

Executive Director's Message

Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

Aloha and welcome:

I am honored to join the Commission on the frontlines against the war on women.

Women's status is backsliding around the world, and in the United States we are witnessing an overt and concerted effort to subjugate women and girls. Despite the campaigns to hamper our progress, we are also witnessing the greatest surge of women's movement-building in my generation's lifetime.

From the Women's March, which I co-chaired on O'ahu, to the #metoo movement, women have proven to be a formidable force unwilling to concede the hard-fought gains of previous generations. Women are rising, and it's not a fight for the status quo but an advance against entrenched class, racial, and gender hierarchies. This advance also recognizes that patriarchy as it exists today in Hawai'i is a product of western interventions and laws.

The Commission on the Status of Women was born in 1964 out of the women's movement during the Second Wave of feminism. For over 60 years, the Commission has fought for both inclusion and structural change. We have led legislative advocacy and implementation of new laws and programs that ideologically center all groups of women. These have included issues of access to abortion, workers' rights, health care, state Title IX, equal pay, and commercial sex.

We have made important corrections but are still a long way from a society that actively recognizes women's humanity. Please join us in our journey to get there. Email us at dhs.hscsw@hawaii.gov or call 586-5757.

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