficking

A greater understanding of the tactics of the sex trafficking industry will help Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, and other Hawaiian serving agencies and programs to better tackle this issue and reduce the overrepresentation among Native Hawaiians through public policy, education and prevention, intervention and treatment, and cultural strategies.

The data shows that the work done by such a task force is critical at this point in time. We need to understand what is happening to our Hawaiian women and girls. Papa Ola Lōkahi is a willing participant in this effort and on this task force.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support this initiative.

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 1:16:35 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Field	Testifying for Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 5:31:35 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mandy Fernandes	Testifying for ACLU of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 8:23:46 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Monk	Testifying for Women's Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chairs Ruderman and Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Hawaii Affairs

Thank you for considering this resolution.

This is an excellent idea. Gathering and reporting data on missing and murdered women and girls can give us an overview a problem which may exist in some communities. As victims of domestic violence, female victims are far more prevelant than male victims. As such, data should be gathered on all missing and murdered women and girls, and then broken down by ethnicity and other characteristics. It would be useful to identify communites, ethnicities, age groups, geographic areas where this problem is more common.

Thank you,

Amy Monk

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 9:16:48 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Munoz	Testifying for Ho'ola Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Hawaiian Affairs,

Ho'Ā• la NÄ• Pua is a nonprofit organization committed to the prevention of sex trafficking and providing care for children who have been exploited. We are in strong support of SCR70/SR37 which requests the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women to convene a task force to conduct a study on missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls and to submit a report on the study to the legislature.

As an organization working with children and survivors of trafficking in our state, we see firsthand that the majority of our clients are indigenous women and girls.

Rates of gender-based violence are higher for indigenous women nationwide, and yet, the national report documenting murdered or missing indigenous women released in 2018 by the Urban Indian Health Institute did not include any statistics from Hawai'i.

We need data in order to better protect Native Hawaiian women and girls.

Ho'Ā• la NÄ• Pua is asking the Committees to support this resolution in order to gather the data necessary to increase action, investigate, prevent, and develop interventions to violence against Native Hawaiian women and girls.

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Sincerely,

Jessica Muñoz

President, Ho'Ā• la NÄ• Pua





Hawaii  
**Children's Action Network Speaks!**  
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

To: Senator Ruderman, Chair  
Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Kahele, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Re: **SCR 70/ SR 37 Requesting a task force to study missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls**  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016  
2:45 PM, 3/16/2020

Chair Ruderman, Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Kahele, and committee members,

**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, we write in support of SCR 70/SR 37.**

Before the recent reports on sex trafficking in Hawaii were published, very few people thought sex trafficking was a problem here. The studies revealed just how large the problem is and started our community dialoguing on what we need to do to protect the lives of women and girls. Similarly, at this time we do not have the data on missing and murdered indigenous girls and women (MMIWG) and so it is easy for those unconnected to say there is no problem. However, we do know that rates of gender-based violence are higher for indigenous women. We know that Native Hawaiian women are more economically vulnerable because of inequity in their pay. We know that trafficking is a contributing factor to MMIWG. We need the data to protect Native Hawaiian women and girls. It is time to learn where we our failing indigenous girls and women so that we may be do better as a community.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 70/ SR 37 and respectfully request the committee pass the resolution.

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire  
Director, Public Policy and Research

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/13/2020 3:33:33 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teasha Martines-Melim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/13/2020 7:12:05 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chari Ruderman, Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Joint Committee on Human Services and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in support of SCR 70.

It is very important for the state to know if Native Hawaii women are disproportionately represented in the total number of missing and murdered women in Hawaii. The Native Hawaiian people already have poor health outcomes compared to the other ethnicities. The Native Hawaiian have a disproportionate population among our homeless and imprisoned communities. It is our shared responsibility to help the indigenous people of Hawaii because they are the ethnic group that gives Hawaii its unique identity and sense of place.

Please pass this resolution with the intent of ensuring a happier future for our Native Hawaiian girls and women.

Mahalo,  
Caroline Kunitake

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/14/2020 7:44:57 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
kenneth kudo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Racist. Why only native hawaiian women? its senseless, and should be for all resident women. Oppose.

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/14/2020 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jen Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 1:08:30 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexandra Balgos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Kahele, Chair Ruderman, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Alexandra Balgos and I am a feminist and community advocate for women, girls, and non-binary people. I write today in strong support for SCR70/SR37 due to my deep concern for the safety of our Native Hawaiian women and girls. It has been shown in recent reports published by the state's Commission on the Status of Women that this demographic is at increased risk for experiencing gender-based violence, especially in the form of trafficking. Forming this task force will provide incredible insight into the scope of the problem that has not been captured by national efforts in reporting on MMIWG. It is my greatest hope that this task force's findings will drive the state to provide proper services and support to those affected and all too often neglected.

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 1:50:19 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Abby Snyder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing this resolution and considering testimony on it. The resolution makes clear the numerous and disappointing ways studies have failed to adequately look at the impact that sex trafficking has on Native Hawaiian communities and specifically Native Hawaiian women. It is impossible to take effective action on sex trafficking without fully understanding it.

As a constituent of Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, I thank her for helping to introduce this resolution. We have an enormous responsibility to understand the situation better because the problem is so severe here. In a [2018 study of sex trafficking demand in Hawaii](#), researchers Dominique Roe-Sepowitz and Khara Jabola-Carolus reported the following:

For every sex advertisement placed on Oahu's Backpage.com website, which costs \$14 in bitcoin, there are over 400 potential buyers who responded within 24 hours. **The sex market response to the online advertisements was significantly more robust than other large cities on the continental U.S.**

They also found no comprehensive plan for addressing sex trafficking at the state level. Please pass this resolution as a first step to changing that.

Mahalo,

Abby Snyder

Resident SD12

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 1:53:51 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
K. Blackman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My name is Kameanani Blackman, born on O‘ahu. I am a wahine and a mother of Kanaka Maoli descent whose roots trace back to Moku O Keawe. It is out of great love and concern for the future of my own daughter and for the safety and well-being of all wāhine, especially of native women, who are living in our communities. As we see paralleled in other Native communities, it is us Native women and girls who are often the victims of violence and other forms of abuse, which too often leads to abduction and death, many which remain unsolved. Hawai‘i has an insidious network of human trafficking and we must do everything in our power to protect those that are the most vulnerable in our communities from being exploited by these predators. Among those that are part of human trafficking in Hawai‘i are reported to be members of our very own law enforcement. I fully support the creation of a task force which I believe is a very crucial step in helping to prevent more tragedies from occurring in our islands. We urgently need to do whatever we can to protect our wāhine!

Mahalo,

Kameanani Blackman

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 1:57:10 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aakash Shah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Simply put, we need data; and the lack of data is sending the message that as a society, we do not care about Native Hawaiian women.

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 2:21:14 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacob Noa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I greatly support this measure to develop a task force to conduct a study on missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women and girls. The epidemic of gender-based violence against Indigenous women described within SCR70 is a devastating and widely known fact within Indigenous communities across the U.S. Understanding that the 2018 report by the Urban Indian Health Institute on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) did not include Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians should immediately warrant the creation of a task force to conduct this research. In addition, the disproportionate representation among Native Hawaiians in the recent 2020 report on sex trafficked victims in Hawai'i highlights the dire need of more research into the extent of gender-based violence against Native Hawaiian women and girls. The overall lack of data only works to prevent the development of an action-plan to address the violence that is already known to be prevalent among Indigenous communities. As a Native Hawaiian and lifelong resident of O'ahu, I strongly encourage that this measure be passed.

Mahalo,

J. Kalauli Noa



**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 4:01:10 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT. 100%. Do we even know how many missing folks there are in our islands? Please, yes.

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/16/2020 8:04:47 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kamalani Keliikuli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/16/2020 8:23:07 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**From:** [Yvonne Mahelona](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** Support for scr70  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 4:52:46 PM

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The sex trade has violent roots in Hawaii since before martial law when it was legalized. My great grandmother lived a life she didn't want because she was the daughter of a hotel street walker at the time. Native Hawaiians are asking you to stand with us. Mahalo a nui.

Me ke aloha 'Aina,

Yvonne Mahelona

[\(808\) 436-3424](tel:(808)436-3424)

[Mahelonay@icloud.com](mailto:Mahelonay@icloud.com)

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse any typo's.

**From:** [Anna Mackey](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SCR70  
**Date:** Friday, March 13, 2020 10:22:50 PM

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Hi there-

As a women living in Hawaii I am concerned about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women which is why I writing to support SCR70 to provide testimony. Indigenous women deserve the full protection of the law afforded to all citizens, included accountable, transparent and thorough investigation

This is testimony in support of SCR70. Please pass SCR70! Decades of violence against Native women and girls must end.

Anna-Marie Mackey  
(405) 834-8305

**From:** [Audrey Alvarez](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** In support of SCR70  
**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 2020 12:40:00 PM

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Aloha,

This testimony is in support of SCR70. Please pass SCR70 and help stop the violence against native hawaiian women.

Mahalo,  
Audrey Alvarez

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Catherine Ritti](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** SCR70  
**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 2020 3:35:01 PM

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Hello,

I am writing in support of SCR70. We urgently need the ability to collect data and act on information about missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

Please support this bill.

Thank you,

Catherine Ritti

**From:** [Clarissa Mae Rago](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** in support of scr270  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:17:25 PM

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To whom this may concern

I am writing you to testify in passing scr270 to prevent further exploitation of missing and endangered native women. It is not secret that Hawai'i captivates the hearts and soul of many, however many times this is at the expensive of many young women. If this law is passed, we can further ensure the security of our residents with research passed. I hope you take this into consideration.

Sincerely,  
Clarissa

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Clarissa Mae Rago  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
B.A. Candidate, Ethnic Studies  
A.S. Music Business  
[cmrago@hawaii.edu](mailto:cmrago@hawaii.edu)



**From:** [Jada May Areola](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** SCR70 Testimony  
**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 2020 5:00:07 PM

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Aloha,

This is a testimony in support of scr70. I kindly ask to please pass scr70. Stop the pandemic of violence against Native Hawaiian women.

Mahalo,

Jada May Areola

**From:** [Julia Hannafin](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** testimony in support of scr70  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 9:32:08 AM

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hi!

i'm emailing to provide testimony in support of scr70. please pass scr70! it would finally hold the state accountable and create a dedicated task force to address violence against native hawaiian women and girls.

indigenous girls and women are are victims of violence at far greater rates than any other population in the united states. previous attempts to acknowledge this disparity and support indigenous women and girls have not included hawaii.

stop the pandemic of violence against native hawaiian women! we need legislation that helps this population of people!

sending my best,

julia hannafin

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**Julia Hannafin**  
(510) 409-2188  
[julia.hannafin@gmail.com](mailto:julia.hannafin@gmail.com)

**From:** [Mara McKeitt](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: IN SUPPORT OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS IN HAWAI'I  
**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 2020 5:36:10 AM

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mara McKeitt <[maramckeitt@gmail.com](mailto:maramckeitt@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** IN SUPPORT OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS  
WOMEN AND GIRLS IN HAWAI'I  
**Date:** March 14, 2020 at 11:34:12 AM EDT  
**To:** [shimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:shimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov)

THIS IS A TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR70. PLEASE PASS SCR70!  
DECADES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN AND GIRLS MUST  
END.

- MARA MCKEVITT

**From:** [Mariko Munro](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** Please pass scr70  
**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 2020 4:08:47 PM

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Hello, writing a testimony in support of scr70.

Please pass sci70!

Stop the pandemic of violence against Native Hawaiian women.

The state must be accountable and create a dedicated Taskforce to address violence against Native Hawaiian woman and girls.

Thank you, Mariko

**From:** [marsellabarrios@gmail.com](mailto:marsellabarrios@gmail.com)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORTING THE FIRST MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN/GIRLS LEGISLATION IN HAWAII  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 11:28:54 AM

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Hello,

This message is testimony in support of scr70 - please pass scr70. Stop the pandemic of violence against Native Hawaiian women and young girls.

Respectfully,

Marsella Barrios

**From:** [mikyla nakila](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** Please pass SCR70!  
**Date:** Friday, March 13, 2020 5:40:27 PM

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This is my personal request to pass SCR70, I am in support of SCR70! Decades of violence and disregard for native women and girls must finally end!

**From:** [Nicki](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** Violence against native Hawaiian women and girls  
**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 2020 1:04:56 PM

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This is testimony in support of scr70

-Nyx

**From:** [Racey Alexander](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** My Testimony  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 4:49:55 AM

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This is a testimony of SCR70.

Please, pay attention to those that are speaking up - having an agency specifically designated to address the violence against the Native women & girls of Hawaii will save lives.

Please, do not turn a blind eye. This is important. We are human, we must protect our people



**From:** [Sarah Strong](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** Please pass SCR70!  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 10:00:13 AM

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Aloha,

This is testimony in support of SCR70. Please pass SCR70! Decades of violence against Native women and girls must end.

Mahalo!

Sarah Strong

**From:** [Vatina](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for scr70  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 3:39:09 AM

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Hello,

This is testimony in support of scr70. Please support scr70 and stop the pandemic of violence against native Hawaiian women.

Vatina McLaurin

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

**From:** [Yvette C](#)  
**To:** [shimabukuro2 - Richard](#)  
**Subject:** SCR70 Testimony  
**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 2020 5:57:28 PM

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This is testimony in SUPPORT of SCR70. Please pass SCR70! Decades of violence against Native women and girls must end.

**SCR-70**

Submitted on: 3/16/2020 9:38:42 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Testifying for Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucu	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus appreciates and supports the improved data collection, reporting, and analysis envisioned by this measure, which constitute critical first steps to understanding and addressing the potentially heightened risk of Native Hawaiian women and girls going missing, being murdered, or being otherwise subjected to violence or abuse. Such information will be helpful in designing solutions to this problem.