

Proclamation

WHEREAS, sex trafficking is a form of human trafficking found around the world, including in the State of Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Hawai'i became the last state in the nation to pass a state law that explicitly bans sex trafficking, making sex trafficking a violent crime and Class A felony; and

WHEREAS, under Hawai'i state law, victims of sex trafficking can be placed in a support services network and/or in the state witness protection program; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, January is proclaimed National Slavery and Human Trafficking Month to bring awareness to sex trafficking and to advocate for the estimated 25 million people who are being trafficked across the globe; and

WHEREAS, sex trafficking often affects the most vulnerable—those who have suffered sexual abuse in childhood, those who are groomed by a romantic partner, runaways, the emotionally broken, the poor, and the young; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, along with the Arizona State University-Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research, published the State's first report on sex trafficking demographics in Hawai'i, entitled *Sex Trafficking in Hawai'i: The Stories of Survivors* in January 2019; and

WHEREAS, this historic report examines the victimization and experiences of sex trafficking victims and documents the conditions that characterize sex trafficking in our state; and

WHEREAS, findings from this report can be used to develop policy guidance, training, legislative reporting, and response and prevention programs to address the issue locally; and

WHEREAS, we honor the 22 brave survivors who shared their accounts in the report so that action can be taken to build a better response to this important issue; and


WHEREAS, we recognize the state entities, social service providers and community advocates who are tirelessly working toward the elimination of sex trafficking in the state;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, JOSHUA B. GREEN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim January 11, 2019 as

“SEX TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY”

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in raising awareness of sex trafficking in our communities, support survivors of sex trafficking, and work toward a day without commercial sexual exploitation.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this eleventh day of January 2019.


DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


JOSHUA B. GREEN
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i