

Resolution

No. 22-113

RECOGNIZING MAY 5, 2022, AS
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR
MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS
WOMEN AND GIRLS

WHEREAS, indigenous women and girls are victims of violence at higher rates than any other population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the violence includes stalking, domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and homicide; and

WHEREAS, women and children in Hawai'i are facing a widespread epidemic of violence and sex trafficking, with a recent study reporting that a disproportionate number of sex trafficking victims are of Native Hawaiian ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women as a group are more economically vulnerable than Native Hawaiian men and non-indigenous women; and historical trauma further increases the vulnerability of Native Hawaiian women and girls to sex trafficking and other forms of violent crime; and

WHEREAS, harmful colonial stereotypes have resulted in the sexual fetishization of Native Hawaiian women; and Native Hawaiian women, girls, and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community disproportionately experience factors that put them at high risk of being victims of sex trafficking and being involved with the sex industry; and

WHEREAS, from 2017 to 2019, one out of three child sex trafficking cases reported to the Child Welfare Services trafficking hotline were Native Hawaiian children, and 95 percent were girls; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian children who go missing are detrimentally labeled as "runaways" while children from non-marginalized communities are classified as missing; and

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WHEREAS, a Hawai'i Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force was created in 2021 and includes representatives from across the state, government agencies, private individuals, and human service organizations tasked with gather data on missing person cases, human trafficking, and other violence against women and girls; and

WHEREAS, organizers in Maui County have held annual events since 2020 to help raise awareness about missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, including this year's gathering on May 5 in front of Queen Kaahumanu Center and, in conjunction with International Women Who Ride Day events across the country, a motorbike ride on May 7 starting at Nalu's South Shore Grill; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it recognizes May 5, 2022, as International Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls;
2. That it also recognizes the importance of protecting Native Hawaiian women, girls, and other vulnerable members of our community from gender-based and other forms of violence; and
3. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women; the Maui County Committee on the Status of Women; Sanoë Ka'aihue, Executive Director, Women Helping Women; Dr. Akiemi Glenn, Executive Director, The Pōpolo Project; Leonard Kimokeo Kapahulehua and 'Anela Gutierrez, Hawaiian Outrigger Canoe Voyaging Society; Lisa Rivera, also known as Sacred Rider, Medicine Wheel Ride Maui; Ron Panzo and Jackie Foster, Street Bikers United Hawaii, Maui Chapter; and Romi Simmons, The Litas of Maui.

INTRODUCED BY:


