

Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021, 12:00 PM –1:15 PM  
Public Meeting Minutes  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Members Present: Deja Ostrowski (Ostrowski), Stacey Moniz (Moniz), Edie Ignacio-Neumiller (Ignacio-Neumiller), Terri Ann Motosue (Motosue)

Excused: Cyd Hoffeld (Hoffeld); O'ahu Commissioner – Vacant; O'ahu Commissioner – Vacant

Ex-Officio: Erin Lau, AG

Public: Retchel Oyao

Staff: Khara Jabola-Carolus (Jabola-Carolus), Laney Trinh (Trinh)

- I. **Public Notice, Call to Order (2 minutes)** -- 12:11 p.m. Quorum declared
- II. **Review and approval of minutes (5 minutes)** -- **MOTION to accept minutes from April 21, 2021 by Moniz, seconded by Ignacio-Neumiller – ALL IN FAVOR, ADOPTED**
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT (20 minutes)** -- No public testifiers
- IV. **REPORTS (22 minutes)**
  - A. Executive Directors' Report (23 minutes)
    1. Chairship
      - a) Open chairship, call for nominees, and overview of chair duties and expectations
      - b) Ostrowski nominated Hoffeld as chair who is absent
        - (1) Moniz seconded the nomination
        - (2) **Motosue moved to vote to have Hoffeld be Chair, seconded by Moniz**
        - (3) **All in favor for Cyd Hoffeld as Chair**
        - (4) **Ayes - Motosue, Ostrowski, Moniz and Ignacio-Neumiller - MOTION ADOPTED - Cyd Hoffeld recommended for Chairship for the Commission**
    2. Budget
      - a) DHS restrictions explained
      - b) Formal budget cut \$7K from Legislature 2021
        - (1) Amount is substantial in terms of sponsorships we give out
        - (2) Can be offset this year by virtual attendance of NACW this year
      - c) First quarter tends to cover bills, subscriptions e.g., \$1,999 annual subscription for Zoom. \$2500 left for the first quarter
      - d) We typically wait until 2nd or 3rd quarter to give bulk of sponsorships
    3. Legislative Session 2022
      - a) State process is onerous to be included in Governor's Package
        - (1) Inclusion in Executive Package does not guarantee support or hearings

- (2) Submit Gov. Pkg. bills as commissioners to ED as soon as possible
- b) Primary issues - Housing
  - (1) Anticipating biggest housing crisis since Great Depression due to state and federal moratorium ending and red tape for rental assistance
  - (2) Last year Section 8 bills end discrimination against tenants with Section 8 vouchers because currently can be prohibited from applying - did not pass
  - (3) Ostrowski – Support renewed campaign against Section 8 discrimination and eviction expungement which is huge issue separate from others
  - (4) Jabola-Carolus will make special note of this and eviction moratorium
- c) Overhaul of Hawaii Sex Trafficking Statute
  - (1) 2021 overhaul passed into law. Hawaii went from worst to best in nation/ Bill shifts from blaming the women to focusing on blaming structure of exploitation.
  - (2) Still needed for 2022:
    - (a) Reparation fund to take fees from exploiters and distribute to prostituting people and sex trafficking survivors, not law enforcement
    - (b) Decriminalization of the exploited - anyone in the sex trade wherever they fall in the spectrum will not be arrested or charged. Met with AG Connors and HT Coordinator about that and their office is supportive tentatively
    - (c) Paid Sick Leave - Coalition is pushing
    - (d) Paid Family Leave - Fiscal leave, not sure if anyone will be landing on it in 2022
    - (e) List of 2022 Legislative Session women’s bills from HWC and community orgs will be available on Oct. 15
- 4. Gender Impact Assessment
  - a) Discussed this at previous meetings and with DBEDT after CARES monies came down
  - b) A tool for government departments and employees to think through gender impacted and whether equitable and accessible in funding and programs
  - c) Two fellows are analyzing comparative models internationally
  - d) Target government, those who don’t understand gender equity
  - e) Not meant for women’s commissions since already aware but they can also utilize
  - f) Ignacio-Neumiller asked if it was equitable in funding in government
  - g) Jabola-Carolus said it’s forward facing not about correcting CARES Act initiatives

- (1) For ARPA use tool to ensure programs are fair for women
  - (2) Gives a checklist to go through
  - (3) Normalizes gender analysis in governance and design of new programs
5. Ma'i Movement Survey
    - a) Lack of Hawaii specific data on menstruation, only national data
    - b) Survey instrument is complete, planning to launch it hopefully this Friday
    - c) Helped them to adapt national survey to Hawaii and removed stigmatizing language
    - d) Survey will remain open for one month
    - e) Commissioner assistance needed to disseminate to community members
    - f) Will work with MM to produce a formal report that summarizes findings. Release date this fall
  6. Community Events
    - a) Motosue and Ostrowski support continuance of public community trainings and brown bags based on hot topics for women
    - b) Topics could include new laws related to the eviction process with Medical Legal Partnership and Ostrowski

V. **State Commissioners' Reports and Updates (20 Minutes)**

- A. Edie Ignacio-Neumiller, Kaua'i Commissioner (10 Minutes)
  1. Status of each county's feminist economic recovery plan
  2. Commission director secured groundbreaking gender report from Mayor Kawakami
  3. Pleased very detailed, impressed with all the information and accountability on funding
  4. Austerity Concerns: YWCA Kauai - lost \$350K funding for Domestic Violence services
    - a) YWCA Kauai is a center for women on Kauai
    - b) Jabola-Carolus advised if any advocacy needs, we can connect with Renee Hamilton, Executive Director
    - c) Renae Hamilton shared with Ignacio-Neumiller:
      - (1) Did not get grant relied on to fund many domestic violence services
      - (2) Therapist for DV clients in/out shelters
      - (3) Children's specialist
      - (4) Housing specialist who assists shelter residents
      - (5) Funding for paid legal for TRO and dispute divorce cases
      - (6) Funding DV advocate
      - (7) lost \$350K for DV services
      - (8) Solicited two grants and TRO specialist and case management
      - (9) Priority to reinstate the children specialist position and some funding for paid legal equivalent to \$70K
    - d) Jabola-Carolus would like to determine where funding originated

- e) Next step - Ignacio-Neumiller should have it published
- f) Jabola-Carolus wants to push other islands to issue a report to do the same
- g) Create a women's demands from other items, or committee demands list for ARPA and can build off of Kauai's report
- h) Jabola-Carolus clarified for Ignacio-Neumiller that Oahu's resolution did not have as much teeth as it did not have an audit, just a resolution
  - (1) Ignacio-Neumiller offered to contact Hoffeld to see status of the Hawaii resolution
- 5. Sponsorship for Women's Leadership every year
  - a) Trinh confirmed in response to Ignacio-Neumiller's comment about working with Renee Hamilton, YWCA Kauai previously
- B. Terri Ann Motosue, O'ahu Commissioner (10 Minutes)
  - 1. Discussion of committee on judicial selection controversy
  - 2. Motosue suggested given the interest in the recent judicial nominee good time to talk about committee to evaluate these nominees
    - a) Proposed report card, grade, or endorsement to give input on the process. Can use to influence the Governor, working with nominees, or judiciary committee at leg, etc.
      - (1) Ostrowski supports idea
      - (2) Approaching it from a lot of different angles of why women don't apply or do apply, and why they are not most qualified
      - (3) Jabola-Carolus like idea of doing an event, reflect on why happened and talk more broadly
      - (4) Motosue will contact Hawaii Women's Lawyers to explore event
      - (5) Moniz agrees, build on momentum, strong community engagement as a community discussion and brown bag
    - b) Board asked for list of Governor Ige's appointees to check for gender equity; Trinh will ask Boards and Commissions for full list and secure by the next CSW meeting
    - c) Ignacio-Neumiller also proposed social media sharing a public statement for issues like this

VI. **Announcements** (4 minutes)

- A. Commissioner Ignacio-Neumiller: Kaua'i project
  - 1. Ignacio-Neumiller undertook passion project to support survivors with YWCA Kauai on July 13th set up a table at Kukui Grove and asked people to donate lightly used bras for an hour. Raised total of 88 bras including donations from Macy's
  - 2. May repeat fundraiser next quarter and refer them to YWCA Kauai Women's center to get a confirmation of donation
  - 3. Board send thanks to Ignacio-Neumiller for great initiative
- B. Housing press conference with women legislators on shortly, maybe will see Jabola-Carolus on news

VII. **Adjournment (1 minute) – MOTION TO ADJOURN by Ignacio-Neumiller, seconded by Ostrowski, ALL IN FAVOR, ADOPTED - ADJOURNED 12:53 p.m.**