

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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KE KIA'AINA



DEPT. COMM. NO. 501

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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'AINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'oko Kanawai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. **2025-0012**

January 13, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker and Members of the House of
Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE)'s Report on the Development of a U-Visa Policy within the Department of Law Enforcement as Resolved in Senate Resolution 35 to the 2025 Legislature. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, this report will be posted on DLE's website for ease of public viewing on the internet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan Lowe", with a small mark below it.

Jordan Lowe
Director



DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
REPORT TO THE 2025 LEGISLATURE

REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A
U-VISA POLICY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW
ENFORCEMENT AS RESOLVED IN SENATE RESOLUTION 35

DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

SR-35

REPORT TO THE 2025 LEGISLATURE

Senate Resolution (SR) 35 urges the Department of Law Enforcement (OLE) to develop and implement a U-Visa certification policy.

Federal law allows eligible undocumented immigrant victims to petition for nonimmigrant status under a U visa, which allows the victims to temporarily remain and work in the United States while assisting law enforcement. Having a U visa certification policy for the State will encourage undocumented immigrant victims to report and assist the investigation and prosecution of crimes involving domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.ⁱ

The OLE is supportive of SR-35 because it strongly supports the need for victims to be supported while they navigate the criminal justice process.

The OLE has initiated work on both a U-Visa policy which would apply to undocumented immigrant victims of crime and a T-Visa policy which would apply to victims of human trafficking cases. Those types of policies allow victims to remain in the United States while they work through the criminal justice system to resolve the matters that they are involved. A draft policy that closely mirrors the U-Visa policy of the Los Angeles Police Department is currently the model that OLE is using.

After a draft policy is created, the draft will undergo an internal review, meetings with the Attorney General's Criminal Justice Division, and then undergo required consultation with the employee union. After meaningful consultation with the employee union, the OLE will implement its new U and T-Visa policies by first providing notice to its employees, any required training, and then implementation.

The OLE projects that its U and T-Visa policies will be completed in 2025.

ⁱFrom Standing Committee Report 17-2124

2025-0012 U Visa Policy Annual Report to 2025 Legislature

Final Audit Report

2025-01-13

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