
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO DEVELOP AND
IMPLEMENT A U VISA CERTIFICATION POLICY.

1 WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Victims of Trafficking and
2 Violence Prevention Act of 2000 to encourage undocumented
3 immigrant victims to report crimes, contribute to investigations
4 and prosecutions, and support law enforcement efforts to
5 investigate and prosecute crimes committed against undocumented
6 immigrant victims by creating the U visa certification policy;
7 and

8
9 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Homeland Security
10 has created the U Visa Law Enforcement Certification Resource
11 Guide to assist local government jurisdictions in creating their
12 own U visa certification document; and

13
14 WHEREAS, in California, the Coroner Division of the Orange
15 County Sheriff's Department has already implemented a U visa
16 certification policy; and

17
18 WHEREAS, the U visa is an immigration benefit for
19 undocumented immigrant victims of certain crimes who will
20 assist, are currently assisting, or have previously assisted law
21 enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of these types
22 of crimes; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the U visa provides eligible undocumented
25 immigrant victims with nonimmigrant status that allows them to
26 temporarily remain and work in the United States while assisting
27 law enforcement; and

28
29 WHEREAS, undocumented immigrant victims may otherwise be
30 reluctant to help in the investigation or prosecution of
31 criminal activity for fear of removal from the United States;
32 and



1 WHEREAS, immigrants, especially women and children, can be
2 particularly vulnerable to crimes like human trafficking,
3 domestic violence, sexual assault, and other types of abuse; and
4

5 WHEREAS, any eligible undocumented immigrant victim may
6 apply for a U visa, which must first be certified by a
7 qualifying agency, such as the Department of Law Enforcement,
8 before being reviewed and acted upon by the United States
9 Citizenship and Immigration Services; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the certification verifies that a qualifying
12 criminal activity occurred and that the victim was helpful or
13 will be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the
14 qualifying crime; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the State currently does not have a U visa
17 certification policy in place; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the State would benefit from having a U visa
20 certification policy to ensure that victims of certain crimes
21 have a safe opportunity to report these crimes without fear of
22 deportation; now, therefore,
23

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
26 Session of 2024, that the Department of Law Enforcement is urged
27 to develop and implement a U visa certification policy; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Law
30 Enforcement is requested to submit:
31

32 (1) An interim report on the development of a U visa
33 certification policy, including any proposed
34 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
35 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
36 2025; and
37

38 (2) A final report on the implementation of the U visa
39 policy, including any proposed legislation, to the
40 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
41 convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and
42



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of Law
3 Enforcement.

