

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-EIGHTH HAWAII STATE  
LEGISLATURE 2015**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
SECTION 367-3(8), HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, THE  
HAWAII COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ANNUAL REPORT**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women  
November 2014**



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November 25, 2014

Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women  
Annual Report  
Submitted by Catherine Betts  
Executive Director

July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) was created by Executive Order by Governor John Burns in 1964. This year, the HSCSW celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year. The work of the HSCSW is detailed in Haw. Rev. Stat. 367-1 and Haw. Rev. Stat. 367-3 (1) through (8). This report details the HSCSW's events, programs, conferences and activities during FY 2013-2014.

I. Events and Programs

- Co-sponsored Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence Annual Conference (9/26)
- Co-Sponsored University of Hawaii Commission on the Status of Women conference (9/27)
- Co-sponsored EEOC discussion with EEOC attorney Bill Tamayo at the William S. Richardson School of Law
- Continued educational awareness of Title IX, including educational presentations, community workshops and correspondence with University of Hawaii-Manoa Board of Regents, Chancellor, and President regarding the ongoing Office of Civil Rights Title IX audit. Additionally, the HSCSW organized and attended a community informational briefing with UH-Manoa

to discuss next steps for systemwide compliance with Title IX and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization of 2013, which was revised to include additional provisions addressing dating violence, stalking and sexual harassment on college campuses.

- Recognized 2014 as: “Year of the Girl”: organized a year long calendar of events focused on activities for young women and girls, including film workshops through Hawaii Women in Filmmaking, a tour of Koa Valley with public health nurses and the Girls Court program, and a Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program for female foster youth.
- Sponsored a community wide discussion with National Women’s Law Center regarding women’s coverage under the Affordable Care Act.
- Organized and sponsored the Emergency Contraception Public Awareness Campaign and Compliance Efforts with representatives from Department of Health, John A. Burns Medical School faculty, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center.
- Co-sponsored the Women’s Pipeline Surf Contest, the only all women’s professional surf contest in Hawaii.
- Chair Leslie Wilkins and Kauai Commissioner Lisa Ellen Smith attended the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) conference in Sarasota, Florida.
- Sponsored neighbor island county committees on the status of women members to attend the University of Hawaii Healthy Living-Mind, Body, Career conference.
- Panelist on Equal Pay: Hawaii Family Issues Summit, sponsored by Senator Brian Schatz.
- Guest speaker-Women’s Studies Colloquium at UH Manoa
- Guest speaker-Hawaii Zonta
- Guest speaker-Kupuna Caucus
- Guest speaker-Keiki Caucus

- Co-sponsored lunch discussion with New York Times journalist and author Stephanie Coontz on labor inequality and the wage gap.
- Participated in Planned Parenthood of Hawaii reproductive health fair at the Hawaii State Capitol.
- Co-sponsored Hawaii Society of Business Professionals Event “Drawing From Their Strengths- Women in Farm to Table” (2/29/14)

## II. Neighbor Island Activities-Kauai

- Co-sponsored the YWCA-Kauai Women’s Expo and Business Seminar
- Co-sponsored Kauai Women’s History Month activities
- Co-sponsored Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities
- Co-sponsored screening of Rise of the Wahine documentary film on the late Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink
- Co-sponsored Career Day Luncheon for girls (9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

## III. Neighbor Island Activities-Maui

- Co-sponsored Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities
- Co-sponsored Women’s History month activities

## IV. Neighbor Island Activities-Hawaii

- Sponsored radio public service announcements on healthy relationships for Hawaii island
- Co-sponsored First annual Teen Pride Parade through Hilo
- Co-sponsored island wide tour of domestic violence expert Dr. Jill Murray
- Purchased copies of Dr. Jill Murray books for placement within Hawaii island public high schools
- Co-sponsored “Ladies Night Out Hawaii”, a health and wellness evening for women of Hawaii island

## V. Awards and Recognition

- Women’s Legislative Caucus Package dedicated to the HSCSW for 50 years of working for gender equity
- Awarded Hawaii Women Lawyers President’s Award
- Recognized for 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in a joint Senate and House floor resolution program

VI. Committees and Taskforces

- VAWA Implementation and Planning Team through State of Hawaii Attorney General’s office
- Perinatal Consortium for Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies
- “Domestic Workers Have Rights” working group under Dr. Nancie Caraway: assisted in drafting and revising public awareness materials for the newly enacted Act 248
- VAWA Planning Committee
- Family Court Working Group convened by the Sex Abuse Treatment Center
- Justice Reinvestment Initiative-Victim Services Group
- Hawaii Supreme Court Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts/sub committee on cultural competency
- Minimum Wage Advocacy Group
- Co-Chair, Hawaii Women’s Coalition

VII. Community Advocacy and Provision of Testimony-Legislation:

Senate Bill 2446, Relating to Education (Naming the New Public High School in Kihei the “Patsy Takemoto Mink High School”)

Special Session for Same Sex Marriage (Supported, Signed into law as “Hawaii Marriage Equality Act”)

House Bill 2097/Senate Bill 2523, Relating to Employment/Family Leave and Partial Wage Replacement (did not pass)

House Bill 1993, Relating to Domestic Violence (Abuse of Family or Household Member elevated to Felony Status When in Presence of a Minor) (Supported, signed into law as Act 117)

House Bill 1799, Relating to Change of Name for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse/Divorce (did not pass)

House Bill 2933/Senate Bill 2452, Relating to Jury Duty/Breastfeeding Exemption (did not pass)

House Bill 2036, Relating to Health (Dissemination of Information about Human Papillomavirus to the DOE) (did not pass)

House Bill 2037/Senate Bill 2449, Department of Health; Project Kealahou, Appropriation (Supported, signed into law as Act 204)

House Bill 2038/Senate Bill 2451, Relating to Human Trafficking (Establishing the Human Trafficking Victim Services Fund) (Supported, passed, signed into law as Act 119)

Senate Bill 2609, Relating to Minimum Wage (Supported, signed into law as Act 82)

House Bill 2035/Senate Bill 2450, Domestic Violence Programs; Appropriation (Supported, did not pass)

Jury Duty Exclusion for Breastfeeding Mothers (Supported, did not pass)

Tax Reform Legislation, including:

House Bill 1805/Senate Bill 2202, Relating to Tax Credits (Supported, did not pass)

House Bill 1807/Senate Bill 2205, Relating to Taxation (Supported, did not pass)

House Bill 1808/Senate Bill 2208, Relating to Income Tax Credits (Supported, did not pass)

House Bill 1936/Senate Bill 2206, Relating to Taxation/General Excise Tax (Supported, did not pass)

House Bill 1806/Senate Bill 2207, Relating to Income Tax/Reduction of Tax Liability for Taxpayers below Poverty Guidelines (Supported, did not pass)

Senate Bill 2573, Relating to Health/Prohibition on Toxic Substances and BPA (Supported, did not pass)

Senate Bill 2687, Relating to Limitation of Actions/Statute of Limitations Civil Actions and Sexual Abuse of a Minor (Supported, signed into law as Act 112)

House Bill 2649, Relating to Employment/Repeal of Act 206, Session Laws of 2011 (Opposed, did not pass)

House Bill 1804, Relating to Unsworn Falsification to a Law Enforcement Officer (Opposed, did not pass)  
HR 7, Requesting the University of Hawaii to Affirm its Commitment to Upholding the Tenets of Title IX  
and the VAWA Reauthorization of 2013 (Supported, resolution adopted in final form)

House Bill 2034/Senate Bill 2448, Statute of Limitations; Sexual Assault (removing statute of limitations  
for criminal and civil actions arising from Sexual Assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degrees and continuous sexual  
assault of a minor under the age of fourteen years) (Supported, signed into law as Act 113)

#### VIII. National Advocacy and Legislation

- Worked with National Partnership for Women and Families, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, Family Values at Work to assist in advocacy for The Family Act.
- Assisted in statewide advocacy for The Family Act.
- Assisted in statewide advocacy for raising the federal minimum wage.
- Assisted in statewide education on The Pregnancy Discrimination Act.
- Worked with National Women’s Law Center to educate community stakeholders on coverage under the Affordable Care Act and issues surrounding emergency contraception for sex assault victims
- Organized an Emergency Contraception in the Emergency Room implementation and compliance working group to monitor statewide compliance and ensure hospital staff is educated about the law.

#### IX. Recommendations

1. Ensure Title IX and VAWA (2013) are complied with in all state educational institutions receiving federal funds. This should include appropriate handling of sexual violence, harassment, dating violence and stalking cases; appropriate accommodations for pregnant and nursing students and ensuring that pregnant and/or parenting high school students are encouraged and assisted in remaining in school; ensuring robust programs for STEM are equally encouraged and available to female students; and ensuring that LGBTQ students are being educated in non-hostile learning environments.

2. Assist in a state sponsored actuarial of paid family leave policies, including an assessment or audit of the Temporary Disability Insurance program's functionality within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.
3. Convene a statewide taskforce to examine domestic violence within the respective police departments, including, but not limited to: depth and frequency of training on dynamics of domestic violence and collection of evidence, best practices from other jurisdictions, lethality assessments, use of independent and transparent auditing entities, and disciplinary procedures and practices for handling police officer involved domestic violence related incidents.