

HAWAI'I STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023, 12:00 PM –1:00 PM
Public Meeting Minutes
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

VIRTUAL: Via Zoom.

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Meeting ID: 840 3036 3931

Passcode: 927620

IN PERSON: Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building, 235 S. Beretania Street, Conf Room 405, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Members Present:

Deja Ostrowski, O'ahu Commissioner/Chair (Ostrowski)

Edie Ignacio-Neumiller, Kaua'i Commissioner (Ignacio-Neumiller)

Terri Ann Motosue, O'ahu Commissioner (Motosue)

Marisa Adaro, O'ahu Commissioner (Adaro)

Jennifer Stotter, Hawaii Commissioner (Stotter)

Staff: Khara Jabola-Carolus (Jabola-Carolus), Velasquez, Keila (Velasquez)

Public: Michele Mccoy

I. Public Notice, Call to Order (<1 minute – 12:00p)

A. 12:00 p.m. Quorum Declared

II. Review and approval of minutes (1 minute - 12:00p – 12:01p)

A. MOTION to accept minutes from September 30, 2022, with correction of the spelling of Ignacio-Neumiller by Motosue, seconded by Ignacio-Neumiller – ALL IN FAVOR, ADOPTED

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (<1 minute - 12:01p)

A. No public comments today.

IV. REPORTS (20 minutes - 12:02p - 12:22p)

A. Executive Director's Report

1. Women's Coalition Legislative Package and Women's Legislative Caucus Package
 - a) Priority measures: 1st one is on reproductive healthcare, especially on the sister islands. The deadline is coming up for the bills that have been referred to multiple committees, they need to be out of their final committee or scheduled by today or tomorrow.
 - b) Jabola-Carolus called for an action request for support from the commissioners for the following bills: HB1343, The Reproductive or Abortion Access Statewide Coordinator Bill – must be scheduled by finance today or tomorrow. It will be beneficial to have commissioners contact the Chair of finance, Rep. Yamashita, and the message would be to please schedule a hearing for the bill. HB1343 will

have the most impact on the ground compared to any of the abortion related bills this year. Some of the bills to clean up our pre Roe V. Wade abortion laws are moving. Bills to protect physicians and nurses from hostile states, reaching across borders are advancing but nothing that shifts and increases access to care, except for bill HB1343.

- c) 2nd bill is related to Sex Trafficking, HB579, this bill was initially introduced in 2018 that would create a central source of data collection on sex trafficking within the Attorney General's office. This bill is advancing and would be significant for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) work, to have access to better data. Jabola-Carolus requested to please continue to support this bill.
 - d) Chair Ostrowski is commenting on the Women's Legislative Caucus Package and recognizes that she was not present for the last meeting to discuss the Hawaii Abortion Collective (HAC) and the report that she did with her program through her day job, with the medical legal partnership on the legal rights to abortion and in particular legal rights to abortion for minors. Ostrowski is flagging to commissioners that we have access to the neighbor island issues and the 2 bills that HAC flagged are very important. Ostrowski made it clear that she was disappointed that the Women's Legislative Caucus did not include any of the measure from HAC in their package.
 - e) Chair Ostrowski agrees that the bill HB1343 that Jabola-Carolus discussed, is beyond key for access on neighbor islands, which is why it was created, particularly for the folks from Kaua'i, who have lack of care. There is this idea that the only thing that needs to be done is to shield providers from the idea that they could be providing abortion to people who come from out of state. Ostrowski makes clear that she does not believe this is our top issue, our top issue is access to people in our community. Ostrowski is worried about providers but the biggest thing she is worried about is a fix that has been incorporated in SB1, a fix for access to care for minors. There is a necessary need post Roe V. Wade for us to have statues from 1960's, clarified and remove certain language in SB1, that must pass. If they do not pass, there is a concern that it will be backtracking on access to care. Providers may fear not having access to abortion care for minors who do not have parental consent. Again, these bills are critical and must pass.
 - f) Ignacio-Neumiller asked how to reach Rep. Yamashita, Jabola-Carolus answered by giving her his email address: Repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov
2. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Part 1 and Part II Report Updates
- a) Jabola-Carolus recapped the launch of the first report in December describing tremendous success and landing every news platform as well as the front of the paper, the goal of public awareness was met with the launch. Jabola-Carolus recognized OHA and their team, they created all the formatting, graphics, and

editing. Investigator Nikki Cristobal from Kaua'i whom Commissioner Ignacio-Neumiller connected us with.

- b) Preview for part II, this is a multi-year taskforce, and this is the last year and it's more focused on qualitative data collection, stories, testimonies, focus groups, the different sectors, tourism, and military Hawaii leadership at the table. Jabola-Carolus was able to help secure a grant of \$100,000 to support this next phase.

3. Budget

- a) Balance \$11,000 per quarter due to cost saving from not having in-person meetings, which will help sponsor and use towards sending folks to the National Association of Commissions of Women (NACW) this year which will be in Boston.
- b) Ignacio-Neumiller shared some updates for the NACW this year. It will be in Boston, August 10th – 14th. Agenda for Boston is pending. The next 2 conferences have been approved to be in Maryland and Oklahoma. Hoping for other representatives to attend.
- c) At the next meeting this will be an action item where it is finalized on who will be attending NACW and is approved by Jabola-Carolus.

4. Kaua'i and Maui MMIWG Launch Event Debrief

- a) Jabola-Carolus recognized commissioner Ignacio-Neumiller for organizing the MMIWG launch event, which was a public event in Kaua'i, described huge success from the public as well as the county council being present.
- b) Jabola-Carolus recognized commissioner Stacey Moniz for organizing the MMIWG launch event in Maui, which was more intimate with core organizers who were identified as being interested in doing more intensive work on this issue who included: Native Hawaiian educators, attorneys, and immigration attorneys. Diverse but committed group of folks. Event was also a success.
- c) Next order of business would be to give them a group training on legality.
- d) Jabola-Carolus asked commissioner Stotter to let her know if she would like to host an event on her island that Nikki Cristobal, primary investigator, and author of the report has been the primary speaker at the events and it's very informative to have that firsthand expertise there to be able to answer questions for folks.

B. State Commissioners' Reports and Updates

1. Edie Ignacio-Neumiller, Kaua'i Commissioner

- a) Kaua'i Committee on the Status of Women for Women's history month will be having an essay contest with high school students on Kaua'i, there will be cash rewards, the deadline to apply is March 30th. Should have an update by the next committee meeting on March 15th.
- b) A project on period products that commissioner Ignacio-Neumiller, was the lead on last year, targeting the agencies that served the houseless, will be repeated this year, led by Angela Hoover, another committee member.

V. **Announcements (<1 minute - 12:22p)**

- A. No announcements today.

VI. **Adjournment (<1 minute – 12:23p)** – MOTION TO ADJOURN EARLY by , Ignacio-Neumiller seconded by Motosue, ALL IN FAVOR, ADOPTED - ADJOURNED 12:23 p.m.

DRAFT