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## **Tourism Industry Takes a Stand Against Sex Trafficking**

**Honolulu** – It's a dark side of tourism that people don't often talk about – sex trafficking. According to Ho'ōla Nā Pua, sex traffickers often take advantage of the privacy and anonymity accessible through the hospitality industry. Many of the victims are young Hawaii residents.

Today, Ho'ōla Nā Pua, a Hawaii nonprofit working to combat sex trafficking, held the first of four symposiums, presented by Hawai'i Tourism, and in partnership with the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association. The "Campaign for a Safer Community" symposiums are free to attend thanks to tourism dollars.

Over a hundred people signed up to attend today's symposium on Oahu – a mix of visitor industry leaders and workers, politicians, and community members.

The symposiums are aimed at empowering Hawaii's visitor industry management, and encouraging them to raise awareness and take a stand against trafficking.

Topics include: "Defining Trafficking & Exploitation," "Tourism Industry as Key Partners in Protecting Our Community," and "Responding, Reporting, and Action Steps."

Today's symposium was held at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Waikiki. They continue this week:

- Nov. 5, 2019: Maui (Westin Maui Resort & Spa, Kaanapali)
- Nov. 6, 2019: Hawaii Island (Natural Energy Lab of Hawaii – Hale Iako, Kailua-Kona)
- Nov. 7, 2019: Kauai (Sheraton Kauai Resort, Poipu)

If you are interested in attending one of the upcoming events, please go to:  
<https://www.hoolanapua.org/safer>

For a link to b-roll and interviews of today's symposium click [HERE](#).

Interviews with:

- Chris Tatum, President & CEO, Hawaii Tourism Association
- Elaine McCartin, Corporate Partnerships and Training Manager for Polaris Project
- John F. Tobon, Acting Special Agent in Charge for HSI

Video courtesy: Ho'ōla Nā Pua

Additional credits: Hawaii Tourism Authority, Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Authority, The Royal Hawaiian, Marriott Waikiki Complex

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### **About the Hawai'i Tourism Authority**

The Hawai'i [Tourism Authority](http://www.hawaiitourismauthority.org) is the State of Hawaii agency responsible for strategically managing its support of the tourism industry. Established in 1998 to support Hawaii's leading industry and largest employer, HTA continually strives to help ensure tourism's sustainability and the benefits it brings to residents and communities statewide. For more information about HTA, please visit [www.hawaiitourismauthority.org](http://www.hawaiitourismauthority.org). Follow updates about HTA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) (@HawaiiHTA) and its [YouTube Channel](#).

### **About the HLTA:**

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association is a 700-member, statewide organization representing hotels, condominiums, timeshares, other lodging entities, suppliers, and related firms and individuals. HLTA is dedicated to supporting the visitor industry through education, political action, and membership benefits, and raising awareness about its contributions to communities throughout the state.

### **About Ho'ōla Nā Pua**

Ho'ōla Nā Pua is committed to the prevention of sex trafficking and providing care for children who have been exploited. Meaning "New Life for Our Children," Ho'ōla Nā Pua is a 501(c)3 founded in 2013. Ho'ōla Nā Pua's programs are trauma-informed and survivor-informed. Programs focus on addressing commercial sexual exploitation of children through prevention education in schools and workplaces in addition to providing support services for youth and their families. Ho'ōla Nā Pua is dedicated to creating a community where children are safe and have the ability to embrace their bright future.

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