
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH OR CONTRACT WITH A VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN AN EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE SURVIVORS OF SEX TRAFFICKING.

1 WHEREAS, according to a September 2018 report on sex
2 trafficking in Hawaii published by Arizona State University
3 School of Social Work and the Hawaii State Commission on the
4 Status of Women, it is estimated that one out of every eleven
5 men in Hawaii over the age of eighteen is an online sex buyer
6 and that there are 74,362 potential sex buyers in Hawaii; and
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8 WHEREAS, during the corona disease 2019 (COVID-19)
9 pandemic, a service provider for sex trafficking victims in
10 Hawaii reported a three hundred percent increase in demand for
11 services, which included trauma-informed care; and
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13 WHEREAS, as part of a juvenile justice reform measure, the
14 Legislature passed Act 208, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which
15 authorized the creation and development of the Kawaihoa Youth
16 and Family Wellness Center at Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility
17 sites, including "crisis shelters for victims of human and sex
18 trafficking"; and
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20 WHEREAS, within just a few months of that authorization,
21 the Kawaihoa campus included an assessment center and shelter
22 for young victims of sex trafficking; and
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24 WHEREAS, in the spring of 2021, the nonprofit organization
25 Ho'ōla Nā Pua opened a thirty-two-bed residential treatment
26 program for victims of sex trafficking in Hawaii; and
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28 WHEREAS, however, neither of these two facilities serve as
29 an emergency shelter for child survivors of sex trafficking; and
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1 WHEREAS, the State only has one emergency shelter for child
2 survivors of sex trafficking, which temporarily ceased
3 operations in 2021 because of unexpected budget shortfalls; and
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5 WHEREAS, maintaining an emergency shelter for child
6 survivors of sex trafficking will improve the State's
7 effectiveness in responding to sexual exploitation by allowing
8 government agencies and victim service providers to establish a
9 coordinated continuum of care and protect victims in a
10 centralized location; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
14 that the Department of Human Services is urged to establish or
15 contract with a victim service provider to operate and maintain
16 an emergency shelter for children who are survivors of sex
17 trafficking; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the emergency shelter is urged
20 to provide services that include but are not limited to housing,
21 rehabilitation, medical, mental health, therapeutic, legal, and
22 diagnostic services for child survivors of sex trafficking; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Human
26 Services, and Executive Director of the State Commission on the
27 Status of Women.

