



HAWAII IS 50TH STATE TO PASS SEX TRAFFICKING LAW

WASHINGTON, D.C., On July 5th, Hawaii Governor David Ige signed into law HB 1902, making Hawaii the 50th to pass a law specifically criminalizing sex trafficking. Every state now has a law defining the crime of sex trafficking and most state laws include serious penalties for buying sex with a minor, according to an [annual State Report Card](#) released by [Shared Hope International](#) (SHI), the only U.S. NGO working in every state to end child sex trafficking through legal reform.

SHI started the annual report card—known as the *Protected Innocence Challenge*—six years ago, in 2011, when 26 states flunked and 15 had Ds. Hawaii, along with states across the nation enacted important advancements in the 2016-2015 legislative session:

- Hawaii passed HB 1902, becoming the 50th state to pass a state sex trafficking law this year
- From 2011 to 2016 Hawaii's Protected Innocence Challenge grade has gone up from an F to C

However, despite these improvements SHI found gaps in Hawaii law:

- Demand is expressly excluded under the new sex trafficking law.
- Hawaii's laws do not provide an avenue to specialized services for child sex trafficking victims.

[Shared Hope International](#) is an anti-trafficking organization focusing on prevention, restoration and justice for victims of sex trafficking. Founded in 1998 by Congresswoman Linda Smith, Shared Hope is a trusted leader for training, research, restorative development, and legislative development.

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MEDIA MATERIALS

For media convenience, a variety of resources are available at www.sharedhope.org/press. Video clips, including sex trafficking survivor comments, are available at this location: <https://vimeo.com/user12564384/videos>. Videos are password protected, please enter password sharedmedia1 to access media clips.