

August Meeting Minutes

Date: August 12, 2024

Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

1390 Miller Street

2nd Floor Conference Room 1 & 2

Honolulu, HI 96813

Zoom Meeting ID: 926 0687 0511

Commission Purpose: [From Chapter 369, Hawai'i Revised Statutes] The legislature finds that there is a need to establish a body to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government. Accordingly, the purpose of this chapter is to establish a commission to provide for a statewide program, on a permanent and continuing basis, on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus individuals in Hawai'i.

I. Call To Order and Roll Call

Chair Kathleen O'Dell , confirms quorum and calls meeting to order 2:42 PM

Roll Call

Commissioners (voting members)

- Chair Dr. Kathleen O'Dell (she/her) -present
- Vice Chair Michael Golojuch Jr. (he/him) -absent
- Secretary Richard Velasquez (he/him/his) -present
- Finance Director Shanda Lewis (she/her) -present (ZOOM)
- Sandy Harjo-Livingston (he/him/they/them) -present (ZOOM)
- Philip Steinbacher (he/him) -absent

- Joe Tolbe (he/him) -present (ZOOM)
- Joseph "Rocco" Vick -present (ZOOM)

Ex-Officio(s) or their designees (6 non-voting members)

- Superintendent of Education designee Beth Schimmelfennig, Director of the Department of Education, Civil Rights Compliance Office -present (ZOOM)
- President of the University of Hawai'i System designee Dr. Camaron Miyamoto, Director, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer+ (LGBTQ+) Center, UH Mānoa (he/him/his) -present (ZOOM- 3:10)
- Director of Labor and Industrial Relations designee David Rodriguez -absent
- Director of Human Resources Development designee Signe

Nakamura-Dureza -present (ZOOM)

- Director of Human Services designee Kristen Takushi, Cross-Enrollment Coordinator-present
- Director of Health designee Thaddeus Pham (he/him), MPH, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, Harm Reduction Services Branch-present (ZOOM)

Staff- Erin Lau, Lili Young (DAG) Malia Taum-Deenik (DHS)

Members of the Public- Tosa Lobendahn (ZOOM)

II. **New Business**

A. No written testimony received.

B. Community shares or concerns: None

C. Presentation from Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center - Presenter not in attendance

D. Discussion - Authorizing a letter to the Attorney General requesting representation on the Act 156 Task Force on Parentage Laws that was established by SB 944, SLH 2023

1. Rick stated that most work of the Task Force had been completed and continued action by the Task Force was not anticipated or projected, but LGBTQ parents had been included on Task Force. Thaddeus stated that he was on the Task Force and at this point the report and input had been provided and was now in stage of

crafting legislation and it was going through legal review and preparation. Shanda stated that in event the Task Force did any future work, and if Thaddeus was to leave task force or LGBTQ parents were to no longer be represented it might be advisable to have a member of our Commission added to the Task Force.

Rick moved and Shanda seconded motion to defer to next meeting- VOTE Unanimous in Favor - no abstentions

E. Discussion of travel protocol for approval and reimbursement. Kristin reported that she will work with Christine to arrange training regarding state travel reimbursement protocol and procedures. She will inform Commissioners when this Tutorial is planned. Malia and Kristin shared that all State budgets were subject to reduction or withdrawal. ZOOM meetings will continue to be an option.

F. Discussion of a preliminary 2024-2025 budget (Finance Director) Shanda led the discussion of projected budget.

1. Travel for inter-island travel, after much discussion it was agreed that we would plan on \$5000 annually for neighbor island Commissioners to attend meetings on Oahu or other necessary and approved inter-island travel.

2. Sponsorships for Pride events in each county (Honolulu, Maui, Kauai, Hawaii) at project expense of \$500 each suggests we plan on \$2000 annual for participation.

3. Production of materials for the Commission to participate in events in the community, i.e., signs, printed tablecloths, banners, was discussed and a budgeted amount of \$3700 was suggested. Other budget line items or requests should be forwarded to Finance Director Shanda.

4. Kathleen reported Zoom account cost of \$165.

5. Kristin reported we can purchase \$100 of parking passes good for 4 hours each to pay for parking while attending meetings in Liliuokalani Bldg, She agreed to facilitating this purchase.

6. Erin stated the statute that established our Commission did allow us to accept donations and other funds.

G. Discussion of whether the commission wants to participate in the writing of public information bulletins and press releases and where the responsibility for doing so might fall.

1. Kristin pointed out that DHS has a Public Information office that prepares and disseminates information and announcements regarding activities and news and would be able to assist us.

2. Suggestions, draft press releases or questions and requests can be channeled through Kathleen who is designated Point of Contact to Malia.

H. Presentation of recent data on sexual gender minority youth in Hawai'i.

Thaddeus Pham, presented data and report compiled by the Department of Health on the status of SGM Youth in Hawaii. This information address areas of focus for many on the Commission. He also shared that they are compiling more information and will have more data this year. He agreed to follow up by providing the slides to Commissioners upon request.

Note – Joe Tolbe leaves meeting at 3:56 PM. Quorum maintained.

III. Commission Action Items

A. Community shares or concerns: None

B. Vote - Request Gender Affirming Care protection bill be submitted with the 2025 Administrative Package.

Shanda moved and Rick seconded VOTE Unanimous in favor - no abstentions.

Malia stressed that any draft of the bill must be provided to her as soon as possible, the Commission must assist with this so the package can be routed through reviews including the Attorney General office.

C. VOTE regarding public information and press releases.

Motion Rick moved and Shanda seconded delegation of Public Information function to Kathleen as Chair VOTE Unanimous in favor - no abstentions.

Lili or Erin will look into the issue of posting press releases with meeting agendas before they are officially ready for publication and release and will report back.

D. Vote - Request for a webpage on the Department of Human Services.

Kristin reported that no vote is indicated or required as the DHS is in the process of developing a web page for us already.

6. Vote - Limit allowable time for public testimony to 1 minute.

Rick moved and Rocco seconded that public testimony be limited to 1 minute VOTE Unanimous in favor - no abstentions

IV. Strategic Planning

A. Community shares or concerns: None

NOTE: 4:30 PM air conditioning turned off and building in process of closing with doors being locked.

B. Discussion on meeting the statutory duties of the LGBTQ+ Commission discussion to be continued next meeting.

C. Discussion of potential Committees or Permitted Interaction Groups for the LGBTQ+ Commission discussion to be continued next meeting along with types of Subcommittees or Permitted Interaction Groups that are needed at this time (e.g. Education, Legislative).

V. Future Meeting Topics or Speakers time permitting – unable to complete

VII. Adjournment

Rick moved and Sandy seconded that meeting be adjourned VOTE Unanimous in favor - no abstention.

Meeting adjourned 4:35