



## Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission

May 2026 Meeting Minutes

Date: May 11, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM

In-person meeting location:

1390 Miller Street

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Rooms 1 & 2

Honolulu, HI 96813

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

### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 2:03 PM

#### I. Introduction and Roll Call (0:00-4:29)

##### 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* – ABSENT
2. Kathleen O'Dell, PhD (she/her) - *C&C Honolulu*
3. Joe Tolbe (he/him) - *Maui County* – ABSENT
4. Richard Velasquez (he/him) - *C&C Honolulu* – ABSENT
5. Christopher Luthy (he/him) - *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 – PRESENT AT 2:20 PM
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

- 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
  - 1. No comments

## **II. Member Shares, Concerns, and Reports (4:30-12:42)**

- A. Commissioners and Ex-Officios
  - 1. Chair Harjo Livingston introduced Jerron Oyama as the new Public Information Officer for the Department of Human Services. Chair Harjo Livingston also welcomed Christopher Luthy as the new Hawai'i Island representative and expressed appreciation that the Commission now has representation from Hawai'i Island.
  - 2. Vice Chair Golojuch reminded the public to register to vote and encouraged participation in upcoming elections. He also shared information regarding concerns affecting the transgender community, highlighted upcoming Pride Month activities, including the Rainbow Festival of Honolulu Father's Day concert, and encouraged organizations to submit events to the Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation calendar to help coordinate community activities.
  - 3. Commissioner O'Dell welcomed Commissioner Luthy and expressed hope to meet in person in the future.
  - 4. University of Hawai'i System designee Camaron Miyamoto announced the upcoming Rainbow Graduation ceremony and invited graduates, families, allies, and community members to attend.
  - 5. Department of Health designee Thaddeus Pham reported that the Department of Health continues to maintain its Sexual and Gender Minority Resource Hub and provided the resource link in the meeting chat.
  - 6. No public testimony.
- B. Finance Director's Report
  - 1. Finance Director reported that an updated accounting report was not included in the board packet due to a communication issue. Staff provided a preliminary budget update indicating an estimated remaining balance of approximately \$17,185.35, subject to adjustments and reconciliation of travel expenses and prior fiscal year expenditures. Staff noted that additional review is needed before final figures can be provided and offered to distribute an updated report once finalized.
- C. Official Communications from State Officials
  - 1. Chair Harjo Livingston reported that the Governor approved the Commission's request for a Pride flag raising ceremony and the display of Pride flags at the State Capitol during the month of June.
- D. Public Testimony
  - 1. No public testimony.

## **III. Presentation (12:51-22:46)**

- A. Keke Walker of Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) will let us know what SWOP-Hawai'i does and what their upcoming priorities are. SWOP-Hawai'i: Sex Workers Outreach Project – a grassroots network dedicated to the human rights of sex workers in Hawai'i

1. Jin Kwak, co-organizer of SWOP Hawai'i, provided an overview of the organization's mission and activities. SWOP Hawai'i is a sex worker-led organization that advocates for the rights, safety, and self-determination of sex workers in Hawai'i through advocacy, education, harm reduction, and direct support services.
2. Kwak reported that SWOP Hawai'i conducts street-based outreach in the Chinatown and downtown Honolulu areas, providing hot meals, hygiene supplies, clothing donations, condoms, lubricant, harm reduction supplies, and other resources. The organization also facilitates community-building events and wellness activities and partners with several local organizations to support individuals with lived experience in sex work.
3. Kwak noted that SWOP Hawai'i recently received grant funding but is currently focused on fundraising efforts to sustain its weekly outreach activities, including the provision of hot meals and essential supplies.
4. Commissioners inquired about volunteer opportunities and ways community members and businesses can support the organization. Kwak stated that interested individuals may contact SWOP Hawai'i through its social media platforms to learn about volunteer opportunities, donations, and partnership efforts.
5. Commissioner Golojuch encouraged SWOP Hawai'i to participate in the Commission's legislative questionnaire process and offered to meet with the organization to discuss legislative priorities affecting the community.
6. Department of Health designee Thaddeus Pham highlighted the Department's partnership with SWOP Hawai'i and acknowledged the organization's contributions to community-informed public health initiatives and outreach efforts.
7. Chair Harjo Livingston and Commissioner Golojuch thanked Kwak and SWOP Hawai'i for their presentation and ongoing service to the community.
8. No public testimony.

#### **IV. Ongoing Business and Updates**

- A. Election – Secretary (22:54)
  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 (23:09)
  - <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/>
    1. Vice Chair Golojuch reported that website updates continue to be made on a regular basis and encouraged commissioners and ex-officio members to submit content for posting.
    2. No public testimony.
- C. Update on letter to Maui Preparatory Academy donors re: Maui Prep's anti-LGBTQIA+ policies for students (23:46)
  1. Vice Chair Golojuch reported that the approved letter regarding Maui Preparatory Academy's policies had been distributed to donors for whom contact information was available. The Commission will continue monitoring any responses and determine whether additional action is warranted.
  2. No public testimony.

- D. Update on the next Rainbow Pau Hana: Queer Community Leaders Gathering (24:50)
  - 1. Vice Chair Golojuch reported that outreach had been conducted to identify participants and organizers for a future gathering; however, scheduling challenges and limited availability have delayed planning. Commissioners were asked to consider assisting with coordination efforts. The adopted event policy has been posted on the Commission website.
  - 2. No public testimony.
- E. Update on addressing the needs of our community's kūpuna, especially māhū, trans, non-binary, and intersex. (26:23)
  - 1. Commissioner Brack reported that work continues with Kōkua Mau on documents intended to support individuals in expressing their gender identity and wishes for end-of-life care. Community members were encouraged to complete advanced healthcare directives and designate trusted decision-makers.
  - 2. No public testimony.
- F. Review of the 2026 Legislative Priorities via the 2026 Legislative Tracker (27:21)
  - <https://bit.ly/2026LegHILGBTQplus>
  - 1. Vice Chair Golojuch provided an overview of the 2026 Legislative Tracker and reported several legislative successes during the session. Updates were provided on measures related to gender-affirming care, healthcare access, automatic voter registration, universal changing accommodations, discrimination protections, and a resolution supporting federal civil rights protections. Several measures are awaiting action by the Governor.
  - 2. Vice Chair Golojuch encouraged community members to complete the Commission's legislative survey to help inform future priorities and the development of an executive summary.
  - 3. No public testimony.
- G. Update from Hawai'i Coalition for Civil Rights (37:28)
  - 1. No report was provided.
  - 2. No public testimony.
- H. Update on statement condemning medical organizations abandoning māhū, transgender, gender non-conforming, QTPI+ community and/or meetings with medical organizations in Hawai'i (38:52)
  - 1. Commissioner Brack reported that no significant updates had been received from medical organizations contacted previously. Discussion focused on possible next steps, including preparing a follow-up letter encouraging healthcare organizations to continue supporting transgender, gender non-conforming, māhū, and QTPI+ patients. Commissioner Brack agreed to prepare a draft letter for consideration at a future meeting.
  - 2. No public testimony.
- I. Update on "No Hate in the 808" ad campaign regarding HI's non-discrimination laws (43:26)
  - 1. Vice Chair Golojuch reported that campaign advertisements promoting Hawai'i's non-discrimination laws were installed on City and County of Honolulu and Hawai'i County buses beginning May 1. The project was completed under budget through partnerships with community organizations and sponsors. Printed and digital campaign materials have also been distributed to elected officials and shared through social media and Commission outreach efforts.
  - 2. No public testimony.

- J. Update on City and County of Honolulu [Proposed Charter Amendment to create a C&C Honolulu LGBTQIA+ Commission](#) (49:09)
1. Vice Chair Golojuch reported that the proposal to establish a City and County of Honolulu LGBTQIA+ Commission continues to advance through the Charter Commission review process. Commissioners were informed that additional testimony from O'ahu residents may be requested as the proposal moves forward.
  2. No public testimony.
- K. Update on developing written protocols/procedures and record keeping for the Commission (52:35)
1. Commissioner Brack reported that draft procedures were submitted for review. Staff noted that the document was not included in the board packet due to an administrative oversight but is available on the Commission website. Commissioners were invited to provide feedback, and an updated draft will be presented at a future meeting.
  2. No public testimony.
- L. 2026 Pride Events (55:29)
1. Vice Chair Golojuch provided updates regarding Pride Month activities, including the anticipated Pride flag-raising ceremony at the State Capitol and the Governor's Pride Month proclamation.
  2. Chair Harjo Livingston confirmed that the June Commission meeting will be held on June 1, 2026.
  3. Chair Harjo Livingston 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. Vice Chair Golojuch discussed participation in Pride events across the state, including Kaua'i Pride, Maui Pride, and Hawai'i Island Pride. Travel arrangements, event logistics, sponsorships, transportation, and tabling needs were reviewed.
  5. Vice Chair Golojuch reported that promotional materials for Pride and tabling events, including hand fans, banners, table coverings, and outreach materials, have been ordered and are expected to be available for upcoming events.
  6. No public testimony.
- M. Update on Commission position opposing the Boy Scouts of America - Aloha Council's [Grant in Aid application to the Hawai'i State Legislature](#) (1:10:55)
1. Vice Chair Golojuch reported that, based on the most recent information available, the Boy Scouts of America Aloha Council did not receive the requested Grant-in-Aid funding. Additional information will be reviewed as it becomes available.
  2. No public testimony.
- N. Discussion on Supporting [2026 Gender Journey Days](#) (1:11:39)
1. Commissioner Brack reported that Gender Journey Days 2026 is scheduled for July 11, 2026. The event will provide support, education, and resources for transgender, māhū, and gender-diverse youth, families, and professionals. Commissioner Brack noted that sponsorships are available for participants traveling from neighbor islands and that the Commission's sponsorship includes complimentary registrations.
  2. Commissioners interested in attending or utilizing the complimentary registrations were encouraged to notify staff. If registrations are not utilized by commissioners, the Commission may return them to the organizers for community use.
  3. No public testimony.

- O. Discussion on tabling at the 2026 Honolulu AIDS Walk (1:14:08)
  - 1. Vice Chair Golojuch reported that the Commission's sponsorship contribution has been submitted. Commissioners discussed staffing the Commission's information table at the event. Commissioner O'Dell indicated her intention to participate, and incoming Commissioner Chrissy Doyle was identified as an additional volunteer.
  - 2. No public testimony
- P. Discussion on the required 2026 Report to the Legislature (1:15:25)
  - 1. Commission officers reminded commissioners of May 22, 2026, deadline for submission of draft contributions to the Commission's annual report to the Legislature. Commissioner Golojuch explained that the report is required by statute and will include information on Commission activities, accomplishments, and legislative priorities. Commissioners were encouraged to review prior reports and submit material for inclusion.
  - 2. The Commission plans to review the draft report at its June meeting, with final approval anticipated at the July meeting.
  - 3. No public testimony.

## **V. New Business**

- A. 2026 campaign to encourage voter registration and voting in the Primary and General Elections from members of the mähū, LGBTQI+, and QTPI+ community. (1:17:24)
  - 1. Vice Chair Golojuch introduced discussion regarding a potential Commission-led voter registration and voter education campaign aimed at encouraging participation in the 2026 Primary and General Elections. He noted that promoting civic engagement and voter participation is consistent with the Commission's statutory responsibilities and highlighted ongoing efforts, including the inclusion of voter registration QR codes on Commission outreach materials.
  - 2. Commissioners discussed strategies for increasing voter engagement within the community, including the use of outreach events, social media campaigns, Pride events, and community partnerships. Commissioners also discussed incorporating voter engagement efforts into future Rainbow Pau Hana gatherings.
  - 3. Commissioner Brack expressed support for the initiative and emphasized the importance of community education and constructive engagement when discussing voting and civic participation.
  - 4. Chair Harjo Livingston suggested exploring positive and engaging outreach campaigns to encourage voter participation.
  - 5. No public testimony

## **VI. Future Meeting Topics or Speakers (1:26:08)**

- A. Discussion on inviting government and Non-Government Organization to present to the Commission
  - 1. Chair Harjo Livingston reported that potential presenters for future Commission meetings are being identified and that additional outreach will occur prior to the June meeting.
  - 2. Commissioner Brack inquired about inviting representatives from Kōkua Mau to present at a future meeting. Chair Harjo Livingston indicated that follow-up would be conducted to confirm their availability. Discussion also included the possibility of future presentations related to suicide prevention services and resources.

3. Commissioners shared concerns regarding the availability of suicide prevention resources and discussed the importance of continuing to support suicide prevention efforts within the community. Chair Harjo Livingston also acknowledged the recent passing of community member Francine Beppu and noted the importance of ongoing mental health and suicide prevention initiatives.
4. No public testimony was received.

**VII. Adjournment (1:28:10)**

A. Discussion

1. Vice Chair Golojuch moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brack seconded the motion.
2. No discussion was offered.

B. No Public Testimony

C. Vote on Adjournment

1. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved by all Commissioners present. The meeting was adjourned at 1:28:36.