

JAN 16 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SEX TRAFFICKING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sex trafficking is a
2 form of modern-day slavery. According to a 2018 report
3 published by Arizona State University and the Hawai'i state
4 commission on the status of women, one out of every eleven adult
5 males living in the State is an online sex shopper. The report
6 also estimated that there were 53,541 potential sex buyers in
7 the State at the time of the study. Moreover, during the COVID-
8 2019 pandemic, a service provider for sex trafficking victims in
9 the State reported seeing a three hundred per cent increase in
10 demand for services, which included trauma-informed care.

11 The legislature further finds that education ends
12 exploitation. By empowering students to protect themselves from
13 harm and build healthy relationships, training school staff in
14 how to respond to at-risk youth in a trauma-informed manner, and
15 creating sexual health programs that include information about
16 sex trafficking, schools can equip students with the knowledge



1 and skills needed to prevent themselves from becoming victims of
2 sexual exploitation as minors and upon reaching adulthood.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to protect the
4 State's public school students from sexual exploitation by
5 requiring the department of education to offer training to
6 teachers and school staff on how to prevent and respond to
7 potential cases of sex trafficking.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
10 and to read as follows:

11 "§302A- Sex trafficking prevention and response
12 training. (a) The department shall offer training for
13 teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral
14 health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response,
15 including:

- 16 (1) The methods used to lure children into sex
17 trafficking;
18 (2) How to identify victims of sex trafficking;
19 (3) The effects of sex trafficking on a victim's social,
20 mental, and physical health;



- 1 (4) The impact of sex trafficking on children of different
2 racial and ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations,
3 and gender identities;
- 4 (5) Strategies to assist in the prevention of sex
5 trafficking of children;
- 6 (6) Trauma-informed strategies for responding to victims
7 of sex trafficking;
- 8 (7) Informational resources for victims of sex
9 trafficking;
- 10 (8) Information on victim service providers that provide
11 services to students who have been identified as
12 victims of sex trafficking or who are at risk of
13 victimization; and
- 14 (9) Information about the importance of enthusiastic
15 consent in preventing sex trafficking and sexual
16 violence.
- 17 (b) The department shall make explanatory information
18 about the protocols approved by the department for providing
19 services to victims of sex trafficking available to teachers,
20 educational officers, and school-based behavioral health
21 specialists at the beginning of each school year.



1 (c) The department may coordinate and contract with any
2 state or county department or agency, victim service provider,
3 or other expert in the field of sex trafficking prevention and
4 response to implement this section.

5 (d) As used in this section, "victim service provider"
6 means any nongovernmental organization that provides direct
7 intervention, social, medical, mental health, legal, case
8 management, educational, emergency, or housing services to
9 victims of sex trafficking."

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

12

INTRODUCED BY:



S.B. NO. 453

Report Title:

DOE; Sex Trafficking Prevention and Response Training

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to offer training for teachers, educational officers, and school-based behavioral health specialists on sex trafficking prevention and response.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

