**In-person location:** 1390 Miller Street, 2nd Floor DHS Conference Rooms 1 & 2 Honolulu, HI 96813  
**Virtual meeting Zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/92198507509?pwd=hieXyWvs3IPkxKPWliHOlqUKuG7jbm.1>

Meeting ID: 921 9850 7509 | Passcode: 509173 | Waiting room opens 5 - 15 minutes before meeting

**Commission Purpose:** [From [Chapter 369, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol07_Ch0346-0398/HRS0369/HRS_0369-0001.htm)] 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.

**CALL TO ORDER: 2:30 PM**

1. **Introduction and Roll Call (0:00-4:25)** 
   1. Officers (voting members)
      1. Chair Kathleen O'Dell, PhD (she/her) *- C&C Honolulu*
      2. Vice Chair Michael Golojuch Jr. (he/him) *- C&C Honolulu*
      3. Secretary Philip Steinbacher (he/him) - *Kaua‘i County*
      4. Finance Director Shanda Brack (she/her) *- SGM Working Group*
   2. Commissioners (voting members)
      1. Sandy Harjo-Livingston, PhD (he/him/they/them)*- C&C Honolulu*
      2. Joe Tolbe (he/him) *- Maui County*
      3. Richard Velasquez (he/him) *- C&C Honolulu*
   3. Ex-Officios or their designees (non-voting members)
      1. Superintendent of Education designee Rhonda Wong, Director of the Department of Education, Civil Rights Compliance Office
      2. President of the University of Hawai‘i System designee Dr. Camaron Miyamoto, Director, LGBTQ+ Center, UH Mānoa (he/him)
      3. Director of Labor and Industrial Relations designee David Rodriguez, State’s Equal Opportunity Officer
      4. Director of Human Resources Development designee Signe Nakamura-Dureza, EEO Administrator
      5. Director of Human Services designee Jonathan Kimura, Executive Specialist
      6. Director of Health designee Thaddeus Pham (he/him), MPH, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, Harm Reduction Services Branch
   4. Support Staff
      1. Devyn Goo – Administrative Assistant
      2. Erin Lau – Sunshine Law Monitor
   5. Guests
      1. Dominick Yamashita-Potts
      2. Kiona Boyd
      3. Celine
      4. Joe Wilson
      5. Sarah Ireland
      6. Marguerite Koster
      7. Trisha Gilmete
      8. Kelee Aizawa-Smith
      9. Athena Huynh
      10. Nicolas Rulon
      11. Dean Hamer
      12. Jen Walker
      13. Andrew Ogata
2. **Member Shares, Concerns, and Reports (4:26-14:58)**
   1. Commissioners (See Board Packet) (4:26-10:25)
      1. Commissioner Velasquez thanks the Legacy Foundation and Camaron Miyamoto for the Rainbow Graduation Ceremony at Hawaii Theatre (4:31-5:12).
      2. Commissioner Golojuch points the commission’s attention to the statement from chairs regarding the Supreme Court allowing Trump Administration’s ban on trans military and shares about the three honoraries from the Pacific Business News. Commission on Fatherhood Chair Jeff Esmond was one of those selected for this year. Taking place on June 13th is the Youth Pride Fest hosted by Spill the Tea Café at the Kahala Hotel. He also shares about SAVE act and asks the commissioners to urge senators and family/friends in red states to vote no. He shares that there is a protest called Act UP! Speak UP! Silence = Death on June 1st to kick off pride month (5:13-7:44).
      3. Commissioner Steinbacher shares that he his updating the resource guide based on the resources shared from the Queer Day at the Capitol and hopes that it will be ready soon to add to the website. The Queer Justice Display from Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer, originally shown on Oahu in October 2024, will be displayed ay Kauai Community College Performing Arts Center on May 30th (7:45-9:37).
      4. Commissioner Harjo Livingston shares that Justin Johnston, a prominent member of the LGBTQ+ Community has tragically passed away (9:38-10:25).
   2. Finance Director’s Report (10:26-11:54)
      1. Commissioner Brack shares that reimbursement checks were sent out and that she is cleaning up the commission budget.
   3. Public Testimony (11:55-14:58)
      1. Joe Wilson thanks Commissioner Steinbacher for his impact on Kauai’s community diversity and at the Kauai Community College. He shares about the event on June 4, with Hawaii LGBT Legacy Foundation, doing a dedication ceremony to honor Queen Surf Beach at 4:00 PM. He also shares about the event on June 12, with Hawaii LGBT Legacy Foundation featuring a screening of a historical film, *Out in Paradise*.
3. **Guest Speaker/Presentation (14:59-44:17)**
   1. Human Development and Family Studies Students from University of Hawai’i at Manoa to present their findings on how LGBTQIA+ relationships and sexual health is covered in Hawai’i public schools, by Trisha Gilmete Kelee Aizawa-Smith Athena Huynh Nicolas Rulon
      1. Athena introduces the group’s presentation topic; Na’au Pono: Needs Assessment of Sex Education for Public Schools in Hawai’i. Trisha shares the methodology that the group used to gather data; survey (71) and interviews (10) with mostly those who identify as female aged 18-66 years old responding. Athena shares that most felt their course lacked LGBTQ+ content and were not satisfied with the curriculum in general. 47.9% reported never having had “the talk”. General findings show that there is a lack of sex education both at home and school. Nicholas shares that they also found that almost 60% do not want the sex education they received to continue and believe there should be changes. Many participants also wished that schools taught topics such as sexual violence, how to talk to parents/guardians, and LGBTQ+ awareness. Nicholas concludes that too many kids are left in the dark and that sex education needs to improve and include LGBTQ+ knowledge (16:56-28:04).
      2. Commissioner Velasquez asks if they can share this with other organizations. Sarah shares her email so that the group can be contacted (28:05-28:53).
      3. Commissioner Brack asks if they came across curriculum/best practices if the DOE wanted to implement them. Sarah responds that there is a rough draft that serves as a resource to bridge the gap of lack of education (28:54-30:24).
      4. Commissioner Steinbacher thanks the group for their work and agrees with their findings. He also states that parents are usually the resistance and need the education. He asks if the group has ideas on how to educate parents. Sarah responds that in their rough draft packet, there are resources for parents on how to have these conversations with their children. She further states that these guidelines already exist but acknowledges the potential pushback that is expected. Athena mentions that some children have mentioned having zero sex education and Commissioner O’Dell shares that there is no standard curriculum on sex education and that parents can opt their children out of the curriculum (30:25-44:17).

*Note: Joe Tolbe enters meeting at 3:01 PM.*

1. **Ongoing Business and Updates (44:18-1:43:51)**
   1. Update on the progress for hiring the Administrative Assistant II position
      1. Devyn shares that she will be becoming an Office Assistant to Director’s Office and will TA back to the permanent Administrative Assistant position. Commissioner Golojuch also shares that he will be passing on board packet duties to Devyn (44:39-46:58).
   2. Update on Commission legislative priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session; Commission’s 2025 Legislative Tracker <https://bit.ly/2025LegHILGBTQplus> (46:59-55:40)
      1. Vote - Commission’s position on the following bill and resolution:
      2. [SB 1651](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=1651) - Public Meetings, Board Packets, Notice – Commissioner Golojuch shares that the testimony has changed throughout the process due to the bill changing. If this bill passes, commissioners only have 24 hours to review agendas and submit board packets. On the CNR, Commissioner Golojuch strongly urges the commission to submit a veto for the bill. Commissioner Velasquez asks if there should be a signing ceremony for HB 613, Commissioner Golojuch says yes since this has been 15 years in the making (46:59-54:27).

**Vote: Comissioner Golojuch moves for the commission to veto SB 1651, seconded by Commissioner Harjo Livingston, unanimously approved (3:24 pm).**

* + 1. [SCR 145](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SCR&billnumber=145) - DLIR; DHRD; Legislative Working Group; Labor; Paid Family and Medical Leave; Report – Commissioner Golojuch shares that the commission testified throughout its process and their requests for a seat at the table were denied. He states that the commission would have to send a letter to Director Jade Futai (54:28-55:40).

**Vote: Commissioner Golojuch moves to send a letter requesting representation on this working group, seconded by Commissioner Harjo Livingston, unanimously approved 3:26 pm.**

* 1. Update on Commission’s website - <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/>
     1. Commissioner Golojuch encourages the commissioners to email him with suggestions for inclusions and shares that the glossary terms still need to be updated (55:41-56:17).
  2. Update on letter to the governor requesting an Executive Order from Governor Green to turn Hawaiʻi into a sanctuary state for gender affirming care (see Board Packet)
     1. Commissioner O’Dell shares that no action has been taken (56:18-56:43).
  3. Update on letter to Maui Preparatory Academy donors re: Maui Prep’s anti-LGBTQIA+ policies for students (see Board Packet)
     1. Commissioner Golojuch shares that it is not in the board packet, but the commission will work to find more addresses of Maui Prep Donors to send the letter to so that they are aware of who they are funding (56:44-58:03).
  4. Update on queer community leaders meeting & Community Calendar
     1. Camaron Miyamoto shares that he and Commissioner Harjo Livingston have been working on the Community Calendar and that there will be a Pau Hana event on June 12th. Andrew Ogata shares his excitement to be hosting the event with the commission. Camaron reminds the commission that it is a hybrid event (58:04-1:01:05).
     2. Joe Wilson shares that there is another event on June 12th and that events happening on the same day can be devastating for small communities, which highlights the importance of a shared community calendar. Andrew Ogata says it is possible that their event may be moved to June 10th. (1:01:06-1:03:14).
     3. Commissioner O’Dell states that the commission spoke with the Legacy Foundation about housing the calendar on their website. Commissioner Golojuch shares that there will be a portal on the Legacy Foundation’s website where people can add their events. It will be updated once a week and the commission will push it out for others to use. He confirms that Devyn will not be working on the calendar due to ethics any further than helping to get the word out (1:03:15-1:06:27)
  5. Update on accepting private funding (see Board Packet)
     1. Commissioner O’Dell shares that it is in the board packet for everyone to review. Commissioner Golojuch clarifies that the commission must vote on accepting private funding and monies from cash may present future issues (1:06:28-1:07:29).
  6. Commission purchasing its own Owl (video/audio device)
     1. Commissioner Golojuch updates that the Owl has been purchased and arrived (1:07:30-1:08:01).
  7. Update of building a coalition with other kūpuna, māhū, and LGBTQIA+ organizations to identify and address the needs of our community’s kūpuna, especially māhū, trans, non-binary, and intersex. (See Board Packet)
     1. Commissioner Brack updates that Erin Lau does not believe that the PIG is necessary and may be dissolved in a future meeting. However, the commission and kupuna committee will still be able to contribute. The committee will broaden their goals to help more members of the community. Commissioner Shanda updates that they will be meeting and that they will be planning to have a sage table, which aims to get youth and at-risk kupuna together for a meal every 4 months. The second project and update is to help find ways to empower people at the end-of-life to voice their wishes (ie. how they want to present at their funeral) (1:08:02-1:18:12).

*Note: Commissioner Velasquez returns to meeting 3:46 pm*

* 1. Update of the Commission’s 2025 Pride Participation (1:18:13-1:29:52)
     1. Discussion and Vote - Collateral for tabling at Pride and other opportunities (1:18:13-1:27:43)

**Vote: Commissioner Golojuch moves to support the decision to purchase a tablecloth, banner, and stickers for the Pride events, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez, unanimously approved 3:50 pm.**

* + 1. Kaua‘i - [Saturday, June 7, 2025](https://www.kauaiprideparade.com/)
    2. Maui - [Maui Pride on Saturday, June 14, 2025](https://www.alohamauipride.org/)
    3. Hilo - [Hawai‘i Island Pride on Saturday, June 28, 2025](https://hawaiiislandlgbtqpride.org/),
    4. Kona - [Kona Pride on Saturday, September 13, 2025](https://www.konapride.com/)
    5. C&C Honolulu - [Honolulu Pride on Saturday, October 18, 2025](https://www.honolulupride.com/)
    6. Discussion and vote whether to accept stickers at Kauai Pride (1:27:44-1:29:52)

**Vote: Commissioner Golojuch moves to accept stickers to hand out at Kauai Pride as permitted in Commissioner Steinbacher’s letter, seconded by Commissioner Brack, unanimously approved 4:03 pm.**

* 1. Update on sponsoring [Gender Journey Day](https://genderjourneyshawaii.org/)
     1. Commissioner Brack shares that the Gender Journey Day event will be sponsored by the Commission and that it will be taking place on June 28th. The commissioners agree that if no commissioners are available for the event, they will not use the tickets instead of giving them away (1:29:53-1:32:56).
  2. Update on the Commission’s statement regarding the University of Hawai‘i’s response to Executive Orders attacking Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (See Board Packet)
     1. Commissioner Golojuch shares that President Hensel appreciated the commission’s statement. Camaron Miyamoto shares President Hensel’s thank you in receiving support through Instagram and email and appreciates knowing that her leadership in the community to stand against attacked on DEI are well heard and received. He states that she will continue to be a leader in those areas and invites the commissioners to reach out directly if there are concerns in the future (1:32:57-1:34:22)
  3. Wrap-up on “Queer Day” at the Hawai‘i State Capitol (see Board Packet)
     1. Commissioner Golojuch updates that the participant survey responses were very positive and that there are plans to make it an all-day event next year with a morning panel (1:34:23-1:37:09).
  4. Update on Hawai‘i Department of Education actions taken or to be taken in response to the required certification to end all Diversity Equity and Inclusion practices to receive federal funding
     1. Rhonda Wong updates that a certification for Title 6 was submitted but no changes to programs have been made. Camaron Miyamoto asks for suggestions for parents who feel that their child could use additional support and are unsure of what to do. Rhona advises that parents should bring up concerns to their administrators and reach out to the civil rights compliance branch to work with the schools for additional support (1:37:10-1:43:00).
  5. Update on request for Proclamation for June 2025 - Pride Month from the Governor
     1. Commissioner Golojuch states that the commission should have the proclamation by the last Wednesday of the month (1:43:01-1:43:23) .
  6. Update on issuing a statement supporting Transgender Students participating in sports (see Board Packet)
     1. Commissioner Golojuch states that there was no backlash in response to the Commission’s statement (1:43:24-1:43:51).

1. **New Business (1:43:52-2:01:22)**
2. Update from Genders & Sexualities Alliances - Advisors meet-up
   * 1. Commissioner Golojuch updates that he attended the April 1st meeting and that the idea is to make these meetings monthly. Thaddeus shares that at the last meeting, the advisors were able to talk about next steps and that he reviewed the summary. It was then sent it to Department of Education where next steps are being taken(1:43:52-1:46:45).
   1. Tabling for Honolulu AIDS Walk on June 21st, 2025 (1:46:46-1:48:05)

**Vote: Commissioner Golojuch moves to approve funding for Honolulu AIDS walk, seconded by Commissioner Brack, unanimously approved 4:20 pm (1:46:46-1:47:33).**

* + 1. Commissioners Golojuch and Brack will be at the table (1:47:34-1:48:05).
  1. 2025 Commission Fiscal and Legislative Report to the Governor and Legislators (see Board Packet)
     1. Commissioner Golojuch states that all the commissioners must submit their report to Devyn with a recap of legislative activity and funds spent by June 5th (1:48:06-1:50:55)
  2. Discussion and Vote - Supporting the request for Pride flags to be flown from the auxiliary flag poles for Pride month (1:50:56-1:59:35)
     1. Dean Hamer shares that the Governor approved the request and that several community groups have been asked to contribute funds to purchase the flags (1:50:56-1:59:04).

**Vote: Commissioner Golojuch moves to support the raising of the flags seconded by Commissioner Velasquez, unanimously approved 4:30 pm (1:59:05-1:59:35).**

* 1. Discussion and vote on polling public for 2026 Legislative Priorities

**Vote: Commissioner Golojuch moves that the commission poll the general public at the month of June to set priorities in July, seconded by Commissioner Brack, unanimously approved 4:31 pm (1:59:36-2:01:22).**

1. **Future Meeting Topics or Speakers (2:01:23-2:02:26)** 
   1. Announcing for June 9 meeting presentation on addressing emergency shelters for homeless unaccompanied keiki including the Safe Spaces for Youth Program; suggested speakers: Leanne Gillespie,Executive Director for the [Office of Youth Services](https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/oys/), Carla Houser, Executive Director of [Residential Youth Services & Empowerment](https://www.rysehawaii.org), Jun Yang, Governor’s [Coordinator on Homelessness](https://governor.hawaii.gov/statewide-office-on-homelessness-and-housing-solutions/) and a representative from [Hawai‘i Health & Harm Reduction Center](https://www.hhhrc.org).
      1. Commissioner Golojuch announces that the June 9meeting will begin at 2:00 pm instead of 2:30 pm
2. **Adjournment (2:02:27-2:02:52)**

**Vote: Commissioner Golojuch moves to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Steinbacher, unanimously approved 4:33 pm.**

**Future 2025 Commission meeting dates: June 9 at 2:00 pm, July 14**