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LIS 445: Information for the Underserved Population

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## **Final Project: Human Trafficking Survivor Toolkit**

### **Introduction**

Human trafficking is nothing new, but the extent and degree of its global and societal impact could be felt as much today as any other time in history, debatably. The increase shared information network of the modern world we live in suggests that human trafficking is not just an archaic problem but one that likely existed as long as recorded history. When I first moved back to Hawaii in 2022 I was shocked at the anecdotal data I was able to obtain from coworkers who were U.S. Department of War intelligence analysts. Every person I spoke to, about ten people total, was either related to someone who was a trafficking victim or somebody close to them was a victim. Most of them personally knew more than one victim and what was more surprising is that this was common knowledge in Hawaii.

A study conducted for research in human trafficking in Hawaii by the Arizona State University, Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (ASU STIR) found that there was a lack of understanding in Hawaii about the ongoing human trafficking going on in the island and that “sex trafficking currently exists in Hawai‘i in disturbing numbers” (Reo-Sepowitz & Jabola-Carlous, 2020). During the three month period of the survey in 2019, which involved 97 surveyed members, “sex trafficking victims were identified on O‘ahu (45.4%), Maui (23.7%), Hawai‘i Island (20.6%), Kaua‘i (6.2%), and Moloka‘i (3.1%),” with “an age range from 4 to 55” (Reo-Sepowitz & Jabola-Carlous, 2020). A total of 64% of the trafficked victims identifying as Hawaiian and a total of 69.1% of all victims reported homelessness at some point (Reo-Sepowitz & Jabola-Carlous, 2020). Human trafficking victims, specifically sex trafficking compared to other forms of trafficking, were found to be “two times more likely to have attempted suicide, five times more likely to report using heroine, and four times more likely to report a drug addiction (Reo-Sepowitz & Jabola-Carlous, 2020). The ASU STIR study determined the “need for universal awareness, prevention, and screenings for sex trafficking in Hawai‘i” (Reo-Sepowitz & Jabola-Carlous, 2020).

The National Human Trafficking Hotline identified 55 cases in 2024, from which 96 victims were identified , specifying that “cases can involve multiple victims” (National Human Trafficking Hotline, 2025). Their statistics reveal that out of all of the types of trafficking, sex trafficking was the highest reported with 32 cases (National Human

Trafficking Hotline, 2025). What I found more surprising is that the Hawaii Public Library System has no dedicated resources to combating human trafficking or increasing awareness. With this being such a huge problem here that even intelligence analysts with Top Secret clearances personally know so much about, I found this to be unsatisfactory with my expectations of the library here in Hawaii. While there are other numerous resources available to victims, there literally could never be enough. The Hawaii Public Library System should be far more involved with human trafficking awareness. If our learning institutions cannot address local increased awareness of real world issues affecting their community, then ignorance prevails in this age of information, which is when ignorance should be endangered.

### Citations

National Human Trafficking Hotline. (2025). *Hawaii*.

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics/hawaii>

Roe-Sepowitz, D., & Jabola-Carolus, K. (2020, January). *Annual Report - Department of Human Services - Hawaii.gov*. HumanServices.Hawaii.Gov.

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ST-in-Hawai%E2%80%98i-Executive-Summary-January-2020-FINAL-2.pdf>

### Resources

#### National Organizations:

1. [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#)  
Description: This hotline falls under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Family and assists victims of sex and labor trafficking. Rather than providing direct services for survivors, the hotline connects victims with vetted services across the United States and is not a law enforcement agency. The hotline has fallen under [Polaris](#) since 2007, which is a leader in the fight for eliminating human trafficking altogether. The hotline accepts calls from victims or anybody providing information regarding human trafficking.
2. [U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Blue Campaign](#)  
Description: This is a national public awareness campaign dedicated to increasing the awareness of human trafficking and recognizing the indicators. Maximum public engagement is accomplished by not only sharing information and developing useful training for law enforcement and government entities, but the campaign also engages with Non-government Organizations (NGOs) and state and local authorities. Aside from government departments and NGOs, the Blue Campaign also aims to educate

the public all about the intricate and moving parts involved in human trafficking, and ways to effectively recognize and alert the proper personnel.

3. [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants \(USCRI\)](#)

Description: This is an international organization that was established in 1911 to focus on refugee and immigrant rights worldwide. With a mission dedicated to protecting the rights and needs of those in forced migration, this organization provides numerous in depth [training courses](#) that have a plethora of information regarding human trafficking awareness, detection, intervention, points of contacts for assistance, and providing trauma based care. There are also various [tool kits](#) for trauma based case workers to know how to communicate and better assist victims.

Local Organizations:

1. [The Salvation Army](#)

Description: The Salvation Army works closely with nonprofits, NGOs, and government assistance programs to assist victims of human trafficking. Collaborative public education efforts are provided as well as victim assistance with matters in healthcare, counseling, housing, and job training guides. One of the biggest strengths of the Salvation Army is the collaborative partnerships they have made throughout its existence, which is perpetuated by being a well-known player in the humanitarian aid arena. With over 9,306 survivors assisted, with 54% of those being exploited women and girls, the Salvation Army is a great resource to connect with. If they cannot assist they will surely provide a regionally or locally available organization that would be able to help.

2. [State of Hawaii Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division \(CAMHD\)](#):

Description: This organization focuses on exposing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Understanding the mental health disorders that accompany trafficking victims, the CAMHD aims to increase awareness and getting those victims to the resources that could best help them. Their website has study reports and useful contact information, such as hotlines, local and national resource links, training resources, and crisis support contact information. [Family Guidance Centers](#) are also located throughout the island so that survivors could seek assistance in person, if needed.

3. [Pacific Survivor Center](#)

Description: Health and human rights advancement in the Pacific region is the primary mission of this organization. Healing and empowering survivors is another mission of theirs, which helps survivors learn to live with the traumatic events that

happened to them without those events defining them. They not only provide services to those in trafficking situations but to those in recovery from past events. Pacific Survivor Center has programs focused on clinical services, forensics, research, and human trafficking prevention.

### Library Programs:

1. [Richmond Public Library](#)

Description: This library in Richmond Virginia provided articles with human trafficking awareness information and resources to assist survivors. [Kathryn Coker](#) posted two articles on the library's website that lists resources to help victims, such as the [Virginia Department of Social Services](#), [Virginia Department of Justice](#), and [nonprofits](#) like [Richmond Justice Initiative](#) and [Samaritan House](#). Coker's two articles provide a plethora of information for the public, victims, and those combating human trafficking alike. While this library might not have direct access to victim services, they know where to point patrons to when they need the assistance.

2. [Jackson Community Library](#)

Description: Jackson County Library Services provided an article that has beneficial links for victims and information seekers. Useful links such as [The Polaris Project](#), [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#), and [training courses](#) in human trafficking provided by the library. Providing training courses is a very effective way to increase awareness in a very proactive manner, rather than simply being the middle person connecting victims with resources. While connections are critically important, so is training and education, which contribute to the overall collective knowledge of not only what is being done to trafficking persons but how to prevent, recognize, and better assist those who need it most.

3. [San Diego Public Library](#)

Description: In October 2025 the San Diego Public Library hosted a Human Trafficking Awareness Conference. This article has relative, recent, and accurate statistical data, such as San Diego's sex economy being \$810 annual revenue, according to [Point Loma Nazarene University](#). These conferences held by the library increase the public awareness of events and information that directly affect its community. This library recognizes how libraries are safe havens for trafficking victims and provides insightful conferences to keep their patrons apprised of community concerns.

### **Other Programs:**

1. [Hawai'i Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#)  
Description: In the spirit of unbroken connectedness, this organization aims to connect survivors with the services they need and desire. Community events are held to increase awareness and knowledge about services victims could receive, and how they could get in touch to get those services. Numerous resources are listed along with articles linked that educate people about human trafficking and recovery. An extensive [library list](#) with 226 documents from various organizations is also conveniently linked in the menu bar of their website.
  
2. [Hawaii Mana'olana \(Hope\) Program](#)  
Description: Free comprehensive case management information is provided by this program, as well as screening and assessing risks for human trafficking. Some other services provided are community outreach, training service planning, and safety planning. This is part of the [Child and Family Services](#) (CFS) organization, which is a local Hawaiian Nonprofit that receives state and federal contracts for the majority of its funding. CFS is also affiliated with the [United Way, National Federation of Families](#), and was voted as a [Hawaii Business Best Places to Work for 2024](#).
  
3. [Trafficking Victim Assistance Program](#)  
Description: Case management is provided for trafficking victims in Oahu, Hawaii. Faith-based services they provide includes social services, providing a safe space for victims, and advocate for all human rights in collaboration with the [Susan Wesley Community Center](#). Some of the many services provided are all-day access to crisis responses, court advocacy, service referrals, therapy, consultations, and [community outreach](#). With many organization listed as collaborators, such as [Parents and Children Together](#), [Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i](#), and [Hale Kipa](#), survivors are likely to find whatever they need from Trafficking Victim Assistance Program.
  
4. [Spiritual Alchemy Foundation of Enlightenment Inc.](#)  
Description: This is the nonprofit I started in 2020, which is a nondenominational religious organization that is dedicated to human trafficking awareness. Collaborative efforts have been established and are being strengthened with various other organizations that I have personally vetted, such as [Epstein Justice](#) with Nick Bryant (investigative journalist who discovered the Epstein flight logs and the black book), [Owen Army](#) and [We Fight Monsters](#), both led by Ben Owen. Once I finish my regionally accredited degree programs (BLIS, MLIS, PhD) I plan to navigate further into the investigations and open-source intelligence (OSINT) fields. My [novels](#) tackle many of the theological and philosophical possibilities that have allowed human trafficking not only to exist but persist.

