

Hundreds turn out to testify on civil unions bill

Hundreds Turned Out to Testify For

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### STOP SEX TRAFFICKING IN HAWAII



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By Olena Rubin  
 Story Created: Nov 12, 2008 at 10:19 PM HST  
 (Story Updated: Nov 13, 2008 at 1:25 PM HST)

It's known as the modern-day version of slavery and is the fastest growing industry in the world.

According to federal and city investigators the scope of sex trafficking in Hawaii is much larger than we think.

"As a mother I was just so shocked and so to see, to know that that's going on," Nilsen said.

Lisa Nilsen is an actress and mother, her most recent performance portrays a woman who has been forced into prostitution...a victim of sex trafficking.

"Just get in that car and get that money for us," Nilsen said while performing on stage.

Nilsen learned details about this crime, which is mostly committed behind closed doors, while participating in Girlfest Hawaii and observing an expert panel discussion on the subject.

"Well believe that it is happening because we have certainly seen the cases," Dennis Dunn Director of Witness Kokua Services (a division of the Honolulu's Prosecutor's Office) said.

With more than a dozen reported sex trafficked victims in Hawaii so far this year, Hawaii is no exception.

"The pimps are no different here then they are on the mainland and for the most part they are from the mainland," FBI Special Agent M.K. Itnyre said.

"And it's happening to probably unfortunately to young girls and women that you know," Dunn said.

Pimps prey on young girls and boys near schools, bus stops and on the street.

"What was realized is the problem is a lot bigger than what anybody ever

### WEATHER

**Honolulu**  
**70 °F**  
 Mostly Cloudy  
 Wind : Variable at 6 MPH  
 Humidity : 68 %  
 Hilo 64 °F  
 Kona 73 °F  
 More Weather

KHON2 EXTENDED FORECAST		
THU	Partly Cloudy	77 67
FRI	Partly Cloudy	78 67
SAT	Partly Cloudy	79 67
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KHON	Partly Cloudy	79 68

**KHON2 SURF FORECAST**

Location	Forecast
[SUNSET BEACH]	14-18
[MAKAHA]	9-12
[MARAPU]	5-8
[DIAMOND HEAD]	1-3

High: 70°  
 4:46 p.m. 1.3 ft  
 Low: 61°  
 10:53 a.m. 0.0 ft

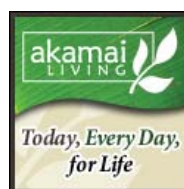
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- Great speech. I feel positive about the future.
- Not so great speech. I need more details.

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thought," Itnyre said.

According to the FBI crimes against children division the average age of a child being trafficked for sex is fourteen.

"And we have discovered underage girls as young as nine who are being put on the streets for the purpose of prostitution," Itnyre said.

A problem Maya Soetoro-Ng, teacher and sister of President-Elect Barack Obama, has also joined the effort to tackle.

"Eliminating this one size fits all approach to trafficking that is currently used," Soetoro-Ng said.

Officials targeting the problem say to contact the police or a sex abuse treatment center if you know someone who is being forced into prostitution by sex trafficking.

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