

HAWAI'I STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (Commission)  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, May 12, 2025, 10:00 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. [Join Teams meeting](#): Meeting ID: 282 145 164 43, Passcode: JW9bZ2Ec

Commissioners Present: Jennifer Stotter, Hawai'i; Stacey Moniz, Maui; Edie Ignacio Neumiller, Kaua'i; Rose Medina Kemna\*, O'ahu; and Melissa Sotelo\*, O'ahu.

\*Welcome Rose and Melissa, our newest Commissioners

Ex-Officio Present: Jonathan B. Kimura (via Teams), Designee for Department of Human Services (DHS); Elizabeth Higashi, Designee for Superintendent DOE (via Teams); and Jennifer Rose (via Teams), Designee for the President of the University of Hawai'i (UH)

Members of the Public Present: Aleeka@Nurturing Wahine (via Teams); Monique Ibarra (via Teams)

County CSW Members Present: Emma White, Vice Chair Kaua'i (via Teams)

Commission Deputy Attorney General Present: Erin Lau (via Teams)

Commission Staff Present: Llasmin Chaine, Executive Director

## AGENDA

- I. PUBLIC NOTICE, CALL TO ORDER, ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM
  - 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.
    - No public testimony was given.
  - B. Written testimony received, if any.
    - None received.
- III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2025, MEETING MINUTES – For Discussion and Action
  - There were no corrections, comments, or public testimony given. Commissioner Moniz moved to adopt the Minutes, Commissioner Neumiller seconded the Motion - ALL IN FAVOR, NO OPPOSITION, NO ABSTENTION, MOTION CARRIED.
- IV. REPORTS

## A. CHAIR

### i. Recent Federal Actions and Commission Response

- Chair summarized meeting with UH President and Commission UH Designee, conveyed concerns expressed by students and staff in the March 10, 2025 meeting, discussed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) executive order impacts, clarifying what is unlawful, and resources available to students and staff. [05/07/2025 Commission Press Release](#) was disseminated.
- No public testimony was given.

## B. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### i. Legislative Session Updates

- Meeting packet document **HSCSW Bill and Resolution Tracking 2025** was reviewed with a status update on those measures that are still progressing, those that passed, and resolutions that were adopted. Collaboration and increased communication with Commissioners to facilitate greater participation in legislative advocacy in future sessions was discussed.
- No public testimony was given.

### ii. Collaborations, Committees and Coalition Updates

- Discussed DHS Commission Measures of Effectiveness, Target Groups, and Program Activities and possible future changes the Executive Director may submit summer 2025 which go into effect in FY27; forthcoming interns, rebuilding collaborative relationships and agreements; and training scope expansion.
- Collaborative activities engaged in were reviewed and discussed:
  - Hawaii Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative (HMIHC);
  - UH Higher Education – Day of Action;
  - UH Commission on the Status of Women;
  - UH Department of Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies;
  - Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women (CSW);
  - Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women, Girls, and Mahu (MMNHWGM);
  - Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Steering Committee;
  - Sexual Assault Awareness Month Denim Day event;
  - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s (MMIW) – Lei Draping event; and
  - Hawai’i Women’s Coalition.
- No public testimony was given.

### iii. Budget and Procurement

- Anticipated FY25/26 Operating Expenses outlined in packet.

### 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.
- No public testimony was given.

## C. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- Designee for DHS and Designee for the President of UH offered support and appreciation for the opportunity to collaborate.
- No public testimony was given.

#### D. STATE COMMISSIONERS

- Maui County Commissioner reported that the Maui CSW's lack of an administrative assistant has delayed and disrupted efforts, there may be a Women's conference in September 2025, plans to award Women of Excellence, and impacts of Sunshine law on progress of CSW.
- Kaua'i County Commissioner reported on Kaua'i CSW's Denim Day event and Mayor's Proclamation Signing, there is a new Executive Director at the Kaua'i YWCA; MMNHWGM collaboration and data reported; and their ability to add folks to the meeting list if interested.



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

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:30am  
 County of Kaua'i Rotunda



- Oahu Commissioner (Kemna) reported as a new Commissioner she is currently observing and looking forward to future collaborations.
  - Oahu Commissioner (Sotelo) reported as a new Commissioner she will be collaborating with Oahu Commissioner Kemna and the Honolulu County CSW, the April meeting was canceled, and she will report back on the Honolulu CSW meetings she attends.
  - Chair provided an update on Hawai'i County CSW, on recent MMIW Sign-Waving event, a period poverty project, collaboration with local YMCA, and appointment of a temporary Hawai'i CSW Chair.
- No public testimony was given.

#### E. COUNTY COMMITTEES and UH COMMISSION

- UH Commission/Designee for UH President commented on collaborations with the Commission, the Commission's recent press release, and attacks upon higher education.
  - No public testimony was given.

#### V. COMMISSION STAFF AND MEMBERS' ROLES AND SCOPE – Discussion and Action

- Chair started discussion with reference to HRS 367 which outlines the Commission's scope, the Commissioners serve as an advisory board and supports the work of the County CSWs and the Executive Director (ED), and the ED has the authority to set the priorities for the Commission; Maui County Commissioner commented on challenges of ED role, facilitating the Hawai'i Women's Coalition, ED sets priorities based on expertise and preferences, Commissioners obligation to share concerns/needs of their respective counties to the Commission and vice versa, the importance of collecting and reporting gender-based violence data for the state; Kaua'i County Commissioner stated Commissioners sharing concerns/needs of respective counties to the Commission and vice versa, Commissioners must decide what to move forward individually and as a participant of the Commission, hopes for future support to raise the marriage age to 18, and learning about new issues and topics via the Commission.
- Public testimony:
  - Designee for UH President stated their appreciation of clarification of the Commission's scope and the role of the ED (legislative advocacy, development of policy, clearinghouse of information/data), and previous efforts collecting domestic violence data across the state, within the Filipino community.
- Discussed granting the ED authority to independently engage with the media and submitting legislative testimony on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Moniz motioned for the ED to act with autonomy in issuing testimony and press releases on behalf of the Commission, with Commissioner assistance at the ED's discretion, Commissioner Neumiller seconded – ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED, NO OPPOSITION, NO ABSTENTION.
  - No public testimony was given.

#### VI. COMMISSION NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMISSIONS FOR WOMEN (NACW) ANNUAL 2025 CONFERENCE ATTENDEES AND MEMBERSHIP DUES– Discussion and Action

- Commissioner Neumiller started the discussion about the upcoming annual NACW Conference from July 30 – August 3, 2025, Hawai'i's membership status, NACW Board participation, identified and ranked Commission attendees (ED, Commissioner Neumiller, Chair, Commissioner Sotelo, and Commissioner Kemna), budget, and the ED's plans to pay the Commission's NACW membership dues. Commissioner Moniz motioned for the ranked Commission members and staff to participate in the 2025 NACW Conference as budget allows, Commissioner Neumiller seconded – ALL IN FAVOR, NO OPPOSITION, NO ABSTENTION, MOTION CARRIED.
  - No public testimony was given.
- Commissioner Moniz motioned for the 2025 NACW Conference costs have a \$15,000.00 budget cap, Commissioner Neumiller seconded – ALL IN FAVOR, NO OPPOSITION, NO ABSTENTION, MOTION CARRIED
  - No public testimony was given.

#### VII. WEBSITE UPDATE PREFERENCES – Discussion and Action

- Discussed ED acquiring website editing access, the Commission calendar of awareness topics being updated regularly, Commissioners' preferences whether or not to have their names and photos on the website. It was decided the ED will: add verbiage to the website from the statute about statewide Commission membership; and list those consenting Commissioner names, but

not photos, on website (Oahu Commissioner Sotelo has not consented to being listed, the remainder of the Commissioners present consented to having their names listed; ED will find out Commissioner Adaro's preferences and move forward accordingly).

VIII. NEW COMMISSIONER ONBOARDING AND LESSONS LEARNED

- Commissioner Stacey motioned to have this item tabled until the next meeting, Commissioner Edie seconded – ALL IN FAVOR, NO OPPOSITION, NO ABSTENTION, MOTION CARRIED.
- No public testimony was given.

IX. ESTABLISH NEXT COMMISSION MEETING DAY AND TIME – for Discussion and Action

- Chair started discussion and recommended establishing standing meetings (4x/year); and special meetings will be had on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Moniz motioned to establish Commission standing meeting times on Mondays at 11:00 am on the third week of the month to begin on August 18, 2025, Commissioner Sotelo seconded - ALL IN FAVOR, NO OPPOSITION, NO ABSTENTION, MOTION CARRIED.
- No public testimony was given.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Neumiller motioned to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Kemna seconded - ALL IN FAVOR, NO OPPOSITION, NO ABSTENTION, MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 12:13pm.
- No public testimony was given.