

PROTECTED INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

STATE ACTION . NATIONAL CHANGE.

HAWAII REPORT CARD

Hawaii has not enacted a sex trafficking law and lacks laws to penalize and deter buyers from purchasing sex acts with minors. Few protective provisions exist for domestic minor sex trafficking victims.

FINAL SCORE

40.5

FINAL GRADE

F



2.5

7.5

4

25

10.5

15

5

10

11.5

27.5

7

15

CRIMINALIZATION OF DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING

Hawaii has not enacted a human trafficking law that includes the crime of sex trafficking. The state has several commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws that reach traffickers, including promoting prostitution of a person under 18, kidnapping for purposes of prostitution or obscenity, promoting child abuse through pornography, and employing a minor to work in adult entertainment. The absence of a sex trafficking law prevents proper identification of the crime or the victim.

CRIMINAL PROVISIONS ADDRESSING DEMAND

Limited options exist to prosecute demand. No CSEC offense expressly addresses buying sex with a minor, leaving buyers of sex with minors to be charged with solicitation of prostitution, which does not distinguish between purchasing sex acts with an adult versus a minor and leaves the exploited child without victim status. Buyers may face civil liability for damages to a minor exploited through prostitution under the Prostitution Coercion Liability Act if they hired or attempted to hire a minor to engage in commercial sex acts when a reasonable person would believe the minor was coerced into prostitution. Restitution for conviction of any crime a buyer might be convicted of, including general sex offenses, is mandatory upon a victim's request and includes medical expenses. A person convicted for possession of child pornography is required to register as a sex offender, but a buyer of sex acts with a minor is not, leaving Hawaii's children at risk of those who buy sex with children. Buyers can be prosecuted for electronic enticement of a child under 18 when they commit felony sexual abuse as a result and face a sentence of imprisonment up to 10 years and possible fine up to \$25,000, but buyers using the Internet for the purchase of sex with children are not culpable under this law if the sexual abuse is identified as prostitution.

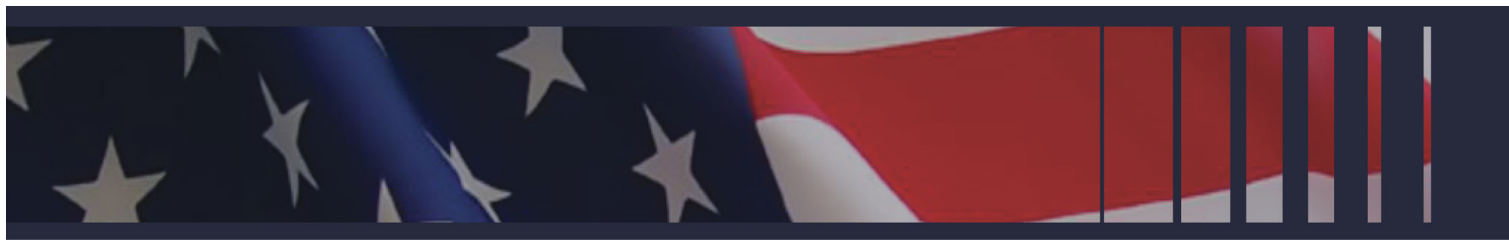
CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR TRAFFICKERS

There is no sex trafficking law in Hawaii, leaving traffickers to be prosecuted under the CSEC statutes of promoting prostitution of a minor and creating child pornography which carry sentences (imprisonment up to 20 years "without the possibility of suspension of sentence or probation") as high as federal trafficking sentences (10 years–life) and a possible fine up to \$50,000. A trafficker using the Internet to lure or recruit a minor under 18 for commercial sex acts could be prosecuted for electronic enticement of a child if the resulting case is seen as felony sexual abuse, instead of merely prostitution. Employing a minor in adult entertainment is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 1 year imprisonment and a possible fine up to \$2,000. Traffickers might be guilty of state racketeering law and money laundering laws for their criminal actions. Traffickers may face civil suits by victims for damages under the Prostitution Coercion Liability Act if the trafficker coerced the victim into prostitution. Traffickers convicted of promoting prostitution of a minor are required to register as sex offenders, but the law relating to the termination of parental rights does not enumerate convictions for promoting prostitution of a minor or sexual offenses as grounds for terminating parental rights, leaving children of traffickers potentially vulnerable. Traffickers found to have violated organized crime laws or the electronic enticement of a child law are subject to asset forfeiture. Restitution to the victim for losses, including medical costs, is mandatory upon request by the victim.

DEMAND | SELECTED COMMERCIAL SEX CRIMES

Crime (name of law abridged)	Classification	Sentence	Fine	Asset Forfeiture (available)
Prostitution (§ 712-1200(4)(a), (b))	Misdemeanor	Max. 30 days	Mandatory \$500	○
Possessing child pornography (§ 707-752)	Class C felony	Max. 5 years	Max. \$10,000	○

All criminal penalties are statutory; many states also have sentencing guidelines that are not codified which affect sentencing.



PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS FOR THE CHILD VICTIMS

Victims of sex trafficking are vulnerable due to gaps in Hawaii’s laws. There is no prohibition on a defendant raising consent of the minor to the commercial sex act as a defense to prosecution. Prostitution offenses are not limited in application to adults leaving minors vulnerable to prosecution. No protective provisions are statutorily mandated specifically for domestic minor sex trafficking victims; therefore, a victim may receive a variety of responses including detention for delinquency or possible shelter care for dependency. Child abuse and neglect definitions include victimization of a child through prostitution or child pornography, but the definition of caregiver that dictates whether child protective services may become involved only includes parents, legal custodians, and those that a child resides with for more than 6 months with the consent of the legal custodian, likely excluding most traffickers and therefore removing trafficked children from child welfare intervention. Only victims of enumerated violent crimes are eligible for crime victim’s compensation; these do not include CSEC but do include sexual assault and kidnapping which might be charged in a CSEC case. Victim-friendly trial procedures are limited to minors under 14. A victim under 18 of a sexual offense may be permitted to testify via closed circuit television and the “rape shield” law reduces the trauma of cross-examination for testifying victims of sexual offenses, which are not defined expressly to include CSEC offenses. Minors may petition to have certain arrest records expunged. Civil remedies are available to CSEC victims and restitution for losses including medical expenses is statutorily authorized. Neither criminal nor civil statutes of limitations are eliminated, presenting potential barriers to a sex trafficking victim with typically slow recovery from the unique trauma of CSEC. Civil statutes of limitations do not begin to run until the victim reaches 18.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TOOLS FOR INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTIONS

Training for law enforcement on human trafficking or domestic minor sex trafficking is not mandated through law. Single party consent to audiotaping is permissible in Hawaii, but CSEC offenses are not included as crimes for which a wiretapping order may be issued, withholding a critical tool for law enforcement investigations. Use of a decoy is not statutorily authorized, but law enforcement may utilize the Internet to investigate buyers and sex traffickers in violation of the electronic enticement of a child statute. The state law mandates reporting of missing and recovered children.

CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR FACILITATORS

A facilitator who knowingly advances or profits from prostitution of a minor under 18 faces imprisonment for 20 years and a possible fine up to \$50,000. Disseminating or reproducing child pornography is a felony punishable by imprisonment up to 10 years and a possible fine up to \$25,000. Facilitators may also be subject to Hawaii’s racketeering and money laundering laws for their criminal actions. Laws which prohibit selling, advertising, and promoting travel for the purpose of prostitution make sex tourism a felony punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and a possible fine up to \$10,000. Facilitators are not subject to asset forfeiture, unless found guilty of organized crime. However, restitution is mandatory if a victim requests it and can prove losses and medical costs caused by an offense.

The Report Card is based on the Protected Innocence Legislative Framework, an analysis of state laws performed by the American Center for Law & Justice and Shared Hope International, and sets a national standard of protection against domestic minor sex trafficking. To access the Protected Innocence Legislative Framework Methodology, each completed Report Card, and foundational analysis and recommendations, please visit: www.sharedhope.org/reportcards.aspx.

