



Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission

April 2026 Meeting Minutes

Date: April 13, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM

In-person meeting location:

1390 Miller Street

2nd Floor Conference Rooms 1 & 2

Honolulu, HI 96813

RECORDED MEETING LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZhWf0G-VHI>

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 2:07 PM

I. Introduction and Roll Call (0:00-03:50)

A. Officers (voting members)

1. Chair Sandy Harjo Livingston, PhD (he/him/they/them)- *C&C Honolulu*
2. Vice Chair Michael Golojuch Jr. (he/him) - *C&C Honolulu*
3. Secretary - Vacant
4. Finance Director - Shanda Brack (she/her) - *SGM Working Group*

B. Commissioners (voting members)

1. Philip Steinbacher (he/him) - *Kaua'i County*
2. Kathleen O'Dell, PhD (she/her) - *C&C Honolulu*
3. Joe Tolbe (he/him) - *Maui County*
4. Richard Velasquez (he/him) - *C&C Honolulu* – ABSENT
5. Vacant - *Hawai'i County*

C. Ex-Officios or their designees (non-voting members)

1. Superintendent of Education designee Beth Schimmelfennig, 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 Manoa (he/him)
3. Director of Labor and Industrial Relations designee David Rodriguez, State's Equal Opportunity Officer – ABSENT
4. Director of Human Resources Development designee Signe Nakamura-Dureza, EEO Administrator
5. Director of Human Services designee Jonathan Kimura, Executive Specialist – ABSENT
6. Director of Health designee Thaddeus Pham (he/him), MPH, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, Harm Reduction Services Branch – ABSENT

- D. Staff
 - 1. New Administrative Assistant, Department of Human Services – Hanne Bulagay
- E. Guests
 - 1. No guests mentioned
- F. Comment on receipt of written testimony (03:58)
 - 1. No comments

II. Member Shares, Concerns, and Reports (04:20-09:22)

- A. Commissioners and Ex-Officios
 - 1. Chair Harjo-Livingston introduced Hanne Bulagay as the Commission’s new Administrative Assistant. Chair Harjo-Livingston also introduced Jerron Oyama as the new Public Information Officer for the Department of Human Services and acknowledged Christopher Luthy, who was appointed to fill the Hawai’i County Commissioner position. Christopher Luthy shared that he is awaiting confirmation of his Governor’s Message appointment and anticipates attending his first official Commission meeting next month.
 - 2. Commissioner Golojuch reminded the community to register to vote and noted that the Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) bill remains active in the Legislature. Commissioner Golojuch also encouraged members to submit events to the Hawai’i Legacy Foundation online calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts.
 - 3. Commissioner O’Dell shared that she attended the Hawai’i Legacy Foundation Gala and congratulated Commissioner Golojuch on receiving the Visionary Award.
 - 4. Commissioner Tolbe congratulated Commissioner Golojuch on receiving the Visionary Award. Commissioner Tolbe also reported on the success of the Aloha Maui Pride fundraising car wash event and shared that voter registration outreach was conducted during the event.
 - 5. No public testimony.
- B. Finance Director’s Report
 - 1. Finance Director Brack provided a budget update and reported that approximately \$7,870 of the Commission’s annual budget had been expended. She further reported on committed funding allocations for Pride events, bus advertisements, and previously approved projects. Finance Director Brack stated that approximately \$10,130 remained in the budget, with portions already allocated for planned expenses.
 - 2. Commissioners discussed clarification regarding reimbursement periods and prior travel reimbursements.
- C. Official Communications from State Officials
 - 1. No communication.
- D. Public Testimony
 - 1. No public testimony.

III. Presentation (14:07-21:07)

- A. Supreme Court Ruling in *Chiles v. Salazar* and what does this mean to Hawai’i’s ban on the so-called conversion therapy by Commissioner Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him) the lead advocate for [Act 13](#), SLH 2018 and [Act 157](#), SLH 2019 - [453J](#) of the Hawai’i Revised Statute

1. Commissioner Golojuch provided a presentation regarding the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Chiles v. Salazar* and its potential impact on Hawai'i's ban on so-called conversion therapy under Act 13, SLH 2018, and Act 157, SLH 2019.
2. Commissioner Golojuch explained that the Supreme Court ruling addressed issues related to restrictions on speech rather than the medical validity of conversion therapy practices. Commissioner Golojuch stated that Hawai'i's existing law remains in effect and expressed his belief that the statute is broad enough to withstand constitutional scrutiny under the Court's ruling.
3. Commissioner Golojuch discussed the legislative history of Hawai'i's conversion therapy ban and noted that amendments adopted in 2019 strengthened protections within the statute. Commissioner Golojuch further stated that conversion therapy practices cause emotional and physical harm and do not change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.
4. Commissioner Golojuch stated that the Commission and community advocates may continue exploring future legislative protections and additional measures to support individuals impacted by conversion therapy practices.
5. Commissioners discussed possible complaints and legal remedy processes available through the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO) for individuals subjected to conversion therapy practices.
6. Deputy Attorney General Erin Yamashiro clarified that Commissioner Golojuch was not providing legal advice on behalf of the State and encouraged individuals seeking legal remedies to consult a licensed attorney.
7. No public testimony.

IV. Ongoing Business and Updates

- A. Election – Secretary (21:14)
 1. Chair Harjo-Livingston reported that the election for Commission Secretary remains on hold pending additional Commission member participation and nominations.
 2. No public testimony.
- B. Update on Commission's website (21:33)
 - <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/>
 1. Commissioner Golojuch reported that updates to the Commission website are ongoing and encouraged Commissioners to submit additional website content and updates for posting.
 2. No public testimony.
- C. Update on letter to Maui Preparatory Academy donors re: Maui Prep's anti-LGBTQIA+ policies for students (22:01)
 1. Commission Golojuch presented an updated draft follow-up letter to Maui Preparatory Academy donors regarding the school's anti-LGBTQIA+ policies for students, as included in the Board Packet. Commissioner Golojuch made a motion to approve and send the follow-up letter on behalf of the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission. Motion seconded.
 2. No discussion.
 3. No public testimony.
 4. Motion approved unanimously by Commissioners present.

- D. Update on responses from February 2026 survey Rainbow Pau Hana: Queer Community Leaders Gathering (23:04)
1. Commissioner Golojuch summarized responses from the February 2026 Rainbow Pau Hana survey and reported that participants requested additional advance notice for future gatherings to improve participation and planning.
 2. Commissioners discussed a proposed budget for neighbor island travel related to Rainbow Pau Hana gatherings. Finance Director Brack explained that the proposal would support Commission representation at gatherings held on islands where no Commissioner is available to attend. Estimated travel costs, including airfare, lodging, and ground transportation, were discussed. No motion was made and no vote was taken regarding the proposed travel budget.
 3. Commissioner Golojuch presented proposed guidelines for hosting Rainbow Pau Hana gatherings, as included in the Board Packet. Commissioner Golojuch explained that the guidelines were intended to clarify the responsibilities of host organizations and the Commission, including coordination, outreach, and possible reimbursement for light refreshments if funding becomes available.
 4. Commissioners discussed the purpose of Rainbow Pau Hana gatherings, including strengthening communication among LGBTQIA+ organizations and community leaders statewide, improving inter-island collaboration, and supporting community engagement beyond O'ahu.
 5. Commissioners further discussed the distinction between the responsibilities of host organizations and the role of Commissioners attending gatherings as representatives of the Commission.
 6. Commissioners discussed the use of hybrid participation options to allow individuals from other islands to participate virtually.
 7. Commissioner Golojuch made a motion to approve the proposed Rainbow Pau Hana guidelines as presented. Motion seconded by Finance Director Brack.
 8. Public testimony was provided by Melissa Sotelo (HSCSW Commissioner) in support of expanding Rainbow Pau Hana gatherings to neighbor islands and encouraging flexible scheduling formats to better meet the needs of each island community.
 9. Motion approved unanimously by Commissioners present.
 10. Chair Harjo-Livingston announced that Camaron Miyamoto and Finance Director Brack would step down from coordinating Rainbow Pau Hana gatherings and requested that a new Commission contact person be identified at a future meeting.
 11. Commissioners continued discussion regarding logistical considerations for neighbor island participation, including travel costs, scheduling flexibility, and adapting gathering formats to meet community needs on different islands.
 12. Commissioner Tolbe noted that Christopher Luthy, the newly appointed Hawai'i County Commissioner representative from Hilo, may assist with future outreach and participation efforts on Hawai'i Island.
- E. Update on addressing the needs of our community's kūpuna, especially māhū, trans, non-binary, and intersex. (45:02)
1. Commissioner Brack reported on ongoing collaboration with the Sexual and Gender Minority Workgroup regarding resources and training opportunities related to LGBTQIA+ kūpuna and end-of-life planning.

2. Commissioner Brack discussed efforts to develop Hawai'i-specific guidance and educational materials related to advance directives, gender identity protections, and affirming care within long-term care settings and care facilities.
 3. Commissioner Brack further reported that organizations involved in the project may assist with public education materials and training resources to be shared through the Commission website.
 4. No public testimony.
- F. Review of the 2026 Legislative Priorities via the 2026 Legislative tracker (49:10)
- <https://bit.ly/2026LegHILGBTQplus>
1. Commissioner Golojuch made a motion to support the appointment of Crissi Doyle and Sylvia Romm to the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission. Motion seconded.
 2. Sylvia Romm addressed the Commission and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve.
 3. No additional public testimony.
 4. Motion approved unanimously by Commissioners present.
 5. Commissioner Golojuch noted that SCR 167 relating to a statewide survey of mähū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ communities had died and no further action was taken.
 6. Commissioner Golojuch made a motion to approve development of the 2026 Legislative Session survey following the 2025 legislative roadmap framework, with updates reflecting current legislative priorities and community feedback goals. Motion seconded by Finance Director Brack.
 7. Commissioners discussed updating survey language and using survey responses to help guide future legislative priorities.
 8. No public testimony.
 9. Motion approved unanimously by Commissioners present.
 10. Commissioner Golojuch provided an update regarding HB 1875 relating to gender-affirming care protections and acknowledged advocacy efforts by Abby Simmons and coalition partners supporting the legislation.
 11. No additional public testimony.
- G. Update from Hawai'i Coalition for Civil Rights (55:34)
1. No report was provided due to the absence of Commissioner Velasquez.
 2. No public testimony.
- H. Update on statement condemning medical organizations abandoning mähū, transgender, gender non-conforming, QTPI+ community and/or meetings with medical organizations in Hawai'i (55:43)
1. Commissioner Brack reported continued discussions with the Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses regarding support for gender-affirming care protections and ongoing partnership efforts.
 2. Commissioner Brack further reported that no additional organizations had responded to prior outreach communications.
 3. No public testimony.
- I. Update on ad campaign regarding Hawai'i's non-discrimination laws (56:37)
1. Commissioner Golojuch reported that printed materials for the statewide non-discrimination law awareness campaign had been completed and that a joint press release would be issued in partnership with the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women.

2. Commissioner Golojuch stated that bus advertisements would begin on May 1, 2026, on O‘ahu and Hawai‘i Island, with additional outreach planned for Maui County pending final coordination.
 3. Commissioner Golojuch further reported that digital and social media campaign materials were in development and acknowledged Rainbow Family 808 for serving as the nonprofit sponsor supporting campaign costs.
 4. No public testimony.
- J. Update on City and County of Honolulu [Proposed Charter Amendment to create a C&C Honolulu LGBTQIA+ Commission](#) (58:34)
1. Commissioner Golojuch reported that the proposed charter amendment remains under consideration by the City and County of Honolulu Charter Commission and is currently assigned to a Permitted Interaction Group for further review.
 2. Commissioner Golojuch encouraged continued community testimony and support for the proposal and noted that the measure had received significant public testimony compared to other charter proposals under review.
 3. No public testimony.
- K. Update on developing written protocols/procedures and record keeping for the Commission (1:00:03)
1. No update at this time.
 2. No public testimony.
- L. Update on [Kids Hurt Too Hawai‘i’s State Grant in Aid application to fund the 24/7 Youth & Family Crisis & Referral Line](#) (1:00:25)
1. No update at this time.
 2. No public testimony.
- M. Update from the statewide ‘No Dictators’ Protest held on Saturday, March 28, 2026 (1:00:39)
1. Commissioner Golojuch reported on participation in the statewide “No Dictators” protest events and noted that attendance was impacted by a bomb scare at the State Capitol.
 2. Commissioner Golojuch acknowledged protest organizers statewide and recognized related community support efforts for disaster recovery assistance on O‘ahu’s North Shore and Wai‘anae.
 3. Commissioner Golojuch further discussed the peaceful nature of the demonstrations and ongoing community recovery efforts.
 4. No public testimony.
- N. 2026 Pride Events (1:02:33)
1. Commissioner Golojuch reported that the Governor’s Office confirmed issuance of a Pride Month proclamation for June 2026. Commissioner Golojuch further reported that discussions regarding flying Pride flags at the State Capitol and conducting a flag-raising ceremony remain ongoing.
 2. Commissioners discussed potentially moving the June 2026 Commission meeting to June 1, 2026, to coincide with the anticipated Pride Month proclamation and possible flag-raising ceremony. No formal action was taken.
 3. Commissioner Harjo-Livingston and Commissioner Golojuch reviewed upcoming Pride Event Schedules for the State of Hawai‘i, including: [Kaua‘i Pride: June 6th](#), [Maui Pride : June 13th](#), [Honolulu Pride: October 17th](#), [Hawai‘i Island Pride: June 27th](#), and [Kona Pride: September 19th, 2026](#).

4. Commissioner Golojuch discussed travel coordination and Commission representation at upcoming Pride events to reduce travel costs and improve participation.
 5. Commissioner Golojuch made a motion to approve \$1,000 sponsorships each for Kaua'i Pride (June 6th) and Maui Pride (June 13th). Motion seconded.
 6. No public testimony.
 7. Motion approved unanimously by Commissioners present.
 8. Commissioner Golojuch explained that Hawai'i Island Pride sponsorship coordination was still being finalized and that previously allocated funding would remain set aside pending completion of fiscal sponsorship arrangements.
 9. Commissioner Golojuch made a motion to approve up to \$2,500 for Pride and tabling event materials, including swag items, banners, tablecloths, signage, and related outreach supplies. Motion seconded by Commission Tolbe.
 10. No public testimony.
 11. Motion approved unanimously by Commissioners present.
 12. No additional public testimony.
- O. Update on Commission position opposing the Boy Scouts of America - Aloha Council's [Grant in Aid application to the Hawai'i State Legislature](#) (1:13:23)
1. Commissioner Golojuch reported that the Commission's opposition to the Boy Scouts of America – Aloha Council Grant-in-Aid application had been communicated to legislative decision-makers.
 2. No public testimony.

V. New Business

- A. Discussion on supporting [2026 Gender Journey Days](#) (1:14:12)
1. Commissioner Brack discussed 2026 Gender Journey Days, described as a one-day educational event aimed at improving the capacity of healthcare providers, mental health professionals, and educators to support gender-expansive and transgender youth, as well as providing resources for youth and their families statewide. Participation in prior years included attendees from multiple islands.
 2. A motion was made by Commissioner Golojuch to sponsor 2026 Gender Journey Days at the \$2,000 level. Motion seconded by Commissioner Steinbacher.
 3. Public testimony was provided by Sylvia in support of the event, highlighting its statewide impact and importance for youth, educators, and healthcare providers.
 4. One abstention was recorded (Finance Director Brack due to a conflict of interest).
 5. Motion passed with five Commissioners voting in favor.
- B. Discussion tabling and supporting the 2026 Honolulu AIDS Walk (1:21:28)
1. Commissioner Golojuch discussed supporting the 2026 Honolulu AIDS Walk, noting its role in supporting HIV/AIDS services statewide, including outreach and services beyond O'ahu.
 2. A motion was made by Commissioner Golojuch to approve a \$500 sponsorship (bronze level). Motion seconded by Commissioner Tolbe.
 3. No public testimony was received.
 4. Motion passed unanimously by Commissioners present.

- C. Discussion on the required 2026 report to the Legislature (1:23:58)
 - 1. Commissioner Golojuch discussed preparation of the Commission's required 2026 report to the Legislature.
 - 2. A deadline of May 22, 2026, at 12:00 PM was established for Commissioners to submit their respective report contributions to Hanne for compilation. Commissioners were also instructed to notify her if they do not plan to submit content.
 - 3. Hanne will compile submissions into a draft report for inclusion in the Board Packet, in compliance with posting deadlines.
 - 4. Commissioners were advised to reference prior reports for guidance.
 - 5. No public testimony was received.

VI. Future Meeting Topics or Speakers (1:26:27-1:27:32)

- A. Discussion on inviting government and Non-Government Organization to present to the Commission
 - 1. The Commission discussed upcoming meeting speakers. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2026, at 2:00 PM.
 - 2. It was announced that a representative affiliated with SWOP-Hawai'i (Sex Workers Outreach Project) and the Commission on the Status of Women will present at the May meeting regarding their work.
 - 3. Additional potential speakers were discussed, including an invitation extended to Hawai'i State Productions, with anticipated presentations in upcoming meetings.
 - 4. No public testimony was received.

VII. Adjournment (1:27:38)

- A. Discussion

A motion to adjourn was made by Chair Harjo-Livingston and seconded by Commissioner Tolbe. No discussion followed.
- B. B. Public Testimony

No public testimony was received.
- C. C. Vote on Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved by all Commissioners present.