

Survivor Voices of Human Trafficking
Biography
Kaleilani Grant

Kaleilani Grant is a survivor of domestic sex trafficking. She was trafficked in Hawaii, where she was born and raised. After nearly two years of being held against her will, she escaped from her trafficker. When she healed, she turned back to help others trapped in commercial sexual exploitation. She now works for the Department of the Attorney General in Hawaii's Missing Child Center. In 2021, she received the National Child Protection Award from the U.S. Department of Justice in recognition of her efforts in Operation Shine the Light, a cooperative effort between Missing Child Center-Hawaii; federal, state and local law enforcement agencies; and four nonprofit organizations. Among the 180 children recovered in the 12 months of the operation, five were runaway foster youth between the ages of 16 and 17, one was suffering from an overdose and another, a ward of the state, had been missing from Guam for more than 10 months. Three of the teens were trafficking victims.