

MAR 10 2023

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE NEW ZEALAND'S MODEL OF DECRIMINALIZING PROSTITUTION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO AMEND HAWAII LAWS TO DECRIMINALIZE PROSTITUTION.

1 WHEREAS, prostitution is currently illegal in Hawaii; and

2  
3 WHEREAS, there is a growing body of research suggesting  
4 that the decriminalization of prostitution could provide  
5 benefits to sex workers, their clients, and the broader  
6 community; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, New Zealand is one of the few countries that has  
9 decriminalized prostitution, with the passage of the  
10 Prostitution Reform Act 2003; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, the New Zealand model has been in place for almost  
13 twenty years, and there is a significant body of research on its  
14 effects on sex workers, their clients, and the broader  
15 community; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the Legislature would benefit from a thorough  
18 evaluation of the New Zealand model and its potential  
19 application to Hawaii; now, therefore,

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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the  
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Provost of the  
24 University of Hawaii at Manoa is requested to designate a  
25 faculty member of the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexual  
26 Studies of the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Social  
27 Sciences to establish a working group to evaluate New Zealand's  
28 model of decriminalizing prostitution and make recommendations  
29 on how to amend Hawaii laws to decriminalize prostitution; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the faculty member designated  
2 to establish the working group is requested to serve as the  
3 chair of the working group and invite other individuals to  
4 become members of the working group; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the working group  
7 shall serve without compensation; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is  
10 specifically requested to:

- 11  
12 (1) Study the effects of New Zealand's model of  
13 decriminalizing prostitution on sex workers, their  
14 clients, and the broader community;  
15  
16 (2) Consider the potential impacts of decriminalizing  
17 prostitution in Hawaii, including impacts on public  
18 health and safety, sex worker rights and protections,  
19 and law enforcement; and  
20  
21 (3) Make recommendations for amending Hawaii laws to  
22 decriminalize prostitution, including any necessary  
23 changes to health and safety regulations, criminal  
24 penalties, and labor laws; and  
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
27 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
28 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
29 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
30 of 2024; and

31  
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Provost of the  
34 University of Hawaii at Manoa and the Department Chair of the  
35 Department of Women, Gender, and Sexual Studies of the  
36 University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Social Sciences.  
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OFFERED BY: *Carol Johnson*

