

Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission

July Meeting Minutes

Date: July 31, 2024

Time: 4:26 p.m.

'Olelo Community Media Center, 1122 Māpunapuna Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Virtual meeting link: Meeting ID: 232 490 838 020 (TEAMS)

Dial in by phone

+1 808-829-4853,,957913499# United States, Honolulu

I. Call to Order and Roll Call- . Chair Pro Tem Sandy Harjo-Livingston [0:01 in video]

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.

Commissioners Present

Appointed LGBTQ+ Commissioners (8 voting members)

- Sandy Harjo-Livingston (he/him/they/them)
- Kathleen O'Dell
- Michael Golojuch Jr.
- Shanda Lewis
- Richard Velasquez

- Philip Steinbacher- (via ZOOM)
- Joe Tolbe (via ZOOM)
- Joseph "Rocco" Vick

Ex-Officio(s) / designees (6 non-voting members)

- Superintendent of Education designee Beth Schimmelfennig, Director of the Department of Education, Civil Rights Compliance Office
- President of the University of Hawai'i System designee Dr. Camaron Miyamoto, Director, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer+ (LGBTQ+) Center, UH Mānoa
- Director of Labor and Industrial Relations designee David Rodriguez, Equal Opportunity Officer (Via ZOOM)
- Director of Human Resources Development designee Signe Nakamura-DeReza , Administrator for Equal Employment Opportunity Office (via ZOOM)
- Director of Human Services designee Kristen Takushi, Cross-Enrollment Coordinator
- Director of Health designee Thaddeus Pham (he/him), MPH, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, Harm Reduction Services Branch (via Zoom)

Staff attending: Malia Taum-Deenik (DHS), Lily Young (DAG), Erin Lau (DAG)

Members of the Public attending

- Present in person: Carolyn Golojuch-Martinez, Michael Golujuch, Justin Kuwamura (videographer)
- Present online: Tosa Lobendahn, Jeff Esmond, Dean Hammer, Joe Wilson, M. Inoue, Joe Franchione, Jennifer Nakamura

No written testimony received

II. Member Introductions [3:52}

A.. Community / Public Testimony Carolyn Golujuch-Martinez-Services for Homeless Youth

B. Commissioners share their priorities and personal statements **[5:08]**

III. New Business - Commission Governance [31:16]

1. Community shares or concerns - Public Testimony Jeff Esmond, Tosa Lobendahn, Joe Wilson

2. Discussion and decision making on Chairperson duties -

Michael moved and Rick seconded accept duties as discussed; VOTE Unanimous in favor no abstentions **[37:27]**

3. Nominate & Elect a Chairperson (HRS §369-3(d)) –**[41:19]**

Rick nominated Kathleen, Michael Nominated himself. Rick moves to accept nominations and Michael seconds.

VOTE for Kathleen -Kathleen, Sandy, Joe, Rick, Shanda, Rocco, Vote for Michael-Michael, Philip Abstains -Kathleen elected Chair.

4. Discussion of other positions for Commission governance and the duties associated Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Finance Director. **[43:05]**

Moved by Kathleen and seconded by Rick to accept positions of Vice Chair, Secretary, and Finance Director

Duties of Vice Chair- moved by Shanda seconded by Kathleen – Vote Unanimous in favor no abstentions.

Duties for Secretary moved by Rick seconded by Joe, VOTE: Unanimous in favor no abstentions.

Duties for Finance Director moved by Joe seconded by Rocco VOTE: Unanimous in favor no abstentions.

5. Nominate & elect positions for Commission Governance – VOTE

Shanda nominates and Michael as Vice Chair – moved to accept by Kathleen seconded by Rick VOTE Unanimous in Favor no abstentions.

Michael nominates Rick as Secretary -Shanda moves to accept Joe seconds VOTE Unanimous in favor no abstentions.

Michael nominates Shanda for Finance Director, Philip moves to accept and Rick seconds VOTE Unanimous in favor no abstentions.

6. Discuss meeting locations (i.e., neighbor island meetings) and schedule **54:55**

Kristin suggests meeting at Queen Liliuokalani Building meeting during normal working hours and discussion of meetings on neighbor islands, and technical capacity to accommodate meetings.

Setting of standing meeting dates discussed with second Monday of each month at 2:30-4:30 at Liliuokalani Building and Monday Holidays will be adjusted to a different day. Kristin will help coordinate.

7. Discuss and VOTE on the Commission's participation in the hiring of the civil service secretary II position: **[1:12:26]**

a. As a panel member, the Commissioner will adhere to DHS hiring policies and procedures, participate in all candidate interviews until the position is filled, and fulfill the duties of scoring the rating sheet and submitting their signed response to DHS HR.

Rocco moved and Shanda seconded Rick to represent on hiring panel VOTE Unanimous in favor no abstentions.

b. Discussion of suggested questions to include in an interview. Incorporate input from Cameron, Thaddeus and Signe.

Motion to accept suggestion made by Thaddeus made by Michael and seconded by Rick, VOTE Unanimous in favor no abstentions.

Motion to accept suggestion proposed by Rick regarding working with people from various backgrounds moved by Rick seconded by Michael VOTE Unanimous in favor no abstentions.

8. Discussion and vote on the establishment of a Gmail account(s) for the LGBTQ+ Commission

9. Discussion and VOTE on whether to obtain a Zoom account using the LGBTQ+ Commission Gmail account (paid account to allow more than 45 min meeting time) **[1:26:42]**

Moved by Shanda and seconded by Michael to have Gmail account – VOTE Unanimous in Favor, no abstentions.

10. Discussion and VOTE on whether to authorize a YouTube Channel for the LGBTQ+ Commission. **[1:30:52]**

Michael will assist with establishing YouTube and this will serve as complement to the minutes.

Moved by Rick seconded by Rocco VOTE Unanimous in favor no abstentions.

11. Discussion of a preliminary 2024-2025 budget **[1:34:35]**

a. Travel for inter-island travel

b. Zoom account

Budget requests should be forwarded to Finance Director for next meeting.

IV. Commission Action Items [1:41:10]

1. Community shares or concerns - none

2. Endorse the Constitutional Amendment established by HB 2802 SLH 2024, which would remove Section 23 from Article 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution – **[1:41:32]**

Moved by Michael seconded by Kathleen VOTE Unanimous in favor no abstentions.

V. Strategic Planning [1:42:14]

1. Community shares or concerns - none

2. Discussion on meeting the statutory duties of the LGBTQ+ Commission §369-5

NOTE- Commissioner Rick Velasquez leaves meeting [1:44:41] Quorum maintained

3. Discussion of potential Committees or Permitted Interaction Groups for the LGBTQ+ Commission and VOTE on those Committees or Permitted Interaction Groups. **[1:45:46]**

Motion made by Shanda and seconded by Rocco to defer this item to next meeting. VOTE Unanimous in favor no abstentions

VI. Future Meeting Topics or Speakers [1:48:00]

1. Community shares or concerns - Public Testimony- none

Commissioners to review the following

2. Chairperson to create the future agenda and seek member input on:

a. 2025 Legislative Priorities for the LGBTQ+ Commission

b. Approval of the 2024-2025 LGBTQ+ Commission budget

c. Establish Committees or Permitted Interaction Groups and elect chairs and members for the Committees or Permitted Interaction Groups

d. Draft 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

e. Michael recommended inviting Equality Caucus and Governor to future meetings and other community groups.

VII. Community shares or concerns – time permitting: [1:49:35]

Additional Public Testimony None

Thaddeus recommends inviting the Native Hawaiian Health Organizations to make presentations.

Michael moves Rocco seconds to adjourn VOTE: Unanimous in favor no abstentions

Meeting adjourned 6:17 PM

