

MAR 10 2023

SENATE 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

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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

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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

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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

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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,
23 that the Provost of the University of Hawaii at Manoa is
24 requested to designate a faculty member of the Department of
25 Women, Gender, and Sexual Studies of the University of Hawaii at
26 Manoa College of Social Sciences to establish a working group to
27 evaluate New Zealand's model of decriminalizing prostitution and
28 make recommendations on how to amend Hawaii laws to
29 decriminalize prostitution; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the faculty member designated
32 to establish the working group is requested to serve as the
33 chair of the working group and invite other individuals to
34 become members of the working group; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the working group
3 shall serve without compensation; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is
6 specifically requested to:
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- 8 (1) Study the effects of New Zealand's model of
9 decriminalizing prostitution on sex workers, their
10 clients, and the broader community;
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12 (2) Consider the potential impacts of decriminalizing
13 prostitution in Hawaii, including impacts on public
14 health and safety, sex worker rights and protections,
15 and law enforcement; and
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17 (3) Make recommendations for amending Hawaii laws to
18 decriminalize prostitution, including any necessary
19 changes to health and safety regulations, criminal
20 penalties, and labor laws; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
23 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
24 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
25 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
26 of 2024; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Provost of the University of
30 Hawaii at Manoa and the Department Chair of the Department of
31 Women, Gender, and Sexual Studies of the University of Hawaii at
32 Manoa College of Social Sciences.
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OFFERED BY: _____

Carol Fukushima

