



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, January 2025 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, providing an opportunity for communities across Hawai'i to join together to educate the public, advocate for victims and survivors, and strengthen efforts to prevent and address this abhorrent crime;

**WHEREAS**, January 2025 also marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which established a three-pronged approach to combat human trafficking that includes prevention, protection, and prosecution;

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking impacts millions of people worldwide, including the people of Hawai'i;

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking exists in many forms, including labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and the commercial sexual exploitation of children;

**WHEREAS**, human traffickers use force, fraud, and coercion to target our most vulnerable populations, including children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, children in foster care, missing and homeless youths, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, people with substance use issues, migrant laborers, undocumented workers and participants in visa programs for temporary workers, people seeking asylum, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, and people with mental and behavioral health conditions;

**WHEREAS**, statistics from the National Human Trafficking Hotline show:

- Since its inception in 2007, the Hawai'i Hotline received 1,258 signals (tips);
- In 2023, the Hawai'i Hotline received 110 signals, of which 34 were made by human trafficking victims or survivors; 19 provided a trafficking tip, nine requested access to services; 17 reported sex trafficking; three reported labor trafficking; and six reported both sex and labor trafficking;

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i Department of Health statistics show that from January to June 2024:

- There were 34 reports of human trafficking, 10 of which were confirmed human trafficking cases; the types of exploitation included 25 reports of sex trafficking and four reports of labor trafficking;
- 19 reports were made from O'ahu; four from the Hawai'i Island; three from Maui; and one from Kaua'i;

**WHEREAS**, victims and survivors of human trafficking are more prone to substance abuse, financial and housing vulnerability, long- and short-term behavioral, mental and physical health issues, continued physical and sexual violence, and further psychological manipulation from exploiters/traffickers;

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking can be prevented by building personal, community, and societal understanding and resilience, reducing social inequities, and addressing the conditions that contribute to exploitation;

**WHEREAS**, the State of Hawai'i is committed to protecting the rights and dignity of all people and to working tirelessly to prevent and combat human trafficking through legislation, law enforcement, and community support;

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General, law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and dedicated residents are working together to increase awareness, support victims and survivors, and bring traffickers to justice;

**WHEREAS**, the State of Hawai'i encourages all residents to be informed, vigilant, and proactive in recognizing the signs of human trafficking, supporting efforts to assist victims and survivors, and holding perpetrators accountable;

**WHEREAS**, by raising awareness and fostering a strong, united front against human trafficking, we can work towards a future where all people are free from exploitation and have the opportunity to live with dignity and respect;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Josh Green, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim January 2025 as

## Human Trafficking Awareness Month

in the State of Hawai'i, and encourage all residents to join in activities and programs that increase awareness, promote advocacy, and support efforts to combat human trafficking in our communities across our islands.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this twenty-fourth day of January 2025.

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i