

TEMPLATE FOR HOUSE JUDICIARY HEARING

Date:

ATTN: **Committee on Judiciary**
Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Rep. Della Au Bellati
Rep. Rida Cabanilla
Rep. Mele Carroll
Rep. Robert N. Herkes
Rep. Sylvia Luke
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey
Rep. John M. Mizuno
Rep. Hermina Morita
Rep. Blake K. Oshiro
Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Glenn Wakai
Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto
Rep. Cynthia Thielen

HEARING DATE:

HEARING TIME:

PLACE:

SB2045 SD1 - RELATING TO CRIME – Human Trafficking Offenses; Crime
Establishes class A and B felony sexual human trafficking offenses, and provisions related to prosecution of the offenses.

Dear COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY:

Human Trafficking is a grave human rights offense recognized internationally and nationally but unrecognized by Hawaii state law. Hawaii is now one of seven states left in the nation that has not made Human Trafficking a felony offense while protecting the human rights and safety of trafficking victims. The other six states without laws are: South Dakota, Ohio, Alabama, Wyoming, West Virginia, and Massachusetts.

The people of Hawaii feel that there is no valid excuse to ignore the passage of a state law against Human Trafficking. The people urge you to pass SB2045 SD1, a bill which carries the highest penalty available to criminals who traffick women and children for sex; one of the most horrible forms of human rights offenses still in existence. This bill effectively addresses the growing problem of Human Trafficking in Hawaii and to create adequate punishments and effective identification systems to locate and protect victims.

Current state laws are not adequate in addressing Human Trafficking, which has been nationally highlighted recently by the ongoing Federal Sex-Trafficking case of Rodney D. King who faces fifteen years to life in prison for trafficking women and children for sex. In 1999, Hawaii brought Rodney D. King to trial for the same crime but because of the inefficacy of our state prostitution laws in addressing Sex-Trafficking, King received only

thirty months in prison and three years supervised release for his guilty plea. This penalty was hardly justice for the victims and was hardly a deterrent for King.

If Hawaii had an adequate Human Trafficking Law in 1999, Kings current victims would not have had to suffer the injustices he put them through. In this current case, King allegedly forced several women and two children to take crystal meth and then forced them into commercial sexual exploitation while he reaped all of their earnings. (U.S. Department of Justice Press Release; 09-601; June 18, 2009)

The people of Hawaii find this unacceptable. Please pass SB2045 SD1 and do not allow its text to be adulterated by politics.

Sincerely,

(Your name)