

Voices Rising: Uplifting Native Hawaiian Women Survivors and Victims Missing or Murdered

Nā leo mana; Paepae ‘ia Nā Wahine Maoli

Nā mea ola o ka ‘ino weliweli kūloko ‘ohana pau pū me nā luapo‘i nalowale a i ‘ole make

May 2, 2022




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POUHANA 'O NĀ WAHINE
 "Pillars of women"



NaniFay Paglinawan



Rosemond "Loke" Pettigrew



Dr. Dayna Schultz, PsyD., LSW, CSAC



Dolly Tatofi, MSW, LCSW

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E Hō Mai
by Edith Kanaka'ole

E hō mai i ka 'ike mai luna mai e
O nā mea huna no'eau o nā mele e
E hō mai, e hō mai, e hō mai e

Grant us knowledge from above
The things of knowledge hidden in the chants
Grant us these things



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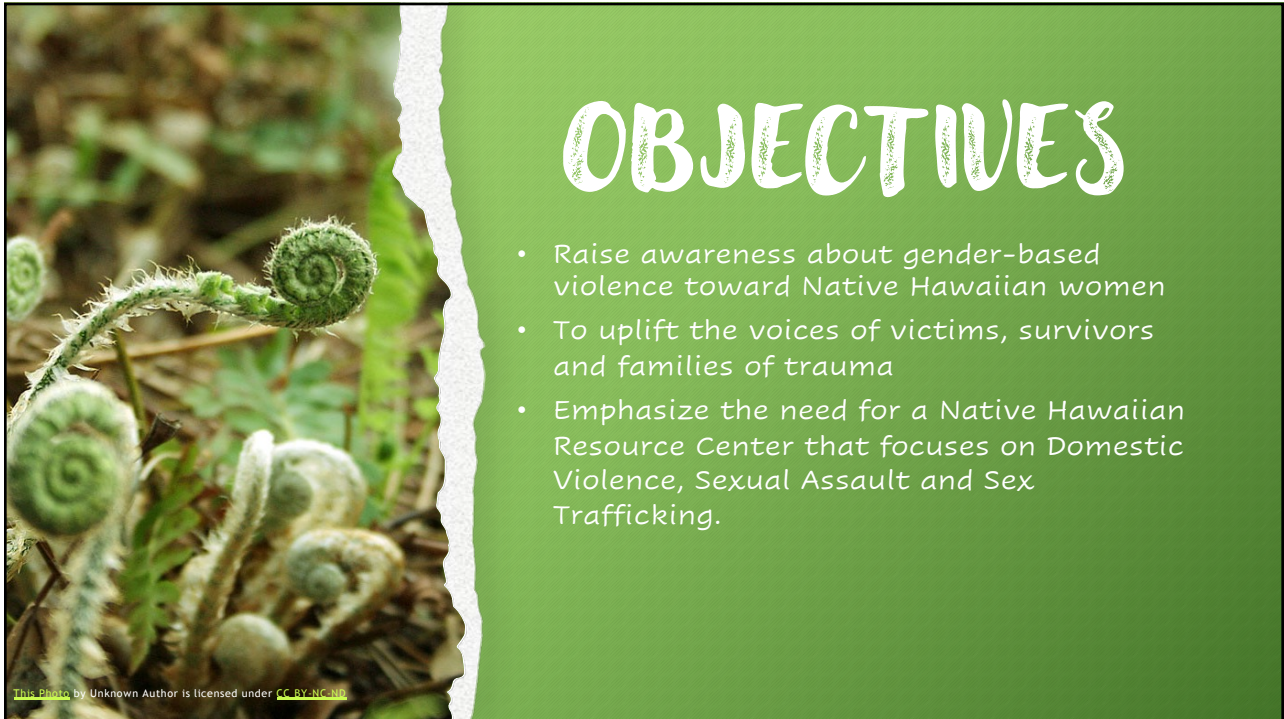
Brief Summary

This webinar will give a voice to survivors, fallen victims and their ohana as Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women remains a form of violence and oppression that was introduced and implemented by foreigners or non-Native Hawaiians to control and silence Native Hawaiian women. Furthermore, we will share how prostitution and sex trafficking negatively impacts the Hawaiian community by sexualizing cultural practices and viewing women as property, which is not a belief held by Native Hawaiians.



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OBJECTIVES

- Raise awareness about gender-based violence toward Native Hawaiian women
- To uplift the voices of victims, survivors and families of trauma
- Emphasize the need for a Native Hawaiian Resource Center that focuses on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Sex Trafficking.

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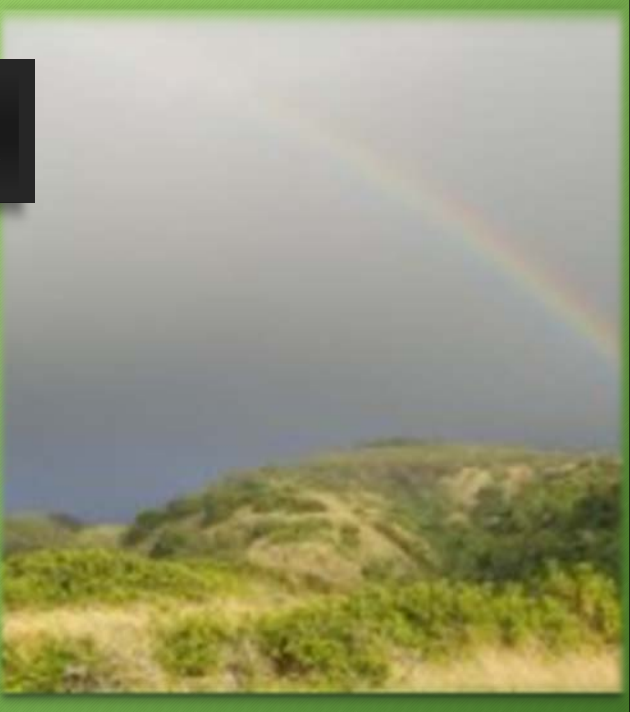


Ka leo o ke ola

"The Voice of Life"

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MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS TASK FORCE

- Concurrent Resolution passed by Senate and House in 2020 and in 2021 to conduct a study on Missing and Murdered Hawaiian Women and Girls.
- Pouhana 'O Nā Wahine requests to join the Task Force.
- Resolution states that women and girls are victims of violence at far greater rates than any other population in the U.S.

<https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2021-10-07/hawaii-panel-shines-light-on-missing-slain-indigenous-girls>

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Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence - Fact Sheet: Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, and Human Trafficking in Native Hawaiian Communities February 2020

- 20.6% of Native Hawaiian women between 18 to 29 years old report experiencing IPV, compared to 13.3% of non-Hawaiian women of the same age range;
- 19.6% of Native Hawaiian women between 30 to 44 years old report experiencing IPV, compared to 13.3% of non-Hawaiian women of the same age range;
- 21.0% of Native Hawaiian women between 45 and 59 years old report experiencing IPV, compared to 12.60% of non-Hawaiian women.

References:

<https://api-gbv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/DVFactSheet-Native-Hawaiians-Aug-2021.pdf>

Haumea: Transforming the Health of Native Hawaiian Women and Empowering Wahine Well-Being. Honolulu, HI: Office of Hawaiian Affairs, 2018.

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Taking a closer look...

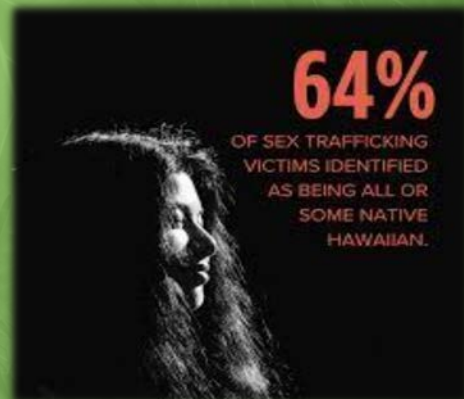
- Terminology used
- Deciphering between missing and runaway status
- Legal considerations
- No consistent understanding



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Sex Trafficking is NOT of Hawaiian Culture

- *False truth that Pacific Island women in general were “promiscuous,” unrestrained, sexualized and willingly submitted to foreign lovers making prostitution seem more acceptable and therefore a problem that could be ignored. Civil Beat, 2018*
- *Prostitution, pre-contact- was UNKNOWN and UNHEARD OF*
- *Polyamorous relationships and property was communal-shared with Aloha*
- *Kalaimoku in letters explicitly expressed that sex trafficking was against the traditions and customs of the land and will not be tolerated*



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National Human Trafficking Hotline
Data Report Hawaii State Report:
1/1/2020-12/31/2020

Overview of incoming signals or communications with the NHTH:

- In 2020, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received a total of 108 substantive phone calls, SMS, Webchats, emails, or online tip reports from Hawaii. This constitutes the 41st highest signal volume of all 50 states and Washington, D.C. in 2020.
- Number of Signals - victims of trafficking 26 - 24% of all contacts
- Victim Demographics
 - Adults 21 of 54%
 - Minors 6 of 15%
 - Females 29 of 74%
 - Males 3 of 8%



<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Hawaii%20State%20Report%20for%202020.pdf>

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I ka 'ōlelo nō ke ola, i ka 'ōlelo nō ka make
In language there is life, in language there is death
(Pukui 2001, p.129, #1191)

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Honoring the 4 corners

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Akua Wahine

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Polly's Story

- 1825 first recorded case of sex trafficking
- 8-year-old Polly Holmes, part Kanaka Maoli-daughter of American sea captain-SOLD
- She was the last of her sisters to be SOLD to American Captains
- Polly escaped to High Chief Kalaimoku who provided her Pu'uhonua

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2018/10/the-history-of-human-trafficking-in-hawaii/>



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Queen Ka'ahumanu

- King Kamehameha's favorite wife and the kingdom's first *kuhina nui* (similar to a prime minister) to campaign for the rights of Native Hawaiian women.
- She alone had the power to spare from death, to protect women and children, to save criminals from prosecution
- Guardian of young King Kamehameha II influenced publicly eat at the same table with women which in turn abolished the ancient *kapu* system that prohibited women from engaging in the same activities once only reserved for men.
- In 1827, the commandments against murder, theft, and adultery became enforceable under Hawaiian law.

- <https://www.thecoconet.tv/know-your-roots/pacific-history/incredible-hawaiian-women-in-history/>
- <https://www.nationalwomenshistoricalsociety.org/blog/2018/3/12/queen-kaahumanu>



German-Ukrainian painter-explorer Louis Choris rendered this painting of Queen Ka'ahumanu in 1816. He was one of the first Western sketch artists that journeyed to the Hawaiian Islands during a research expedition. He visited the Pacific in 1816 aboard the Russian expeditionary ship Rurik. -- Louis Choris painting / U.S. -- Public Domain

<https://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2018/03/queen-kaahumanu-at-250-march-17-1768-june-5-1832/>

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Ashley's Voice

- “I felt so stuck”
- “I’ve met so many people on the mainland, and so, so, so many of them have told me that when they were being trafficked nationally, they would be flown here for a period of time and work here when things were slow, because the demand is so high”

- <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2021/10/07/breaking-news/panel-tackles-issue-of-missing-slain-native-hawaiian-women/>
- <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-10-07/group-studies-scourge-of-missing-murdered-native-hawaiian-women-and-girls>



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Leinani's Voice

- “I didn’t know he was selling me”
- “I’m not going to be silenced, I’m taking that message and putting into message”

- <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2021/10/22/advocates-shine-light-missing-native-hawaiian-women-girls/>



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Dion'e Tamure's Voice

• “This charge has devastated my life, it has taken a lot, a lot from me, my dignity, my honor”

“I am a System Survivor”
A Native Women that was wounded, but Never Destroyed.”

• <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eon2coOkITQ>



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Call to Action with purpose and intention

It's a Kakou effort
We go back to our roots
Oral history
Sharing our pain and needs through word of mouth
Families take action
Seek comfort in family, kupuna and cultural practice e.g. pule



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“We are not Disposable or Invisible”
Yvonne Mahelona, 2020

<https://youtu.be/uVRYcs3USJM>

- Be that pu’uhonua
- Harm reduction is a band aid as it supports colonialism
- Systemic change needs to happen



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Queen Lili’uokalani

- *Onipa’a* (meaning “immovable,” “steadfast,” “firm,” “resolute”)
- Survivor who continued to approach people with grace and Aloha, despite the way she was treated

- Clip from 10:59-11:21 mele myer
- Uplift the voice of our Queen
- Clip from 11:42-11:49-quote from the Queen

• <https://youtu.be/eH5TJ5JTFw>



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**Honoring Native Hawaiian women
who are missing and/or
have been murdered.**

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Ola kalani Mollena
October 15, 1982 - May 29, 2005
Ho'olehua, Molokai
Murdered, Solved

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