

HAWAI'I STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
PUBLIC MEETING **PACKET**
MONDAY, March 10, 2025, 9:00 A.M.
Hybrid: In-Person & Virtual Meeting

- I. PUBLIC NOTICE, CALL TO ORDER, ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM (2 minutes)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (10 minutes)
 - A. Public testimony on any item relevant to this agenda may be taken at this time, or a testifier may wait to testify at the time the agenda item is called for discussion. Pursuant to section 92-3, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). Oral testifiers are limited to 2 minutes per person total.
 - B. Written testimony received:

Subject: Testimony Opposing UH's Removal of Programs and Website Scrubbing

Aloha Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the University of Hawai'i's recent removal of critical online content, programs, and resources that have long supported gender equity, women, and LGBTQI+ communities. As a state that has historically led the nation in Title IX protections and the Respect for Marriage Act, it is alarming to see UH erasing these digital spaces and failing to stand against federal actions that threaten diversity, equity, and inclusion.

By removing key programs, UH is sending a message that these communities are no longer a priority. The removal of the Women's Center website, for example, signals a shift away from supporting women's rights, creating a more hostile and unwelcoming environment for students and faculty alike.

I urge the Commission to call on UH to:

Restore all removed content and programs that support gender equity and LGBTQI+ rights.
Issue a public statement reaffirming its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
Reject compliance with federal policies that undermine Hawai'i's long-standing values of equality and justice. Hawai'i has always been at the forefront of protecting marginalized communities. We cannot afford to move backward. I ask the Commission to take action and hold UH accountable for upholding its identity as a truly equal opportunity institution.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jana Ireijo

Subject: Testimony - DEI site removal at UH - Commission On The Status Of Women

Hello my name is Katlyn Vogl and I am a senior at UH Mānoa in the Sociology program. I am absolutely disgusted by the cowardly actions undertaken by the University. After executive orders were put into place banning language that "promotes gender ideology", the University responded by removing various sites supporting "DEI efforts". When you try to search up the Women's center and lgbtq+ center, the pages are

“under construction” or “in the process of being deconstructed”. The College of Social Sciences as well as Ocean and Earth Technology have removed their diversity and inclusion pages. When clubs are applying for funding this semester, we were told to avoid the language banned by presidential orders as we would incur scrutiny from the University. At this time we were told it wouldn’t affect funding but who knows how that could change in the near future. Title IX was started here in Hawai’i by Patsy Mink. The law was and is so important in removing many barriers that once prevented people, on the basis of sex, from participating in educational opportunities and careers of their choice. Hawai’i is and has always been a pillar in the battle for diversity, equity, and inclusion, women’s, and lgbtq+ rights, and this move from the University goes against that and tears the moral fabric of this society. This is a University and place founded on diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and the fight for equal rights for all, so to remove anything related to that from University sites is a disgusting, cowardly act that can not be forgotten about. UH needs to restore its digital content to how it was prior to executive orders, and withhold from removing anything else. The University should also issue an apology and statement. UH is showing its allegiances right now and is making women, queer people, feel unsupported and fearful of the future in this academic space. I plead with the University to stand on its morals and values and to resist the detrimental, exclusionary executive orders that have been issued by Trump.

Subject: Testimony

To the State’s Commission on the Status of Women:

I am writing to this Commission in response to the disturbing news that the University of Hawaii has failed to show leadership in the face of current pressures to erase DEI programs/language per event executive orders. In demonstrating anticipatory obedience to the clear authoritarianism that these executive orders hope to obtain, UH is failing the state, the diverse communities who sustain this special place and women to be very clear. The University has scrubbed websites and language in such obedience and this suggests a moral compass that we do not want at the helm.

More importantly, as THE academic center for the state it sends a message of valuing perceived security over doing what is right for all people, especially those who are being targeted and marginalized now. If we have learned nothing from history may we at least recall that when one group is subjected to this kind of erasure - all are at risk. I hope that this Commission can support UH to find a way to (even privately) apologize to those directly affected by these acts. I can understand the need to be savvy and strategic financially in these times but there are ways to communicate that one’s values remain at the center (ie yes, language around “women” may be removed from scholarships publicly but they will still be making selections or acting in a way consistent with trying to promote DEI programs/initiatives).

As someone who hails from the mainland originally, I understand if my voice may feel less relevant. However, coming from a state where the governor (Janet Mills, Maine) recently showed great courage in not letting Trump and these threats of executive orders bully her into obedience, I know that now is a time we must look to one another no matter where we are from and hold tight to what is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Alana Rose

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- III. MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (5 minutes)
- IV. ELECTION (Chair) – Discussion and Vote (10 minutes)
- V. REPORTS (45 minutes)
- A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (15 minutes)
- i. Women's Coalition Legislative Package, Women's Legislative Caucus Package, and Other Bills of Note

Hawaii Women's Coalition Package Bills:

Paternity Proceedings; Divorce Proceedings; Domestic Abuse; Mediation

[HB1283 HD2/SB1520 SD1](#)

Establishes an exemption from mediation in paternity proceedings where there are allegations of domestic abuse. Clarifies the exemption from mediation in divorce proceedings as it relates to domestic abuse. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

Early Learning Contracts Program; Report

[\(HB241 HD1 dead\)](#)/[\(SB1609 SD1](#) is the preferred measure)

Requires the Department of Human Services to establish and implement an Early Learning Services Contracts Program to make available a designated number of seats at licensed infant and toddler child care centers and family child care centers for families referred by the Department at a negotiated rate and schedule. Requires the Department of Human Services to submit reports to the Legislature. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD1)

Preschool Open Doors Program; Eligibility; Providers

[HB692 HD1](#)/[\(SB712](#) Deferred)

Expands the Preschool Open Doors Program's eligibility criteria. Repeals the requirement that Preschool Open Doors Program providers be accredited. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Covered Offender Registration; Sexual Offense; Public Access; Tiered Offenses

[HB359 HD2](#)/[\(SB808/SB777](#) dead)

Amends covered offender registration laws by expanding the definition of "sexual offense" to include additional sexual offenses from the Penal Code. Provides that the exception to public access requirements for misdemeanors does not apply when the covered offense was committed against a minor. Requires a person who is required to report every year under the covered offender registration requirements to report during the thirty-day period following the offender's birthday, rather than from the offender's actual date of birth. Specifies how certain covered offenses are to be tiered for purposes of seeking termination of registration requirements. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by the HSCSW ED for HB359 HD1

Hawaii Women's Legislative Caucus 2025 Bill Package:

Judiciary; Women's Court Pilot Program; Reports; Appropriations (\$)

[\(SB526 SD1 dead\)](#)/[HB727 HD1](#)

Establishes a temporary three-year Women's Court Pilot Program within the second, third, and fifth circuits. Establishes temporary positions. Requires a report. Appropriates funds. Sunsets 6/30/2028. Effective 4/23/2025. (SD1)

Constitutional Amendment; Reproductive Freedom; Abortion; Contraceptives; Pregnancy Outcomes
([SB927 dead](#))/([HB728 dead](#))

Amends the Hawai'i State Constitution to prohibit the State from denying or interfering with an individual's reproductive freedom, including the right to choose to obtain an abortion and to obtain or use contraceptives.

Marriage; Legal Age

([SB528 dead](#))/([HB729 HD2*](#))

Raises the minimum age to enter into marriage from sixteen to eighteen years of age. Repeals the authority of parents and the family court to consent to a minor's marriage. Repeals spousal cohabitation after the parties attain legal age as an exception for an annulment based on nonage. Repeals exemptions for sexual assault of a minor if the perpetrator is married to the minor. Makes conforming amendments. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HB729 and HB729 HD1

DOE; Civil Rights Compliance Branch; Equity Specialists; Appropriations (\$)

([SB527 SD1 dead](#))/([HB730 HD1 dead](#))

Appropriates funds for the establishment of five full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE) positions within the Civil Rights Compliance Branch of the Department of Education. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Minors; Consent; Medical Care; Licensed Health Care Providers; Sexual Offenses

([HB731 HD1 dead](#))/([SB296 Deferred](#))

Authorizes a licensed health care provider properly trained in the medical forensic care of a patient who has experienced sexual assault or abuse, upon consultation with a minor patient who indicates that the minor was the victim of a sexual offense, with the consent of the minor patient, to perform customary and necessary examinations to obtain evidence of the sexual offense and may prescribe for and treat the patient for any immediate condition caused by the sexual offense. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Other Bills of Note - Testimony and/or Comments Submitted by HSCSW ED:

Keiki Caucus; Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program; Family and Medical Leave Insurance Benefits; Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

([HB755 HD2 dead](#))/([SB852 dead](#))

By 1/1/2028, requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to establish a family and medical leave insurance program and begin collecting payroll contributions to finance payment of benefits. By 1/1/2029, requires the Department to start receiving claims and paying benefits under the program. Specifies eligibility requirements and employee protections under the program. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HB755 and HB755 HD1

DLIR; Hospitality Employers; Hospitality Workers; Harassment; Panic Buttons; Training

[SB1660 SD1](#)

Requires employers in the hospitality industry to implement anti-harassment measures, provide training, and equip certain workers with panic buttons. Prohibits retaliation against a hospitality worker who files a complaint, uses the provided panic button, or participates in an investigation or proceeding related to a harassment complaint. Requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to adopt rules, including rules

determining penalties and establishing procedures for handling complaints. Requires all hospitality employers to comply no later than 1/1/2026. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for SB1660 with SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS (adopted) and SB1660 SD1

Deepfakes; Creation; Distribution; Prohibition; Sexual Offenses

([SB1156](#) Deferred)

Establishes the crime of unlawful creation or distribution of a sexually explicit deepfake.

- Comments were submitted by HSCSW ED for SB1156

Office of Enterprise Technology Services; Data Sharing and Governance Working Group; Reports; Appropriations (\$)

([SB742 SD2](#)/[HB665](#) Dead)

Establishes a Data Sharing and Governance Working Group within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT with COMMENTS by HSCSW ED for SB742 SD1

Casino Gaming; New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District; Hawai'i Convention Center; State Gaming Fund; Compulsive Gamblers Program; Appropriations (\$)

([SB893 SD1](#) Deferred)

Grants twenty-year licenses for casinos in the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District and Hawai'i Convention Center. Establishes the Hawai'i Gaming Control Commission. Imposes fifteen per cent wagering tax on gross receipts. Establishes the State Gaming Fund and Compulsive Gambler Program. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

- Testimony was submitted in OPPOSITION by HSCSW ED for SB893 SD1

DBEDT; Gambling; Sports Wagering; Fantasy Sports; Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Special Fund; Appropriations (\$)

([SB1569 SD1](#) Deferred)/[HB1308 HD3](#)

Allows for the regulation of sports wagering by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Establishes licensing requirements for sports wagering operators and sports wagering suppliers. Specifies that legal sports wagering and fantasy sports contests shall not be considered contests of chance or gambling. Effective 07/01/3000. (HD3)

- Comments were submitted by HSCSW ED for SB1569 SD1

State Budget (\$)

[HB300](#)

Appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HB300 for HSCSW's continued funding

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- ii. Website Updates
 - iii. Budget

Funds Available by Quarter
 For SFY 2025
 As of 3/5/25

	<u>July - Sept 2024</u>	<u>Oct - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Mar 2025</u>	<u>Apr - June 2025</u>	<u>SFY 2025 Total</u>
Payroll:					
Quarterly Funds	31,349.00	29,288.00	29,288.00	29,287.00	119,212.00
Expenditures		(15,000.00)	(13,620.60)		(28,620.60)
Reversion (1st qtr)	(31,349.00)	31,349.00			
Reversion (2nd qtr)		(45,637.00)	45,637.00		
Reversion (3rd qtr)					
Salary adj (THP)			30,000.00		30,000.00
Trf allotment from others					-
Transfers (reversions)					-
Balance	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>91,304.40</u>	<u>29,287.00</u>	<u>120,591.40</u>
Other Current:					
Quarterly Funds	10,047.00	11,537.00	11,536.00	11,536.00	44,656.00
Expenditures	(416.70)	(821.46)	(870.68)		(2,108.84)
Reversion (1st qtr)	(9,630.30)	9,630.30			-
Reversion (2nd qtr)		(20,345.84)	20,345.84		-
Reversion (3rd qtr)					-
Restriction					-
Trf allotment to payroll					-
Encumbered Claims Balance					-
Transfers (reversions)					-
Balance	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,011.16</u>	<u>11,536.00</u>	<u>42,547.16</u>
Total Payroll & Other Current funds available					<u><u>163,868.00</u></u>

Total funds appropriated by Legislature:

Payroll	139,328.00
Less restrictions	(20,116.00)
Collective Bargaining	
Add transfer from "Others"	
Funds available	<u>119,212.00</u>
Other Current	44,656.00
Less restrictions	
Contingency Restriction	
Less transfer to "Payroll"	
Funds available	<u>44,656.00</u>

Anticipated FY25 Operating Expenses:

- Xerox (~\$249/month, recent back pay of balance: ~\$3K))
 - Hawaiian Telcom (~\$115/month, recent back pay of balance: \$1,825)
 - Desktops for HSCSW Staff
 - Cell Phone/Second cell Line (HSCSW ED)
 - Office Supplies
 - Canva Subscription
 - Zoom Subscription
 - Survey Monkey Subscription
 - NACW Membership/Dues
 - Sponsorships? (Hawaii State Fatherhood Commission [Example](#))
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iv. Administrative Assistant Recruitment

B. State Commissioners' Reports and Updates (30 minutes)

- i. Edie Ignacio-Neumiller, Kaua'i Commissioner

Women's History Month

Moving Forward TOGETHER!
Women Educating and Inspiring Generations

FREE FILM SCREENING

**Kauai Community College
Performing Arts Center
Saturday, March 8th
2 - 4 PM
Resource Tables Open
at 1:30 PM**

www.riseofthewahinefilm.com

If you need an ASL Interpreter, materials in an alternate format, or other auxiliary aid support, or an interpreter for a language other than English, please contact Anela Davis at 808-241-4917 or adavis@kauai.gov as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible will allow adequate time to fulfill your request. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate formats such as large print, Braille, or electronic copy.

Hosted by Kauai County Committee on the Status of Women

Sponsored by:

- YWCA Kaua'i
- ZONTA CLUB OF KAUAI

RISE OF THE WAHINE
CHAMPIONS OF TITLE IX

Hold Your Next Event at
KCC PAC
Kaua'i CC Performing Arts Center

Theatre - Film - Music - Dance - Corporate
Kauai Community College

NACW 2025 Conference

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – July 31 – August 2, 2025

Ø Location: Embassy Suites – 2 miles from airport/shuttle

(will become a Hilton in 2025)

Ø Cost per night: \$125 - \$130 approx.

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- ii. Stacey Moniz, Maui Commissioner
 - iii. Jennifer Stotter, Hawai'i Commissioner
 - iv. Marisa Adaro, O'ahu Commissioner
 - v. Introduction of Melissa Sotelo, new O'ahu Commissioner
 - vi. Introduction of Rose Median Kemna, new O'ahu Commissioner
- VI. CURRENT and FUTURE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and COMMISSION COLLABORATIONS WITH COUNTY COMMITTEES, and UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION, on the STATUS of WOMEN - Discussion (10 minutes)
- VII. RECENT FEDERAL ACTIONS/EXECUTIVE ORDERS PERTAINING TO WOMEN, TITLE IX, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, and INCLUSION - IMPACTS, COMMISSION and/or EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSE(S)– Discussion and Vote (20 minutes)

Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government. Executive Order. The White House. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/defending-women-from-gender-ideology-extremism-and-restoring-biological-truth-to-the-federal-government/>

Friedman, Amanda. (2025, March 1) 'We're disaster planning': Trump's funding freeze rattles domestic violence nonprofits - The DOJ Office on Violence Against Women removed all open funding opportunities from its website in February. Politico. <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/01/funding-freeze-domestic-violence-00206807>

Stone, Will. (2025, February 7) Rape crisis centers see funding delays amid Trump administration spending upheaval. NPR. <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/02/07/nx-s1-5290088/cdc-funding-delays-rape-crisis-centers>

Harrison, Steve W. (2025, February 28) New Directive on DOT spending takes community birth and marriage rates into account. NPR. <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/28/nx-s1-5303471/new-directive-on-dot-spending-takes-community-birth-and-marriage-rates-into-account>

Tarrant, Tavleen and Gregorian, Dareh. (2025, February 3) Jan. 6 conspiracy theory promoter named to a top State Department job. NBC News. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/jan-6-conspiracy-theory-promoter-named-top-state-department-job-rcna190497>

Harper, Shaun. (2025, February 1) A Dear Colleague Letter in Defense of DEI - Shaun Harper identifies 11 specific actions higher ed institutions can take to uphold their commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. Inside Higher Ed. <https://www.insidehighered.com/opinion/blogs/resident-scholar/2025/02/21/dear-colleague-letter-defense-dei-shaun-harper>

Hawaii LGBTQ+ Commission website verbiage:

Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) – [Website](#)

HCRC enforces state laws prohibiting discrimination in employment ([H.R.S. Chapter 378, Part I](#)), housing ([H.R.S. Chapter 515](#)); public accommodations ([H.R.S. Chapter 489](#)), and access to state and state-funded services ([H.R.S. section 368-1.5](#)). The HCRC receives, investigates, conciliates, and adjudicates complaints of discrimination.

Note: Gender Identity and Expression; and Sexual Orientation are protected classes in the state of Hawai'i with regards to the Hawai'i Revised Statutes listed above.

Services that HCRC provides (video) select your language below:

- Kapasen Chuuk – [Chuukese](#)
- English – [English](#)
- 'Ōlelo Hawai'i – [Hawaiian](#)
- Ilokano – [Ilocano](#)
- Kajin Majôl – [Marshallese](#)
- Tagalog – [Tagalog](#)

Contact info – TEL: (808) 586-8636; Email: dlir.hcrc.infor@hawaii.gov
[Growing Pono Schools](#)

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- VIII. ESTABLISHING STANDING COMMISSION MEETING DAY and TIME FOR 2025 – Discussion and Vote (10 minutes)
- IX. ADJOURNMENT (1 minute)