

HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (Commission)
PUBLIC MEETING **PACKET**
MONDAY, May 12, 2025, 10:00 A.M.
Hybrid: In-Person & Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

- I. PUBLIC NOTICE, CALL TO ORDER, ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM (2 minutes)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (5 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: **None received.**
- III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2025, MEETING MINUTES – For Discussion and Action (2 minutes)
 - a. See drafted Public Meeting Minutes pages after Agenda.
- IV. REPORTS
 - A. CHAIR (5 minutes)
 - i. Recent Federal Actions and Commission Response, [05/07/25 HSCSW Press Release](#)
 - B. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (15 minutes)

DHS's Commission Measures of Effectiveness (Executive Director can submit changes summer 2025 which go into effect in FY27):

WOMEN ELECTED TO LEG OFFICE AS % TOTAL SEATS
WOMEN REGISTRAR TO VOTE AS % TOTAL REGIS VOTERS
CONSTITUENT CASES REFERRED TO & TRACKED BY COMM
LAWS RE WOMENS ISSUES ENACT/REVISE AS % ADVOCATE
MEDIA ADVISORIES ISSUED TO LOCAL & NATIONAL PRES
INQUIRIES TO COMMISSION ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

DHS's Commission Target Groups (Executive Director can submit changes summer 2025 which go into effect in FY27):

TOTAL STATE POPULATION (THOUSANDS)
TOTAL STATE FEMALE POPULATION (THOUSANDS)
WOMEN IN LABOR FORCE (THOUSANDS) (AVERAGE)
FEMALES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 TO 64 (THOUSANDS)
FEMALES OVER 65 (THOUSANDS)
NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
FOREIGN BORN WOMEN IN HAWAII
COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION (COFA) WOMEN
TRANSGENDER WOMEN

DHS's Commission Program Activities (Executive Director can submit changes summer 2025 which go into effect in FY27):

INTER-ORGANIZATION/AGENCY MEETINGS
EDUC/INFO MATERIALS PRODUCED AND CIRCULATED
PROJ/EVENTS INITIATED, CO-SPONSORED OR SUPPORTED
VOLUNTEERS/STAFF PARTICIPATING IN PROJS/EVENTS (HRS)
SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND GENDER BIAS TRAININGS
SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS & STAFF
BILLS RESEARCHED, INITIATED, SUPPORTED
TRAINEES THROUGH YOUNG FEMINIST LEADERS PROGRAM
COMMUNITY COLLABORATION EVENTS
INTERNS, EXTERNS, AND FELLOWS

- i. Legislative Session Updates
 1. See drafted HSCSW Bill and Resolution Tracking 2025 pages after drafted Minutes.
- ii. Collaborations:
 1. Hawai'i Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative (HMIHC) - Strategy & Research (S&R) Workgroup
 2. University of Hawaii (UH) Manoa Higher Education – Day of Action Panelist
 3. UH CSW meeting attendance and #TradWife Webinar Panelist
 4. UH Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS)
 5. Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women (Leadership training/activity and Onboarding)
 6. Task Force Update and ongoing Missing Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls' (MMNHWG) efforts
 7. Commercial Sexualized Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Steering Committee meeting
 8. Coalition Updates (Women's (Co-Chair, Community Co-Chair resigned, and upcoming Listening Tour) & Civil Rights (national leader meetings, Social Justice Co-Chair)
 9. Annual Calendar events attended: Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) – Denim Day Event at the Black & Shamrock and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Lei Draping Ceremony
- iii. Budget and Procurement

Anticipated FY25/26 Operating Expenses (Executive Director received pCard last week, purchases expected to be completed by end of May):

- Xerox (previous balance and monthly)
- Hawaiian Telcom (previous balance and monthly)
- Desktops for HSCSW Staff
- Cell Phone/Second cell Line (HSCSW ED)
- Office Supplies (ongoing)
- Canva Subscription

- Zoom Subscription
- Survey Monkey Subscription
- NACW Membership/Dues
- Conference/Training Attendance
- Sponsorships

iv. Administrative Assistant Recruitment

Projected start date – Monday, May 19, 2025, used DHRD Flexible Hiring Rate policy to guide advocacy and secure the maximum rate of pay possible per applicant's years of professional experience.

C. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS (5 minutes)

D. STATE COMMISSIONERS (15 minutes)



WEAR DENIM
JOIN US FOR THE MAYOR'S
DENIM DAY PROCLAMATION

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:30am
County of Kauai Rotunda



E. COUNTY COMMITTEES and UH COMMISSION (5 minutes)

- V. COMMISSION STAFF and MEMBERS' ROLES and SCOPE – For Discussion and Action (20 minutes)
- VI. COMMISSION NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COMMISSIONS for WOMEN (NACW) ANNUAL 2025 CONFERENCE (July 30 – August 02, 2025, Oklahoma City) ATTENDEES and MEMBERSHIP DUES– For Discussion and Action (10 minutes)
- VII. WEBSITE UPDATE PREFERENCES – For Discussion and Action (10 minutes)

- VIII. NEW COMMISSIONER ONBOARDING and LESSONS LEARNED – For Discussion and Action (20 minutes)
- IX. ESTABLISH NEXT COMMISSION MEETING DAY and TIME – For Discussion and Action (5 minutes)
- X. ADJOURNMENT (1 minute)

HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (Commission)

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, March 10, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

Hybrid: In-Person & Virtual Meeting

IN PERSON: Leiopapa A Kamehameha, State Office Tower, 235 S Beretania St., Conference Room 405, Honolulu, HI 96813, 4th Floor.

VIRTUAL: Via Teams. **Meeting ID:** 213 451 264 881, **Passcode:** 6Xx2sk3H

Commissioners Present: Deja Ostrowski, Chair (via Teams); Jennifer Stotter, Hawai'i (via Teams); Edie Ignacio-Neumiller, Kaua'i (via Teams, husband in kitchen); Marisa Adaro, O'ahu (via Teams); Stacey Moniz, Maui (in person); Melissa Sotelo, O'ahu * (in person); Rose Medina Kemna, O'ahu * (in person).

*Commissioner Awaiting Senate Confirmation

Ex-Officio Present: Jonathan B. Kimura, Designee for DHS (via Teams); David J. Rodriguez, Designee for DLIR (via Teams); Keli Acquaro, Designee for DOH (in person); Elizabeth Higashi, Designee for DOE (via Teams)

Members of the Public Present: Dianne Deanna (in person), Marina Karides (in person), Stef Mariani (in person), Kat Vogl (via Teams), Ariana Kwan (via Teams), Sarah Moriarty (via Teams), Women & Crime class (via Teams), Alana Rose (via Teams), Jess Shaffer (via Teams), Trinity (via Teams), M. Ishii (via Teams), Aekta Shah (via Teams)

Commission Deputy Attorney General Present: Lili Young (via Teams)

Commission Staff Present: Llasmin Chaine, Executive Director (in person)

AGENDA

I. PUBLIC NOTICE, CALL TO ORDER, ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

- a. Chair called meeting to order at 9:06 a.m., and quorum was declared, 5 of 7 Commissioners present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 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.
 - i. Dianne Deanna member of the public, PhD student at University of Hawaii (UH) commented on agenda item VII executive actions and discussed Executive Orders (EOs) impacts upon the UH community, female students of color, leadership recommendations regarding DEI compliance and urged the Commission: to bolster UH leadership and the institution's commitment to DEI and status of women, to endorse house resolution 205, and to help advocate for women and girls in the university system.
 - ii. Marina Karides member of public, Professor in geography at UH, commented on agenda item VII executive actions and discussed federal action impacts, written testimony submission, mixed response from leadership, pushback from UH community members, statewide impacts, and asked the Commission to consider

supporting: UH leadership and the restoration of scrubbed DEI content, and resolution 205 - urging UH to publish an equity statement.

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

Aloha Executive Director Llasmin Chaine,

Congratulations on your new post in leading the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women. I write to you with deep concern over the actions occurring across the University of Hawaii System which impact women students and employees on every island. Below is a summary collaboratively written by a group of women graduate students and myself outlining the deep concerns with University leadership "scrubbing" our websites for terms such as "women," "gender," as well as disappearing the content from websites such as the Women's Center and LGBTQIA+ Center. we have over the removal of the Women's Center. Yesterday I learned that at an event led by our graduate program, students were told that if they have any gender related problems, they can seek out a confidential advocate, but there is no system of university support available as has been the case for decades.

Here is our summary:

Across the US, colleges and universities are standing together in face of two Executive Orders and a "Dear Colleague" letter (later rolled back [a list of FAQs released by the U.S. Department of Education](#)). Unlike UH, they did "not change anything" including the removal of words on campus websites or the transformation of programs. In addition, on February 24, [a preliminary injunction](#) was granted against Anti-DEI Executive Orders by U.S. District Judge Adam B. Abelson in the District of Maryland giving reprieve to higher education with legal advice suggesting [that the lawsuits against the Executive Orders will be successful](#). In a [February 25 press release](#), Massachusetts' governor and attorney generals including Hawai'i's AG, issued joint guidance affirming commitment to equal access to education; On March 4, [ACLU sent a letter of support](#) to urge universities to protect campus speech and dissent.

UH is out of sync with campuses in other Democratic states that have retained their DEI content, remain openly equal opportunity employers, and have directly challenged the EOs. Currently, examples of content removal include: UH's [Women Center](#) and [LGBTQ+](#) Center's websites with messages of being under construction; [UHM](#) and [SOEST](#), student success and diversity statements are no longer available while the [CSS](#) link leads to a new page. Campus programs such as [SEEDS](#), a diversity grant, and other pages have been remade. We also understand that UH campuses are preparing to remove "Equal Opportunity Employer" from letterheads. It seems that mid-level administrators are being coaxed to make these changes by higher-ups using fear of criminal and civil penalties if they don't. Yet given the injunctions, that the "dear colleague" letter is guidance and not a legal document, and the AG's and [State of Hawaii's House of Representatives](#) position urging UH to support DEI, our university's capitulation to the Trump agenda is untenable.

Lastly, I write to you as the PI (2017-2022) of:

National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE Partnership: Building Relationships to Increase Diversity and Gender Equity in Hawaii's Two-Year College System, No. 1725604, \$1,250,281

I attach our report (and provide this [link](#) though it may be disappeared), which demonstrates the structural challenges in terms of gender and diversity UH faces. However, I also write to you as a feminist and resident of Hawai'i who is fully aware of the influence of the UH System, the many UH alumni that are employed across the state, and the positive impact that UH, as an equal opportunity employer, has on our workforce. If UH continues to defy its diversity and equity initiatives, consider the impact it will have on women employed across our State. I and many others are requesting your Commission address University leadership and help us with our

requests to not only restore our DEI and women content but like many other campuses in Democratic States, to issue a statement of support (as well as an apology) rather than the fear mongering it has been creating across all our campuses.

Mahalo to you and the Commission for all you do and the feminist position you stand by,
Marina Karides
Professor, Geography & Environment, UH Mānoa

- III. MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
 - a. Ex Officio Designee for DHS, welcomed new Commissioners and Staff, and identified themselves as the new point of contact.
- IV. ELECTION (Chair) – Discussion and Vote
 - a. Chair resigned (effective at end of March 10, 2025 meeting). Commissioner Moniz motioned to have a discussion about the Chair election, Commissioner Ignacio-Neumiller seconded – ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED. Discussed appreciation for Chair Ostrowski's efforts, Chair duties, and potential candidates. Commissioner Stotter offered to take on the Chair role.
 - b. Commissioner Moniz motioned to nominate Commissioner Stotter as Commission Chair, Commissioner Adaro seconded – ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED. Commissioner Stotter is the new Commission Chair.
- V. REPORTS
 - A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
 - i. Women's Coalition Legislative Package, Women's Legislative Caucus Package, and Other Bills of Note
 - 1. Reviewed meeting packet materials and testimony submitted to date on measures impacting girls and women, future legislative advocacy, context for measures, and any causes for concern.
 - ii. Website Updates
 - 1. Discussed recent website updates, plans to seek direct editing access, and future possibilities.
 - iii. Budget
 - 1. Discussed budget balance in recent quarter report, operating budget of about \$40K, procurement training progress, future Commission sponsorship opportunities, projected purchases and authorization progress.
 - iv. Administrative Assistant Recruitment
 - 1. Discussed ongoing recruitment efforts, recent offer to hire was not accepted, pay concerns/strategies that should be considered, and a third round of interviews to occur.
 - B. State Commissioners' Reports and Updates
 - i. Edie Ignacio-Neumiller, Kaua'i Commissioner

1. Commissioner discussed Rise of the Wahine screening and the upcoming annual NACW conference in Oklahoma City, July 30 – August 2.
- ii. Stacey Moniz, Maui Commissioner
 1. Commissioner reported that Maui County CSW has not met the last couple months due to staffing change and lack of admin support, recent event with young women and kapuna panel, and plans to do a women of excellence award.
- iii. Jennifer Stotter, Hawai'i Commissioner
 1. Commissioner reported that CSW has been busy meeting every month, most recent event was around domestic violence awareness month, sign waving and tabling occurred, upcoming: equal pay project is planned, engagement with social media and press to spread awareness, equal pay day in April, survey, working genius workshops, and a women in leadership campaign.
- iv. Marisa Adaro, O'ahu Commissioner
 1. Commissioner reported their term is ending at the end of June 2025, interested in reappointment, needs assistance – Executive Director to follow up to connect the Governor's Boards & Commissions' office point of contact to Commissioner.
- v. Introduction of Melissa Sotelo, new O'ahu Commissioner
 1. Commissioner reported on their confirmation progress, excitement about joining the Commission, personal, educational and professional background (nursing), and a desire to create change in health awareness.
- vi. Introduction of Rose Medina Kemna, new O'ahu Commissioner
 1. Commissioner reported on excitement to be on Commission, business, entrepreneurial, hospitality and realtor professional background, UH graduate, previous local female empowerment efforts, and interest in workplace equity, home ownership, and improving small business owner experiences for women.
- 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
 - a. Discussed recent Executive Director collaboration efforts, possible standing agenda items, previous statewide Commission and County Committees on the Status of Women (CSW) Chair meetings, and options. Commissioners Sotelo, Kemna, and Stotter expressed interest in collaborating with UH Commission and Honolulu CSW.
- 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

- a. Discussed recent federal actions, local and national impacts of EOs and federal funding changes/terminations, expressing support for AG's stance/efforts, previous legislative (2024 – HCR205) resolution efforts, testimony submitted, available resources, engaging with UH, and requests for Commission stance/messaging out regarding Commission's response and commitment to support for women and girls.
- b. Discussed collaboration with DHS's Press Information Officer (PIO) on any messaging out efforts, clarification that collaboration with DHS's PIO was at the Commission's discretion, importance of Commission's independence from departmental oversight, and the benefits of collaborating with DHS's PIO for dissemination of information and utilization of DHS PIO's contact list.
- c. Commissioner Moniz motioned for Commission to engage with the UH system and clarify the Commission's position that gender equality and DEI programs are not illegal, and the University should not comply in advance, Commissioner Ignacio-Neumiller seconded - ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.
- d. Commissioner Adaro motioned for the Executive Director and Chair to draft and develop a public statement supporting AG's position on EOs and gender equity policies, on the Commission's position, and policy regarding gender equity, Commissioner Ignacio-Neumiller seconded - ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. ESTABLISHING STANDING COMMISSION MEETING DAY and TIME FOR 2025 – Discussion and Vote

- a. Discussed next meeting date and time, Commissioner availability, and public meeting needs, next meeting date and time was identified as Monday, May 12, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Commissioner Ignacio-Neumiller motioned to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Stotter seconded - ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED, meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

HSCSW Bill and Resolution Tracking 2025

(yellow highlights – still progressing, green highlights – passed/adopted)

Hawaii Women's Coalition Package Bills:

Paternity Proceedings; Divorce Proceedings; Domestic Abuse; Mediation

[HB1283 HD2 \(dead in committee\)](#)/[SB1520 SD1 \(dead in conference\)](#)

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.

Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by the HSCSW ED for SB1520.

Early Learning Contracts Program; Report

[\(HB241 HD1 dead in committee\)](#)/[\(SB1609 SD1 dead in committee\)](#)

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](#) (on its way to the Governor for consideration)/[\(SB712 Deferred\)](#)

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 SD2 CD1](#) (on its way to the Governor for consideration)/[\(SB808/SB777 never heard in committee\)](#)

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
- HSCSW ED will submit required documentation advocating for the Governor to pass the bill.

Hawaii Women's Legislative Caucus 2025 Bill Package:

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

[\(SB526 SD1 dead in committee\)](#)/[HB727 HD1 SD2 CD1](#) (on its way to the Governor for consideration)

Permanently establishes the Women's Court Program in the First Circuit. Establishes a temporary two-year Women's Court Pilot Program within the Kona division of the Third Circuit.

Requires reports. Establishes a temporary position. Appropriates funds. Sunsets 6/30/2027. (CD1)

Constitutional Amendment; Reproductive Freedom; Abortion; Contraceptives; Pregnancy Outcomes

([SB927](#) dead in committee)/([HB728](#) never heard)

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](#) never heard)/([HB729 HD2](#) (dead in committee))

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.

- Testimony was submitted multiple times in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HB729.

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

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

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 in committee)/([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)

2025 Bills and Resolutions of Note or in which Testimony and/or

Comments were 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 in committee)/([SB852](#) never heard)

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 multiple times in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HB755.

DLIR; DHRD; LRB; Legislative Working Group; Labor; Paid Family and Medical Leave; Report

[SR117 SD1/HR175 HD1/HCR179 HD1/SCR145 SD1](#) (Resolution adopted)

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING A PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE PROGRAM FOR THE STATE.

- Testimony was submitted multiple times in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED, request for inclusion in the working group was not granted.

DLIR; Hospitality Employers; Hospitality Workers; Harassment; Panic Buttons; Training
[SB1660 SD1](#) (deferred)

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
- TOU Chair offered to work with respective parties to consider moving measure forward in future sessions.

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, measure was duplicative

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

[SB742 SD2 HD1 CD1](#) (on its way to the Governor for consideration)/([HB665](#) never heard)

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 multiple times in SUPPORT with COMMENTS by HSCSW ED for SB742, HSCSW ED was added to working group.
- HSCSW ED will submit required documentation advocating for the Governor to pass the bill.

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 SD2](#) (died in conference))

Allows for the regulation of sports wagering by the Department of Law Enforcement. Establishes licensing requirements for sports wagering operators and sports wagering suppliers. Establishes a general excise tax to be levied on sports wagering operator licenses. Establishes the Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Special Fund to be administered and expended by the Department of Health. Specifies that legal sports wagering and fantasy sports contests shall not be considered contests of chance or gambling. Authorizes DLE to perform criminal history record checks on applicants and licensees relating to sports wagering. (SD2)

- Comments and OPPOSITION were submitted by HSCSW ED for SB1569

State Budget (\$)

[HB300 HD1 SD1 CD1](#)

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

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

Sexual Exploitation; Safe Harbor Protections; Medical or Law Enforcement Assistance

[SB292 SD1 HD2 CD1](#) (on its way to the Governor for consideration)

Establishes safe harbor protections for survivors of sexual exploitation who seek medical or law enforcement assistance. (CD1)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for SB292.
- HSCSW ED will submit required documentation advocating for the Governor to pass the bill.

DLE; Discriminatory Reporting; Protected Class; Law Enforcement Officer; Civil Remedy

[SB116 SD2 HD1](#) (on its way to the Governor for consideration)

Establishes provisions relating to civil remedies for discriminatory reporting to a law enforcement officer. Provides that any person who causes a law enforcement officer to contact a person on the basis of the person's actual or perceived protected class with the intent to discriminate against the person shall be civilly liable. Requires the Department of Law Enforcement, in consultation with the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, to provide guidance to the public on the enactment of this Act. For purpose and intent of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission law, adding "place of birth" as a protected class. Effective 9/1/2025. (HD1)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for SB116.
- HSCSW ED submitted the required documentation advocating for the Governor to pass the bill.

DCCA; Registered Sex Offenders; Professional Licenses; Certification; Automatic Revocation and Denial of Application to Renew, Restore, or Reinstate

[SB1373 SD2 HD2 CD1](#) (on its way to the Governor for consideration)

Authorizes the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses or certification of registered sex offenders. (CD1)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for SB1373.
- HSCSW ED will submit required documentation advocating for the Governor to pass the bill.

Penal Code; Promoting Pornography for Minors; Written Information

[HB994 HD1](#) (Governor signed into law)

Authorizes the offense of promoting pornography for minors to be instituted by written information. (HD1)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HB994.
- HSCSW ED submitted the required documentation advocating for the Governor to pass the bill.

LRB; LGBTQ+ Commission; Commission on the Status of Women; Inclusive Language; Gender-Neutral Terminology; Report

[SR149 SD1](#) (Resolution adopted)/[HR95 HD1](#)/[HCR99 HD1](#)

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE HAWAII REVISED STATUTES AND RECOMMEND AMENDMENTS TO INCORPORATE GENDER-NEUTRAL TERMINOLOGY.

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for SR149.
- HSCSW is named and meant to be consulted by the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Title IX; Protections; Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women; Working Group

[HR103 HD1](#) (dead in committee)/[HCR107](#) (dead in committee)

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTIONS UNDER TITLE IX.

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HR103/HCR107.

Domestic Abuse Protective Orders; Temporary Restraining Order; Order for Protection; Penalties

[SB295 SD1 HD2](#) (on its way to the Governor for consideration)/[HB176](#) (never heard)

Increases the penalties imposed on individuals convicted for violations of temporary restraining orders and orders for protection. Clarifies that the court shall not sentence a defendant to pay a fine for violating a domestic abuse protective order if the court makes an on-the-record determination that the defendant is or will be unable to pay the fine. Specifies that any conviction for violation of a temporary restraining order issued under the same judicial case number as an order for protection shall be treated as a prior violation of an order for protection.

Clarifies when the court may suspend certain jail sentences for violations of domestic abuse protective orders. (HD2)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for SB295.
- HSCSW ED will submit required documentation advocating for the Governor to pass the bill.

Auditor; Impact Assessment Report; Cost-Sharing Prohibition; Diagnostic and Supplemental Breast Examinations.

[HCR134](#) (deferred)

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF ELIMINATING COST-SHARING FOR CERTAIN DIAGNOSTIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL BREAST EXAMINATIONS.

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HCR134.

UH; University of Hawai'i Cancer Center; Multiethnic Cohort Study; Appropriations (\$)

[HB1300 HD1 SD1 CD1](#) (on its way to the Governor for consideration)

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to conduct a multiethnic cohort study focusing on the social determinants of health, lifestyles, environmental exposures, and resilience factors of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos, including an analysis of the health effects and risks of individuals living in close proximity to landfills in Nanakuli, Oahu. Requires the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center to seek other sources of funding to complete the study. (CD1)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HB1300.
- HSCSW ED will submit required documentation advocating for the Governor to pass the bill.

Department of Education; Executive Office on Early Learning; Public Preschools; Teachers; Teacher Assistants; Equipment; Services; Appropriations (\$)

[HB429 HD1 SD1](#) (dead in conference)

Appropriates funds to hire teachers and teacher assistants and for equipment and services for public preschools. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HB429.

Midwives; Practice of Midwifery; Scope of Practice; Native Hawaiian and Customary Practices; Certified Midwives; Certified Professional Midwives; Licensure; Requirements; License Renewal; Prescriptive Authority; Peer Review; Data Submission; Medical Records

[HB1194 HD2 SD3](#) (became law without Governor's signature)

Makes laws regulating midwives and the practice of midwifery permanent. Clarifies the scope of practice of midwifery. Establishes licensure requirements for certified midwives and certified professional midwives. Establishes continuing education requirements. Grants global signature authority to midwives. Grants prescriptive authority to licensed midwives practicing as certified midwives and amends the list of approved legend drugs that may be administered by midwives. Establishes peer review and data submission requirements. Affirms that the practice of

midwifery does not include Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. Clarifies exemptions from licensure and grounds for refusal to grant, renew, reinstate, or restore licenses or for revocation, suspension, denial, or condition of a license. Clarifies medical record availability and retention requirements for the purposes of medical torts. (SD3)

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HB1194 HD2 SD1.

Judiciary; Study; Effectiveness; TRO Laws; Harassment by Stalking Laws

[HR51 HD1/HCR55 HD1 SD1](#) (Resolution adopted)

REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY HOW EFFECTIVE EXISTING LAWS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS, PROTECTIVE ORDERS, AND HARASSMENT BY STALKING ARE IN PREVENTING CONTINUED ABUSE AND HARASSMENT.

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HR51/HCR55.
- HSCSW ED is named and included in the working group.

United States Department of Justice; Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

[HR8](#) (Resolution adopted)/[HCR8](#)

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO INCLUDE HAWAII IN THE MISSING OR MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS REGIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM.

- Testimony was submitted in SUPPORT by HSCSW ED for HR8/HCR8.

Boards and Commissions; Executive Directors; Performance Review

[SCR143 SD1](#) (Resolution adopted)/[SR156](#)

URGING ALL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS TO CONDUCT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS OF THEIR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OR PERSONS HOLDING EQUIVALENT POSITIONS EXEMPT FROM CIVIL SERVICE LAW.