

II. Member Shares, Concerns, and Reports

A. Commissioners

1. Sandy Harjo Livingston, PhD (he/him/they/them)

2. Michael Golojuch Jr (he/him)

a). Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission Recognized in National LGBTQ+ Business Climate Report - [2026 LGBTQ+ State Business Climate Index Report](#)

Hawai'i is Ranked #17 of 50

2026 score 79.0/100 Legacy /100 score: 81.4 = **Unlikely Risk** which the highest tier

LEGAL / NON-DISCRIMINATION: 26.0/30 YOUTH / FAMILY: 30.4/35

POLITICAL / RELIGIOUS: 25.0/30 HEALTH / SAFETY: 24.0/30 WORK / ECONOMIC: 21.0/35

Other items:

US Supreme Court – B.P.J. & Hecox

United States Supreme Court issued its decisions in *West Virginia v. B.P.J.* and *Little v. Hecox* allows states with bans for transgender students i.e. students must play in gender assigned at birth or not at all, does not directly impact Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission has issued a statement responding to this horrible decision.

[Read the Commission's statement here.](#)

Hawai'i State Supreme Court - JK v. HK

In an important victory in the ACLU of Hawai'i's JK v. HK case, the Hawai'i Supreme Court held that an unmarried woman who is not the biological parent of a child can still establish parental rights by holding out the child as her own. A lower court had previously decided that this standard only applied to unmarried men, but not to unmarried women in the identical situation. This issue primarily comes up in situations like that of our client involving an unmarried same-sex couple who are co-parenting a child. This ruling is a major win for LGBTQ couples in Hawai'i and is a necessary clarification of the law.

[Learn more here.](#)

CALLING ARTISTS - Lei Pua 'Ala Foundation

Lei Pua 'Ala Foundation invites artists to submit proposals for a permanent historical mural or art work to be installed in a new AIDS Memorial & Community Memory Site at Honolulu's Kaka'ako Waterfront Park Overlook, a hilltop site with all-encompassing views of city, mountain, and sea.

Entry Deadline: July 31, 2026, 5:00 p.m. HST

Budget: Up to 4 semi-finalists will receive \$500; artist of a selected design will receive \$3,000 to finalize and prepare mural design concept for fabrication and installation (costs covered by Lei Pua 'Ala Foundation).

Size and Scale: The installation surface is a 15.5 feet long, 40-inches high, semi-circular stone wall at the mauka (mountain) side of the overlook facing the ocean.

[Learn more & apply here](#)

REMINDER

Register to VOTE

Go to olvr.hawaii.gov to register to vote or verify your voter registration.

From the ACLU of Hawai'i

Civil Rights in the Next 250 – on Thu, Jul 30, 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm HST

Location: 478 S King St, 478 S King St, Honolulu, HI 96813, USA

[Get your tickets here.](#)

From GLAD Law

Information for LGBTQ+ People Under the Trump Administration

As expected, we've seen multiple directives coming from the Trump administration in its first weeks with the potential to affect the lives of LGBTQ+ people and their families.

This is an evolving situation, and we know it is already causing stress, worry, and harm in our communities.

What we can all do now is support one another, take steps to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities, and plug in to help shape a better future whenever and however we are able.

GLAD Law will continue to use the law as a tool to slow, stop, and reverse harmful policies – and promote positive ones – and we will continue to support our community with information about your rights and what steps you can take to protect them. [Learn more](#) about lawsuits against the Trump administration's executive orders.

Below is information we have compiled in response to actions at the federal level. Everyone's situation will be different, and this should not be taken as legal advice. We encourage you to determine what the right steps are for you and to consult with a lawyer when needed

[Learn how to update your identity documents, access medical care, protect your family, and more.](#)

U.S. in midst of 'genocidal process against trans people': study finds

The federal government has taken deliberate steps to erase māhū, transgender, gender-nonconforming, indigiqueer, Two-Spirit, and broader LGBTQIA+ communities from official recognition and history. On January 5, 2026 the **Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Human Security** issued this warning from Dr. Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, Executive Director and Founder of the Lemkin Institute, that the U.S. is in the **"early-to-mid stages of a genocidal process against trans and nonbinary and intersex people."**

[Read the full statement here.](#)
[Washington Blade coverage](#)

Rainbow Chorus of Honolulu

The **Rainbow Chorus of Honolulu** invites singers of all backgrounds and experience levels to raise their voices with them.

They rehearse **every Monday evening from 7:00–9:00 pm (except holidays)** at **Unity Church of Hawai'i**, and they are actively seeking new voices to join our chorus.

They sing to let those in power know that **we stand together**, lifting up our shared humanity, our diverse communities, and our unwavering commitment to love, dignity, and justice for all.

If you feel called to sing with purpose, to build community, and to be part of something meaningful, we welcome you to join us.

Come as you are. Bring your voice. Stand with us.

Submit Your Events to Hawai'i Legacy Foundation Online Calendar

The Hawai'i Legacy Foundation supports, empowers and unifies all LGBTQIA+ individuals, organizations and allies across Hawai'i, they invite you to share your events with the community by submitting them to their online calendar. Your listing will be published upon approval. For any questions or concerns, please email info@HawaiiLGBTLegacy.com. [Click here to submit!](#)

B. Finance Director's Report

SEE ATTACHMENT #1

III. Presentation (10 minutes)

IV. Ongoing Business and Updates

B. Vote - Approve initial 2026/2027 Commission Budget (see Board Packet)

Note: BPMO has confirmed that the Commission's budget is \$20,000 with 10% from Department of Budget and Finance (BNF) held back, with \$18,000 to expend.

Proposed initial budget based on 2026/27

Zoom Subscription \$170.00
2027 Queer Day at the Capitol \$1,500
Sponsorships (2026 & 2027 Prides & 2027 Conferences) \$4,000
Materials (merch, other) \$1,500
Travel \$6,000
Misc (Reimbursements, costs not already projected) \$4,800

Total: \$17,970.00

E. Update on the next Rainbow Pau Hana: Queer Community Leaders Gathering

Purpose of the Rainbow Pau Hana: QCLG – A chance for leaders from māhū, LGBTQIA+, QTPI+, MVPAFF+ focused and allied organizations to come together quarterly to inform their fellow leaders what their organization are working on, seek support for their project(s), and share their mana'o.

G. Review of the 2026 Legislative Priorities via the 2026 Legislative tracker -

<https://bit.ly/2026LegHILGBTQplus>

The Commission testified on the following Bills, Resolutions, and Governor's Messages during the 2026 Legislative session:

HB 22	HB 1961	SB 2239
HB 322	HB 2167	SB 2268
HB 457	HCR 4/HR 3	SB 2679
HB 612	SB 350	SB 2727
HB 755	SB 799	SB 2845
HB 1118	SB 816	SB 2871
HB 1452	SB 1149	SB 3024
HB 1537	SB 1150	SCR 11/SR 9
HB 1562	SB 1225	GM 572
HB 1875	SB 1284	GM 733
HB 1876	SB 1445	GM 732
HB 1877	SB 2051	
HB 1878	SB 2143	

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Prepared by Hanne Bulagay

Legislative Successes

The Commission's #1 Priority:

HB 1875 - Gender-Affirming Health Care Services; Reproductive Health Care Services; Protections; Abusive Litigation; Medical Malpractice Insurance; Health Carriers; Protected Health Information

Passed the House:

42 YES; 8 No; 1 Excused

Passed the Senate:

21 YES, 4 No

Act 59 was signed into law on May 29, 2026 by Governor Green.

MAHALO NUI LOA to all the elected officials that voted YES & their staff; as well as the advocates, & organizations; with a special MAHALO to Rep. Tam, Rep. Ichiyama & activist Abby Simmons for their leadership on this bill.

SB 2143 - Ensuring a line of succession for Hawai'i's Chief Elections Officer. SB 2143 is now **Act 25** and was signed into law on May 22, 2026 by Governor Green.

SB 2239 - Requires a person who applies for an identification card or driver's license to be automatically registered to vote, with an opt-out option. SB 2239 is now **Act 67** and was signed into law on May 29, 2026 by Governor Green.

SB 2268 - Requires all places of public accommodation and public entity construction projects to provide at least one universal changing accommodation. SB 2268 is now **Act 102** and was signed into law on June 5, 2026 by Governor Green.

SB 2727 - Lengthens the statute of limitations to file a complaint of discrimination with the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission to one year. SB 2727 is now **Act 56** and was signed into law on May 28, 2026 by Governor Green.

The following bill was supported by the Commission and is waiting for Governor Green to sign into law or become law without his signature:

HB 1961 - Prohibits persons from interfering with another person's access to or from a health care facility or disrupting the normal functioning of a health care facility.

Here is the Executive Summary of the 2027 Legislative Questionnaire:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s0u3ggqwa4Y0M4HTimxtEoh-Xh4mOZhF/view?usp=sharing>

Other resources for Hawai'i's ranking re: LGBTQIA+ protections:

- Movement Advancement Project (MAP) – [Hawai'i's Equality Profile](#) (has not been updated for 2026 laws)
- [2026 LGBTQ+ State Safety Report Cards](#) – Hawai'i Ranked #3 because Hawai'i does not track all Hate Crimes
- [Equaldex](#) – Hawai'i is ranked #20

K. Update on City and County of Honolulu [Proposed Charter Amendment to create a C&C Honolulu LGBTQIA+ Commission P 239](#)

The Honolulu Charter Commission voted on July 1st to move #P 239 forward to the Submission and Information. This Committee is meeting on Thursday, July 9th.

Once that is complete it will come back to the full Honolulu Charter Commission to decide P239's fate.

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Prepared by Hanne Bulagay

MAHALO to everyone that submitted testimony. There will still be one more opportunity to submit testimony in support of P 239 before the final vote.

To get notification when the next Honolulu Charter Commission meeting is by joining their email list:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePsgtT_vWA0fgS3RRSxur8X3EotGpzhxwSfhjevL73Fyf5NQ/viewform

M. 2026 Pride Events

2. Kona Pride: Sept 19, 2026 (1:00 PM – 5:30 PM) at King Kamehameha Beach Hotel

Honolulu Pride Parade: October 17, 2026, starting at 3:00 PM from Magic Island ending at Kapiolani Park
Registration: FREE

2A. 2026 Honolulu Pride Festival at the Waikiki Shell on October 17, 2026, from 5:00 PM–9:00 PM!
Booth space is \$300

BOOTH SPACE & RENTALS

Each accepted vendor will receive – cost \$300

- (1) 10'x10' space only
- No tent, table, or chairs included this year
- You must bring your own setup — including a tent with proper weights

Rental Options (if needed):

- 10x10 Tent – \$200
- Table(s) – \$15 each
- Chair(s) – \$5 each

EQUIPMENT & SETUP REQUIREMENTS

If bringing your own setup, please note:

- Tents must be exactly 10'x10' and commercial-grade
- Tent legs must be weighted (minimum 25 lbs per leg) — no staking allowed
- Tables and chairs must fit within your space
- No power is provided unless previously approved

Q. 2026 campaign to encourage voter registration and voting in the Primary and General Elections from members of the māhū, LGBTQI+, and QTPI+ community.

Deadlines to Register to Vote!

Paper Voter Registration Applications - Paper Voter Registration Applications must be submitted to your County Elections Division by:
July 29, 2026

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

Deadline to request a ballot be sent to an alternate address by:
August 1, 2026

Primary Election: Saturday, August 8, 2026

Voted ballots must be received by your County Elections Division by 7:00 p.m.

More information is at: <https://elections.hawaii.gov/voting/voting-in-hawaii/>

Hawai'i Māhū, LGBTQIA+ & QTPI+ Voter Registration and Civic Engagement Plan
Building Community Power Through Participation

Campaign Vision

Create a statewide, culturally grounded, community-led effort to increase voter registration, civic participation, and long-term political engagement among māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ communities across Hawai'i.

1. Core Goals

Primary Goals

- Increase voter registration rates within LGBTQIA+ and QTPI+ communities statewide.
- Educate community members about voting rights, deadlines, and election processes.
- Empower historically underrepresented voices to participate in local and state elections.
- Build sustainable civic engagement beyond a single election cycle.

Long-Term Goals

- Normalize voting as a form of community care and collective liberation.
- Increase representation of LGBTQIA+ and QTPI+ voices in public policy.
- Strengthen relationships between advocacy organizations and local communities.

2. Campaign Messaging Themes

Key Narrative

"Voting is an act of protection, visibility, and collective power."

Suggested Taglines / Catch Phrases

Empowerment-Focused

- Queer the Vote
- Your Vote Is Your Voice
- Pride at the Polls
- Vote With Pride
- Our Future, Our Vote
- Equality Starts at the Ballot Box
- Māhū Voices Matter
- QTPI Voices Count
- Pride Means Participation
- Out, Proud, and Voting
- Love Votes Here
- Voting Is Community Care
- Protect Our Rights — Vote
- Votes Save Lives
- We Show Up. We Vote.
- Ballots Over Bigotry
- Representation Starts With Registration
- From Resistance to Representation
- Empower the Rainbow Vote
- Vote for the Hawai'i We Deserve

Hawai'i & Cultural Identity Focused

- Aloha for All Starts at the Ballot Box
- Ea Through Participation

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Prepared by Hanne Bulagay

- Our Kūpuna Fought. We Vote.
- Māhū Power at the Polls
- Rooted in Aloha, Rising Through Action
- Lōkahi Through Civic Engagement
- Community, Culture, and the Vote

Youth-Oriented

- Slay the Ballot
- Vote Like Your Rights Depend On It
- Hot People Vote
- Register. Rise. Resist.
- Make Pride Political
- Democracy Looks Better in Rainbow

3. Target Audiences

Priority Communities

- LGBTQIA+ youth (18–24)
- Native Hawaiian/Māhū communities
- QTPI+ individuals
- Transgender and nonbinary residents
- Rural and neighbor island communities
- Newly eligible young voters
- Unhoused or housing-insecure LGBTQIA+ individuals
- College students
- Drag, ballroom, nightlife, and arts communities

4. Outreach Strategies

A. Community-Based Registration Drives

Host Registration Booths At:

- Pride festivals and parades
- Drag shows and ballroom events
- College campuses
- Farmers markets
- Community health fairs
- Cultural festivals
- Beach gatherings and concerts
- Mutual aid events

Materials Needed

- QR codes linking to voter registration portal
- Tablets/laptops for same-day registration assistance
- Printed deadlines and election guides
- Pride-themed stickers/buttons
- "I Registered to Vote" photo signs

B. Digital & Social Media Campaign

Content Ideas

- Short videos explaining how to register
- "Why I Vote" testimonials

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Prepared by Hanne Bulagay

- Candidate issue explainers
- Myth-busting posts about voting
- Countdown graphics for deadlines
- Pride-themed civic engagement graphics

Suggested Hashtags

- #QueerTheVote
- #VoteWithPride
- #RainbowVoteHI
- #MahuVotes
- #QTPIVotes
- #YourVoteYourVoice
- #PrideAtThePolls
- #AlohaVotes
- #OutAndVoting
- #HawaiiVotes

C. Peer-to-Peer Organizing
Train Community Ambassadors

Recruit:

- Drag performers
- Community organizers
- Influencers
- Student leaders
- Cultural practitioners
- Faith leaders
- Healthcare advocates

Ambassador Responsibilities

- Share voter information online
- Host conversations with friends/community
- Assist with registration drives
- Encourage voting plans
- Combat misinformation

5. Accessibility & Inclusion

Ensure Materials Are:

- Gender-inclusive
- Trauma-informed
- Multilingual where possible
- Accessible for disabled community members
- Easy to understand
- Mobile-friendly

Important Considerations

- Explain ID requirements clearly.
- Address concerns from trans and nonbinary voters regarding names and identification.
- Include guidance for unhoused voters and people without permanent addresses.
- Offer confidential support for first-time voters.

6. Partnerships

Potential Partners

- Māhū, LGBTQIA+, QTPI+ nonprofits
- Native Hawaiian organizations
- Student groups
- Labor unions
- Community health centers
- Faith communities
- Civic engagement nonprofits
- Local artists and performers
- Pride organizations statewide

Suggested Collaborative Activities

- Joint registration drives
- Candidate forums
- Community town halls
- Civic education workshops
- Pride Month voter campaigns

7. Civic Education Components

Workshops & Trainings

- "Voting 101 in Hawai'i"
- Understanding local government
- How legislation impacts LGBTQIA+ communities
- Why local elections matter
- How to testify at the Legislature
- Building long-term political power

8. Election Engagement Timeline

Year-Round

- Civic education
- Community storytelling
- Youth outreach
- Leadership development

6 Months Before Election

- Launch registration campaign
- Begin social media rollout
- Train volunteers

3 Months Before Election

- Intensify registration drives
- Candidate education events
- Mail ballot education

1 Month Before Election

- GOTV ("Get Out The Vote") push
- Text banking and reminders
- Ride-to-the-polls coordination

Election Week

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Prepared by Hanne Bulagay

- Visibility actions
- Hotline support
- Poll assistance
- Celebration events

9. Visibility & Branding Ideas

Visual Themes

- Rainbow + Hawaiian cultural motifs
- Lei, kalo, ocean, and aloha imagery
- Bold affirming typography
- Pride flag color palettes
- Community photography

Merchandise Ideas

- Stickers
- Shirts
- Fans
- Tote bags
- Buttons
- Temporary tattoos
- "Vote With Pride" leis

10. Success Metrics

Track:

- Number of voter registrations completed
- Event attendance
- Social media engagement
- Volunteer participation
- Website traffic
- Mail ballot signups
- Youth voter participation
- Community survey feedback

11. Sample Campaign Events

Examples

"Pride at the Polls"

A statewide registration day hosted simultaneously across islands.

"Drag the Vote"

Drag performers lead civic engagement nights with registration stations.

"Māhū Voices Matter"

Community storytelling and civic education event centered on Native Hawaiian Māhū perspectives.

"Ballots & Brunch"

Casual voter education gatherings for first-time voters.

"QTPI Civic Power Summit"

Leadership and advocacy training for QTPI+ organizers and youth.

12. Closing Message

Voting is more than a civic duty — it is a declaration that Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ communities belong, deserve protection, and have the power to shape Hawai'i's future. Through collective action, cultural grounding, and visible participation, our communities can transform pride into political power.

<u>LGBTQ+ Commission Expenses 2025-2026:</u>	<u>State Paid</u>	<u>Reimbursement</u>	<u>Total Spent</u>
1. August Zoom Subscription 2025 (KAT) PO 1984103		167.43	167.43
6. Honolulu Pride 10/18/25			
a. Philip Steinbacher		268.00	268.00
b. Joe Tolbe	154.01	20.00	174.01
7. Kona Pride 09/13/25			
a. Kathleen O'Dell	128.08	61.66	189.74
b. Michael Golojuch	147.09	20.00	167.09
c. Shanda Brack	128.08	20.00	148.08
8. Aiea Copy Center Banner	136.11		136.11
9. Creating Change Conference 2026			
a. Michael Golojuch	983.81	1,714.21	2,698.02
10. Queer Day			
a. Accel Events	1,136.35		1,136.35
b. Aiea Copy Center	125.64		125.64
c. Joe Tolbe	293.20		293.20
11. The Bus Ad			
a. To be split between the LGBTQ+ and the HSCSW	753.93		753.93
b. Aiea Copy (Posting)	458.64		458.64
12. Kaua'i Pride Parade & Festival 6/6/26			
a. Sponsorship	1,000.00		1,000.00
b. Travel	1,122.98	80.00	1,202.98
13. Maui Pride Festival 06/14/26			
a. Sponsorship	1,000.00		1,000.00
b. Travel	665.42	40.00	705.42
14. Hilo Pride 6/27/26			
a. Sponsorship	500.00		500.00
b. Travel	483.40	40.00	523.40
15. Kona Pride Festival 9/19/26			
a. Sponsorship	500.00		500.00
16. Honolulu AIDS Walk 6/27/26			
a. Sponsorship	500.00		500.00
17. Gender Journey Days Sponsorship 7/11/26	2,000.00		2,000.00
18. Swag (Circle hand fans)	2,434.80		2,434.80
19. Table Covers	148.50		148.50
20. Retractable Banner	114.94		114.94
21. Tabletop Retractable Banner	137.14		137.14
TOTAL:	15,052.12	2,431.30	17,483.42

Hawaii State LGBTQ+ Commission

Internal Procedures Manual (Draft)

Purpose:

This document is intended to capture standard operating procedures so that Commission work is consistent, transparent, and easy to hand off when roles change.

1. Approval and Distribution of Letters and Statements

1.1 Finalizing an Approved Document

When a document (letter or public statement) is approved for distribution by vote of the Commission:

- The creator of the document is responsible for preparing the final version.
- The final version must be placed on official Commission letterhead.
 - Letterhead and commission logo can be found in Commission Google Docs *** (link)
- The document will include the names and titles of the Commissioners who voted in favor, as appropriate.
- The final document should be saved in the shared Commission records folder with a clear file name and date.

1.2 Distribution Methods

Once finalized, the document may be distributed using one of the following methods:

Option A: Physical Mail

- The preparer goes to the Department of Health (DOH) offices to:
 - Print the letter with address(es) on official letterhead.
 - Prepare and stuff envelopes.
 - Submit the envelopes to the DOH mail system.
- The preparer should keep a simple log of:
 - Date mailed
 - Recipients
 - Subject of the letter

Option B: Email Distribution

- The preparer may send the document directly from their official Commission email address.
- The preparer is responsible for:
 - Attaching the final approved version.
 - Verifying recipient email addresses

- To: will generally be the Commission and recipient addresses in the BCC line for privacy
 - Using appropriate subject lines and professional formatting.
- A copy of the sent email and final attachment should be saved to the Commission records folder.

Option C: Email Distribution by Chair

- The preparer may send the finalized document to the Chair.
 - The preparer must include:
 - The final document on letterhead.
 - A complete list of recipient email addresses.
 - Any relevant context and suggested email language.
 - The Chair will send the document on behalf of the Commission.
 - The preparer or Chair should save a copy of the sent communication to the Commission records folder.
-

2. Agenda and Board Packet Deadlines

2.1 Agenda Submission and Posting

- Commission meeting agendas must be publicly posted by the Monday before the Commission meeting.
- To allow sufficient processing time, Commissioners must submit proposed agenda items with background materials to the Chair by the Friday before agenda posting.
- This is typically 10 days prior to the Commission meeting.
- Submissions should include:
 - Agenda item title
 - Brief description/purpose
 - Any supporting documents or background information

2.2 Board Packet Submission and Posting

- The Board packet must be publicly posted by the Wednesday before the Commission meeting.
- Any additions or materials for the Board packet must be emailed to the Vice Chair.
- Deadline for Board packet additions is 8:00 AM on Wednesday before the Commission meeting.
- Late additions are permitted only if they relate to an item already added by another Commissioner.
- New agenda items submitted after the deadline should be included in the Board packet for the following month.

2.3 Reminder Emails

- Reminder emails are sent to the Commission email list by the Vice Chair.
- Reminder emails are sent:
 - Once the agenda is posted.
 - Once the Board packet is posted.
- Reminder emails must be sent using the official Commission email address.

- Reminder emails should include:
 - Link to the posted agenda or Board packet.
 - Date, time, and location (or virtual link) for the meeting.
 - Any key deadlines or instructions for Commissioners.
-

3. Rainbow Leaders or “Rainbow Pau Hana” meetings

- Meeting scheduling and agendas
 - Public testimony and legislative tracking
 - Media requests and public communications
 - Records retention and document storage
 - Onboarding new Commissioners
-

Last updated: 5/4/26



**Annual Report
July 2026
Hawai‘i State
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus
Commission
(HI LGBTQ+ Commission)**

Prepared by:
Administrative Assistant Hanne Lorre Bulagay

Submitted to:
Governor Josh Green and the Hawai‘i State Legislature

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1. Introduction

The Hawai‘i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission (HI LGBTQ+ Commission) was established by the 2022 Hawai‘i State Legislature via [Senate Bill 2670, SLH 2022 – Act 41](#) with the following guiding purpose:

“...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.” ([HRS 369](#))

Commission Mission Statement

The Hawai‘i State LGBTQ+ Commission is dedicated to advancing equity, inclusion, and opportunity for the Māhū, LGBTQIA+/MVPFAFF+ community, connecting their voices and the Hawai‘i State government. We serve as a vehicle for collaboration, advocacy, and education, promoting public awareness and policy change to ensure equal rights. Through civic engagement and partnerships at all levels, we strive to create a more just and inclusive Hawai‘i for all.

The HI LGBTQ+ Commission is composed of fourteen (14) members:

Eight (8) voting commissioners: four (4) representing the City and County of Honolulu, one (1) each representing the counties of Kaua‘i, Maui and Hawai‘i, and one (1) representing the Hawai‘i Sexual & Gender Minority (SGM) Working Group of the State of Hawai‘i’s Department of Health.

Six (6) ex-officio (non-voting) members representing the University of Hawai‘i System, and Hawai‘i State’s Departments of: Education; Labor and Industrial Relations; Human Resources Development; Human Services; and Health.

The Officers and Commissioners:

- Sandy Harjo-Livingston, PhD (he/him/they/them) – Chair (C&C Honolulu)
- Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him) – Vice Chair (C&C Honolulu)
- Shanda Brack (she/her) – Finance Director (SGM Working Group)
- Christopher Luthy (he/him) - Member (Hawai‘i County)
- Kathleen O’Dell, PhD (she/her) – Member (C&C Honolulu)
- Philip Steinbacher (he/him) – (Kaua‘i County)
- Joe Tolbe (he/him) – Member (Maui County)
- Richard Velasquez (he/him) – Member (C&C Honolulu)

Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission 2026 Annual Report

Ex-officio Members:

- Superintendent of Education designee Beth Schimmelfennig, Director of the Department of Education, Civil Rights Compliance Office
- President of the University of Hawai'i System designee Camaron Miyamoto, PhD., (he/him) Director, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer+ Center, UH Mānoa
- Director of Labor and Industrial Relations designee David Rodriguez
- Director of Human Resources Development designee Signe Nakamura-Dureza
- Director of Human Services (DHS) designee Jonathan Kimura, Executive Specialist
- Director of Health designee Thaddeus Pham (he/him), MPH, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, Harm Reduction Services Branch

Staff:

- Hanne Lorre Bulagay, Administrative Assistant (DHS) [supports Commission on Fatherhood also]
- Erin Yamashiro, Deputy Attorney General (AG)
- Shaun Joaquin, Webmaster (DHS)
- Jerron Oyama, Public Information Officer (DHS)

The Commissioners would like to extend their deepest gratitude to everyone at DHS for their support in helping the HI LGBTQ+ Commission as we complete our 2nd year. The Commission would not have been able to do anything without their instrumental support.

The HI LGBTQ+ Commission has continued to build out their social media accounts on the following platforms:

- Facebook /hawaiiistatelgbtqpluscommission
 - Instagram @hawaiiistatelgbtqpluscommission
 - Threads @hawaiiistatelgbtqpluscommission
- YouTube: @HawaiiStateLGBTQPlusCommission (recordings of the Commission meetings are stored)

Creating Change Conference Participation Report

Vice Chair Michael Golojuch, Jr. attended the 2026 Creating Change Conference in Washington, D.C., where he participated in policy institutes, advocacy trainings, caucuses, workshops, and community-building events focused on advancing LGBTQIA+ equality and responding to ongoing national attacks on LGBTQIA+ rights.

Before the conference, Vice Chair Golojuch met with staff from US Senator's Mazie Hirono's office to discuss federal anti-transgender legislation, the need to modernize Hawai'i's hate

crimes statutes to improve data collection and reporting, and continued support for access to gender-affirming care.

Key themes throughout the conference included the importance of civic engagement, coalition-building, data-driven advocacy, cybersecurity and privacy protections, labor solidarity, and defending democracy against rising extremism. Workshops emphasized that advocacy must occur at every level of government and community life, and highlighted the importance of coordinated organizing, effective messaging, and protecting vulnerable populations.

Vice Chair Golojuch also attended sessions focused on ballroom culture and LGBTQIA+ history, voter engagement strategies, labor organizing, and the disproportionate impacts of criminalization and discrimination on marginalized LGBTQIA+ communities. Discussions reinforced the value of culturally grounded organizing, community care, and ensuring LGBTQIA+ people remain fully engaged in the democratic process.

Participation in the conference provided opportunities to build relationships with national and local advocacy organizations, share Hawai'i's leadership and history in the movement for LGBTQIA+ equality, and gather strategies and best practices that continue to inform the Commission's work, including initiatives such as Queer Day at the Capitol and Rainbow Pau Hana events.

The conference also reinforced the importance of the Commission's statutory role under Hawai'i Revised Statutes §369-5 by strengthening the Commission's ability to monitor emerging national issues, connect with advocacy networks, and bring resources and innovative policy ideas back to Hawai'i.

Vice Chair Golojuch's full report can be found in the February 27, 2026, Board Packet: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/17RGjtPFPvqqdMFasyxzwQzREWnxEmtbD/view?usp=sharing>

2. Major Projects

Rainbow Pau Hana

Rainbow Pau Hana: Queer Leadership Gathering was set-up in 2025 to bring together local leaders of māhū, LGBTQIA+, QTPI+, and allied organization to make sure they know what each organization is doing and cross pollinate when possible. The gatherings would ideally happen quarterly.

To assist with the organizing and setting expectations for the host of the *Rainbow Pau Hana* as well as the Commission's responsibilities the Commission passed "Guidelines for Rainbow Pau

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Hana” at their April 13, 2026 meeting which can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vWARDSXXMG8XIdXu5iPBNgcGnCN2AiRD/view?usp=sharing>

On October 12, 2025, the Rainbow Pau Hana was hosted by University of Hawai'i at their Mānoa Campus with a Zoom option. This gave the attendees a chance to talk story with President Wendy Hensel and get an update on what is happening within the UH system.

On February 26, 2026, the Rainbow Pau Hana was hosted by Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawai'i's oldest and largest LGBTQIA+ focused advocacy organization, at their headquarters in Honolulu with a Zoom option. The focus, chosen by the Stonewall Caucus, was on the 2026 legislative session with a lot of attention paid to protecting access to gender-affirming care as well as other LGBTQIA+ specific legislation.

2nd Annual Queer Day at the Capitol

Commissioners Present: Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him), Shanda Brack (she/her), Richard Velasquez (he/him), and Joe Tolbe (he/him)

Theme: Love, Care, and the Fight for Our Futures

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Directory: <https://bit.ly/2026QueerDayAtTheCapitol>

We had 38 exhibitors signed up which is a 30% increase over 2025.

Budgeted: \$1,500

Spent: \$1,261.99

Initial invitation emails to be an exhibitor were sent on 12/30/2025 and a reminder was sent in mid-January to 158 separate emails to over 135+ different organizations. There were several posts on the Commission's social media platforms looking for exhibitors. A MAHALO email went out on 02/17/2026, with a link to a survey to all the exhibitors to get their feedback to help plan for **2027 Queer Day at the Capitol**.

Their responses can be found in March Board packet:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1R9ZRB0LajTSnxZwSh2pRLuGanwTjdTkG>

The Commission wants to say – Mahalo nui loa to the following for helping make 2026 Queer Day at the Capitol a huge success:

- DHS Director Ryan Yamane and his staff for their support especially Kristen and Devyn;
- Representative Kanani Souza and her staff for reserving the Capitol Auditorium for Queer Day at the Capitol's panels;

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- Jon and the talented crew at 'Ōlelo Community Media for videoing the panels;
- Representative Adrian Tam and his AMAZING staff for pitching in when needed;
- All the elected officials and their staff that came by and talked story with our exhibitors and attendees; and
- The members of the general public for coming down to their Capitol and experiencing some QUEER JOY firsthand.

What was new this year:

Morning and afternoon panels in the Capitol Auditorium

Banner outside the Capitol advertising the event the week before, it went up on February 9th.

Advertising campaign:

Fliers were posted in the Capitol elevators.

Digital fliers were on all our social media platforms.

Facebook event was created: <https://www.facebook.com/share/185wpcpgsq/>

[Click here for the press release.](#)

Emails were sent to all the elected officials inviting them to Queer Day with the first one being sent on January 14, 2026. Reminder emails were sent out the week of February 9th with a final one being sent on President's Day.

A couple of requests to all the exhibitors to help advertise Queer Day were sent out.

Program:

9:00 – 10:30 AM: *Healthcare, Not Politics: The Case for Gender-Affirming Care* (and why we need to protect access), in the Capitol Auditorium organized by *Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center*

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Community tabling on the 4th floor

2:00 – 3:30 PM: *From Policy to Protection: Defending Queer Lives Against Federal Attacks* in the Capitol Auditorium organized by *ACLU of Hawai'i*

The panels aired live on Channel 55, they were also placed on 'Ōlelo's YouTube Channel and they were rebroadcasted in February and March on 'Ōlelo Channel 49.

Healthcare, Not Politics: The Case for Gender-Affirming Care

YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/live/5RDyvKuv_QQ?si=aY3_S7AXIpmIgd_w

From Policy to Protection: Defending Queer Lives Against Federal Attacks

YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/live/5RDyvKuv_QQ?si=aY3_S7AXIpmIgd_w

Inclusive Glossary

The Commission has received a couple new entries for the glossary from the public. The responses from the public, State staff and Legislators have been positive. The glossary can be found here: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtqiaplus-glossary/>

No Hate in the 808 Campaign

Over the past year, the Commission received multiple inquiries regarding the status of Hawai‘i’s non-discrimination laws in light of Executive Orders issued by the White House. In response, the Commission invited the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) to speak at a Commission meeting to help address these concerns and provide clarity on existing state protections.

At the November 17, 2025 meeting, Heather McVay, former Deputy Executive Director of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission, presented on Hawai‘i’s non-discrimination laws and the kuleana of HCRC. Following the meeting, Vice Chair Michael Golojuch, Jr. met with Heather McVay to discuss the possibility of partnering to expand public awareness of the information shared during the presentation.

HCRC agreed to collaborate with the Commission with the understanding that it did not have funding available to contribute toward a public campaign. Vice Chair Golojuch subsequently reached out to other state commissions to identify potential co-sponsors who could help share costs and expand the campaign’s reach through a bus and digital advertising campaign. The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women agreed to partner in the effort.

On May 1, 2026, the three commissions — the Hawai‘i State LGBTQ+ Commission, the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women, and the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission — officially launched the historic “No Hate in the 808” campaign in Hawai‘i County and the City and County of Honolulu. The campaign also included digital advertisements across the commissions’ social media platforms and websites. Efforts are ongoing to place the ads on buses in Kaua‘i and Maui Counties, and sufficient signage has already been printed for those placements.

Mahalo nui loa to Representative Jeanne Kapela for coordinating with Representative Matthias Kusch to deliver the bus advertisements to Hawai‘i County Mass Transit in time for posting, saving the Commission the cost of mailing the advertisements to Hawai‘i Island.

Mahalo to Rainbow Family 808 www.rainbowfamily808.com for serving as the campaign’s nonprofit sponsor, saving the commissions \$7,560.00 plus GET in advertising costs for placement across the entire City and County of Honolulu bus fleet.

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The total project cost was \$2,425.13, including \$917.28 for printing the bus advertisements through Service Printers and \$1,507.85 for placement on Honolulu buses. Costs were shared equally between the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission and the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, resulting in an expense of \$1,212.56 per commission. The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission had budgeted \$1,500 for its portion of the project and ultimately completed the campaign under budget.

On Tuesday, April 28, 2026, Vice Chair Michael Golojuch, Jr. and Llasmin Chaine, Executive Director of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, delivered copies of the bus advertisement and a cover letter to every member of the Hawai'i State Senate and Hawai'i House of Representatives, as well as to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

Here is the bus ad:

NO HATE IN THE 808
HAWAII CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Monday - Friday
(Closed on State Holidays)
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
TEL: (808) 586-8636
dlr.hrcr.infor@hawaii.gov

Have you experienced discrimination for...

Employment on the basis of

- Sex
- Gender Identity &/or Expression
- Disability
- Age
- Race
- Ancestry/National Origin
- Religion
- Color
- Marital Status
- Sexual Orientation

• Assignment of Income for Child Support Obligations

• Arrest & Court Record

• National Guard Participation

• Breastfeeding

• Credit History or Credit Report

• Survivor of Domestic Violence or Sexual Violence

• Reproductive Health Decisions

• Retaliation

Public Accommodations on the basis of

- Sex
- Gender Identity &/or Expression
- Sexual Orientation
- Race
- Ancestry
- Religion
- Color
- Disability

or in **Housing, Real Estate Transactions, or State Funded Services** - they each have their own protected basis, please...

CONTACT the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

廣東話/广东话 - 國語/普通话: - Kapasen Chuuk - Ōlelo Hawai'i - Ilokano - 日本語 - 한국어
Kajin Majōl - Gagana Samoa - Español - Tagalog - ภาษาไทย - Tiếng Việt - Visayan - Lea Faka-Tonga

Presented by:

Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission

Nonprofit Sponsor: Rainbow Family 808

Access to the digital assets (social media ads) are available here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1NXe5vsR8Ig24OowBDTdOENVzuTqWNLvc>

3. Legislative Efforts for 2026

The Commission testified on the following Bills, Resolutions, and Governor's Messages during the 2026 Legislative session:

HB 22	HB 1118	HB 1876
HB 322	HB 1452	HB 1877
HB 457	HB 1537	HB 1878
HB 612	HB 1562	HB 1961
HB 755	HB 1875	HB 2167

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HCR 4/HR 3	SB 1445	SB 2871
SB 350	SB 2051	SB 3024
SB 799	SB 2143	SCR 11/SR 9
SB 816	SB 2239	GM 572
SB 1149	SB 2268	GM 733
SB 1150	SB 2679	GM 732
SB 1225	SB 2727	
SB 1284	SB 2845	

Legislative Successes

The Commission's #1 Priority:

HB 1875 - Gender-Affirming Health Care Services; Reproductive Health Care Services; Protections; Abusive Litigation; Medical Malpractice Insurance; Health Carriers; Protected Health Information

Passed the House:

42 YES; 8 No; 1 Excused

Passed the Senate:

21 YES, 4 No

Act 59 was signed into law on May 29, 2026, by Governor Green.

MAHALO NUI LOA to all the elected officials that voted YES & their staff; as well as the advocates, & organizations; with a special MAHALO to Rep. Tam, Rep. Ichiyama & activist Abby Simmons for their leadership on this bill.

SB 2143 - Ensuring a line of succession for Hawai'i's Chief Elections Officer. SB 2143 is now **Act 25** and was signed into law on May 22, 2026, by Governor Green.

SB 2239 - Requires a person who applies for an identification card or driver's license to be automatically registered to vote, with an opt-out option. SB 2239 is now **Act 67** and was signed into law on May 29, 2026, by Governor Green.

SB 2268 - Requires all places of public accommodation and public entity construction projects to provide at least one universal changing accommodation. SB 2268 is now **Act 102** and was signed into law on June 5, 2026, by Governor Green.

SB 2727 - Lengthens the statute of limitations to file a complaint of discrimination with the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission to one year. SB 2727 is now **Act 56** and was signed into law on May 28, 2026, by Governor Green.

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The following bill was supported by the Commission and is waiting for Governor Green to sign into law or become law without his signature:

HB 1961 - Prohibits persons from interfering with another person's access to or from a health care facility or disrupting the normal functioning of a health care facility.

Preparing for 2027 Legislative Session

On May 6, 2026, the Commission launched the 2027 Legislative Questionnaire where we asked the public to rank the Commission's 2025 & 2026 legislative priorities. Those that responded were also given the opportunity to provide recommendations for future legislative and policy priorities. Executive summary from the questionnaire can be found here along with access to the raw data:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s0u3ggqwa4Y0M4HTimxtEoh-Xh4mOZhF/view?usp=sharing>

Other Legislative Actions

At the City and County of Honolulu level the Commission has been advocating and providing as much support as possible for P 239, a proposal introduced by Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos Tam, that would create the City and County of Honolulu LGBTQIA+ Commission in the Managing Director's Office. P 239 is in front of the 2026 Honolulu Charter Commission and as of this report it was passed by unanimous vote to be sent City & County of Honolulu's Corporation Council for legal review and to the Charter Commission's Committee on Submission & Information where they will prepare the question and justification for the ballot. P 239 will then head back to the full Honolulu Charter Commission for a final vote which will determine if it will appear on the General Election ballot.

As of July 1, 2026, P 239 has received 128 pieces of testimony, the second most out of 298 separate proposals the 2026 Honolulu Charter Commission received with 126 in support, 1 comment and 1 in opposition.

4. Non-Legislative Recommendations

The HI LGBTQ+ Commission recommends an official onboarding program and/or guideline for all new State Commissioners especially for commissions without an Executive Director. This way the commissioners know what training they need to take and what forms they need to fill out after being confirmed. They would like to thank the Legislature for the clarification which Commission members need to fill out the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission – Financial Disclosure form.

5. Commissioner's Reports

Sandy Harjo Livingston, PhD (he/him/they/them):

In August 2025, I began my tenure as the chair of the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission. In that time, we lost one Hawaii Island commissioner, Rocco Vick, but gained a new representative for the island, Christopher Luthy.

I began my time as the chair with a great deal of violent push back from right wing activists who disrupted our meetings, threatened violence and caused fear amongst many in the community who attend the meetings. By staying the course and not allowing their antics to disrupt our democratic duties to represent the 2SLGBTQ+, we have been able to continue with our intended mission.

One of the first responsibilities I was able to celebrate with my fellow commissioners was Honolulu Pride. We were able to bring in all commissioners from all islands to come together to commemorate and be a part of one of Hawai'i largest parades and festivals. As a commission, we had the amazing opportunity to gather at the same time in person for Honolulu Pride. It was a morale booster and a good avenue to meet more people and organizations and establish and strengthen bonds in our community.

We also began working with our new administrative assistant, Hanne Bulagay, in April 2026 after our previous admin was promoted in 2025.

Over the last year, we have been able to guide our commissioners and empower them to pursue as much community advocacy as possible, including:

- Conference attendance.
- Inter-organization collaborations,
- Community campaigns.
- Educational initiatives.
- Advocacy.

At the end of 2025, I was able to represent the commission on panel discussions regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ rights and legal protections in the state with the Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation and with 'Ōlelo Community Media. This led to further relationships with agencies such as the Hawaiian Council and O'ahu Native Nations Organization.

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I was also able to represent the commission at the quarterly community leader's pau hana networking meetings that bring together dozens of agencies and organizations to foster and support collaboration, stability, and communication.

The heaviest lifting done through the 2025-2026 year has been our Legislative work. From coordinating our Legislative agenda that integrated each commissioner into the work of advocating for more legal protections and freedoms to develop strategic relationships with Legislators that have fostered respect between the Legislature and the commission, our commissioners tackled some big wins for the state.

As my tenure ends in July, I leave this chair with a greater sense of purpose, stronger connections in the community, bigger views of how we can advocate and educate, and a renewed vision for structure and consistency. I look forward to next year as a commissioner and how I can support our next chair.

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him/his):

During the 2026 legislative year, the Vice Chair continued to play a leading role in advancing the work of the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission by overseeing major community engagement, advocacy, and outreach initiatives across the state. These efforts focused on strengthening partnerships, increasing public awareness of LGBTQIA+ issues, supporting civic participation, and responding to growing national attacks on LGBTQIA+ rights.

In January 2026, the Commission was represented at the national Creating Change Conference in Washington, D.C., where participation included policy institutes, advocacy trainings, workshops, and caucuses focused on LGBTQIA+ equality, democracy, labor solidarity, cybersecurity, and community organizing. Meetings were also held with staff from Senator Mazie Hirono's office to discuss anti-transgender legislation, improvements to hate crime data collection, and continued protections for gender-affirming care. The strategies and best practices gathered during the conference informed Commission initiatives throughout the year, including the 2nd Annual Queer Day at the Capitol and Rainbow Pau Hana events.

The Vice Chair also helped organize and oversee the 2nd Annual Queer Day at the Capitol, held on February 17, 2026, under the theme Love, Care, and the Fight for Our Futures. The event featured 38 exhibitors—a 30% increase over the previous year—along with educational panels addressing gender-affirming care and federal attacks on LGBTQIA+ communities. Expanded outreach, social media promotion, live broadcasts, and community partnerships strengthened relationships between LGBTQIA+ organizations, elected officials, and the public.

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Responsibility for the Commission's social media platforms, website updates, and the Inclusive Glossary continued throughout the year. The Inclusive Glossary received positive feedback from members of the public, state employees, and legislators as an educational resource promoting inclusive language and greater understanding across Hawai'i. The Vice Chair also led the Commission's efforts to support the establishment of a City and County of Honolulu LGBTQIA+ Commission, providing advocacy and guidance throughout the charter amendment process.

Another significant initiative was the leadership of the historic No Hate in the 808 campaign, developed in partnership with the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission and the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women. Created in response to community concerns regarding federal executive actions and increasing anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric nationwide, the campaign launched on May 1, 2026, and featured bus advertisements in Honolulu and Hawai'i Island, digital outreach, and public education efforts highlighting Hawai'i's long standing non-discrimination protections. Through collaborative partnerships and community sponsorships, the campaign was completed under budget.

As part of the Commission's statewide outreach efforts, the Vice Chair represented the Commission at the following Pride celebrations in 2025 at Kona Pride Festival, and in the Honolulu Pride Parade, as well in 2026 at the Kaua'i Pride Parade and Festival, Maui Pride Festival, and Hilo Pride Parade and Festival. These engagements strengthened relationships with different island communities, increased public awareness of the Commission's work, and ensured a visible statewide presence in support of Hawai'i's mähū, LGBTQIA+, QTPI+, and MVPFAFF+ communities.

Shanda Brack, MSN, APRN (she/her):

As a team, we were honored by an invitation from the Governor to attend the ceremonial raising of the Pride flags at the Capitol on October 1st.

I represented the Commission at several community events, fostering education and collaboration:

- Opening Day at the Capitol
- Queer Day at the Capitol
- Transgender Day of Visibility
- Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Gender Journeys Day
- AIDS Walk (planned)

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During these community events, many people I met were unaware of the Commission's existence and appreciated learning about the state's support for LGBTQ+ communities.

Last year, I attended Gender Journeys Day as a representative of the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission and participated in the advanced track for healthcare providers, along with several plenary sessions. The event brought together educators, healthcare professionals, therapists, families, and transgender youth in a supportive and collaborative environment focused on improving the lives of transgender young people. In the midst of an increasingly difficult social and political climate, the day offered a rare sense of safety, validation, and community.

Opportunities for advocacy, networking, and collaboration were woven throughout the experience, while transgender youth were able to simply exist as themselves without fear of ridicule or attack. One of the most meaningful aspects of the event was hearing powerful stories of resilience from local 'ohana with lived experience.

Along with fellow members, I proudly marched in the Honolulu Pride Parade and attended the Kona Pride Festival. In our monthly meetings, we listen to community concerns and share resources and events to improve lives across diverse groups.

As the Commission's liaison to the Department of Health's Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Workgroup, I regularly shared updates from the Commission and communicated feedback from the Workgroup. In my role as chair of the SGM Kupuna Committee, I have worked to broaden our collective efforts to improve the well-being of LGBTQ+ elders. I also reached out to several healthcare organizations and held meetings to actively cultivate collaboration.

In addition to these efforts, I supported legislative proposals adopted as Commission priorities by contacting legislators and submitting written testimony to advance these critical measures. As a practicing Family Medicine Nurse Practitioner, I remain available to members of the Legislature and Hawai'i's government to provide evidence-based information about LGBTQ+ health issues.

Kathleen O'Dell, PhD (she/her):

In July of 2025, I ended my time as Chair of the LGBTQ+ Commission to allow another member to take a turn at leadership. I continued to participate as an active member representing Oahu. I was honored to attend all of the Pride festivals in Hawai'i, representing the Commission in parades and at our tables. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to speak to so many active members of our community, as well as our allies. I was particularly impressed by the advocacy I saw represented by the younger generations.

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As my 2-year term ends, I am committed to remain an active participant in the advocacy for the rights of my LGBTQ+ community here in Hawai'i. I feel this experience has helped me to learn so much about the needs of our community, the organizations who support LGBTQ+ adults and youth, and the legislative process. I am very grateful for this opportunity and wish the best for those commissioners serving going forth.

Philip Steinbacher (he/him/his):

As the Kaua'i representative to the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission, I have had a range of opportunities to address areas of concern and participate in events which strengthened my understanding of the needs of the LGBTQ+ population of Hawai'i.

My priorities in serving as a commissioner are supporting LGBTQ+ youth in regard to personal safety and equal treatment in schools; securing protections for gender-affirming healthcare; and supporting LGBTQ+ families. I represented the Commission in the October 2025 Pride Parade and Festival on O'ahu, which offered me the opportunity to connect with diverse members of the community and develop a deeper understanding of their positions and needs.

I am currently working with local organizations to facilitate the exhibition of the "Toward Queer Justice" display, curated and produced by the Lei Pua'ala, here on Kaua'i. I also organized and oversaw the Commission's participation in the June 2025 Kaua'i Pride Parade and Festival, appearing in the Parade, helping host a table at Festival, as well as presenting the Governor's Pride Proclamation to attendees at the festival.

I am currently working on ways in which to increase participation of LGBTQ+ youth and families in this Kaua'i event. Additionally, I have created a LGBTQ+ Resource Guide for the state of Hawai'i which is posted on the Commission's website.

Joe Tolbe (he/him/his):

I'm a proud member of the LGBTQ+ Community representing Maui, Hawai'i. In my time on the board I met so many of our 'ohana at many events around the islands. We come with so many degrees and backgrounds and cultures that all add to our amazing state. Also, meeting and making so many friends with our allies too, who totally support us in our lifestyle. We come together learning, listening and teaching so many in different age groups as well with all our experiences that we each bring to the board. So, I'm so very proud to be on the board that our Governor has appointed me to be part of our State of Hawai'i.

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Richard Velasquez (he/him/his):

This past year marked my second year on the inaugural Commission, and my term will expire on June 30, 2026. I am proud to report that HB 613, for which I served as the Commission's Legislative Lead, was signed into law as Act 297 on July 7, 2025. This law will expand services for homeless and unaccompanied youth statewide and help address service gaps for LGBTQ youth.

I served as the commission representative on the Hawaii Youth Services Network and helped plan the Hawaii Children and Youth Summit at the Legislature.

As a volunteer with the State Aging Issues for SGM Committee, I worked with Commissioner Shanda Brack, NP, to organize Hawai'i first SAGE Table, an event designed to promote intergenerational communication and connection within the LGBTQ community. I also represented the Commission at the 49th Mayor's Art and Craft Fair, a city-sponsored event featuring kupuna organizations from across Oahu.

This past year, I also served as the Commission's representative to the Hawaii Coalition for Civil Rights. I had the privilege of representing the Commission in Pride parades in Honolulu and Hilo, and more recently attended Queer Day at the Capitol. I also participated in pau hana gatherings hosted by partner organizations.

I thank the Governor and Legislature for the honor of serving. I also extend a special mahalo for the dedicated support of our Ex Officio Commissioners, the Office of the Attorney General, and Department of Human Services staff. We also acknowledge the kokua of the Mayor's Office and City Council.

6. 2026 Pride Month Activities

For the 2026 Pride season, the Commission purchased 3,000 custom fans to give out at the following Pride events as well as Kona Pride in September and Honolulu Pride that takes place in October. On the front side of the fan is the Commission's logo and the other side has the Commission's mission statement along with QR Codes for the Commission's website and another one to the Office of Election's on-line voter registration form.

Sunrise Pride Flag Raising Ceremony

On June 1st at the Sunrise Pride Flag Raising Ceremony, which took place at the Hawai'i State Capitol, Governor Josh Green, MD presented a proclamation declaring June as Pride month in the State of Hawai'i. Over 50 community members were present for the 6:45 AM presentation

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including Representative Terez Amato from Maui. Everyone present was given one of the custom Commission fans.

Afterwards Governor Green together with Vice Chair Michael Golojuch, Jr. raised the first of eight (8) Intersex Inclusive Progressive Pride Flags (Pride Flags) on the auxiliary flag poles lining Beretania Street. The remaining seven (7) Pride Flags were raised by representatives of supporting organizations and community members. The proclamation can be viewed here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DyWm4rJYdxvAgswIqAK2A7ojVP_51wdQ/view?usp=sharing

The 2nd Annual Pride Flags at the Capitol was done in coordination with *Lei Pua Ala Queer Histories of Hawai'i* and they graciously provided the Pride Flags. Together with the Commission they were able to build a coalition of 46 organizations from across the state in support of this project. See the organizations here: <https://bit.ly/2026HIPrideFlag> and Governor Green's official photos from the ceremony here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/govjoshgreen/albums/72177720333997404/>

Kaua'i Pride Parade & Festival

On Saturday, June 6, 2026, the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission participated in the 2026 Kaua'i Pride Parade and Festival as well as sponsored the event at the 'Equality Enthusiast' level. Commission's Vice-Chair Michael Golojuch Jr. (C&C of Honolulu), along with Commissioners Joe Tolbe (Maui County), Rick Valesquez (C&C of Honolulu), and Christopher Luthy (Hawai'i County) traveled to Kaua'i to represent the Commission. The Commission had a unit in the parade, which included a decorated truck, a large banner, and handing out the limited edition 2026 commission fans to the crowd. Following the parade, the Commissioners hosted a table at the Pride Festival, where they offered the attendees the opportunity to ask questions about the Commission's work, as well as provide input and feedback, and sign up for the Commission's email list. Also passing out Commission's stickers and the remaining custom fans. Between the Pride Parade and the tabling, the Commission gave out close to 450 fans.

Vice Chair Golojuch was invited on stage to present a copy of Governor Green's Pride Month Proclamation to the Pride festival organizers. During the presentation Vice Chair Golojuch informed the attendees while other states are banning Pride flags the state of Hawai'i is raising them at our State Capitol, and while other states and the Federal Government are trying to limit access to gender-affirming care the state of Hawai'i is passing Act 59, SLH 2026, to protect access to this life saving, medically necessary health care. In closing he thanked the organizers and encouraged everyone to register to vote and cast their ballots.

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Queer the Vote

On Thursday, June 11, 2026, the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission launched the online program to encourage voter registration by māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ community members for the 2026 Primary and General elections as part of our statutory duties found in HRS 369-5 (4). This program is supported by the custom Commission fans that are being handed out at the Pride events.

Maui Pride Festival

On Saturday, June 13, 2026, the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission participated in the 2026 Maui Pride Festival as well as sponsored the event at the 'Bronze' level. Commission's Vice-Chair Michael Golojuch Jr. (C&C of Honolulu) and Commissioner Kathleen O'Dell, PhD. (C&C of Honolulu) traveled to Maui to represent the Commission. The Commission had a booth at the Pride Festival, where they offered attendees the opportunity to ask questions about the Commission's work, as well as provide input and feedback, sign up for the Commission's email list, get a Commission sticker and fan, and see the "No Hate in the 808" bus ad which we will run in Maui County as soon as the Commission hears back from Maui County officials. The Commission gave out almost 400 fans.

Vice Chair Golojuch was invited on stage to present a copy of Governor Green's Pride Month Proclamation to the Maui Pride festival organizers. During the presentation Vice Chair Golojuch informed the attendees while other states are banning Pride flags the state of Hawai'i is raising them at our State Capitol (and recognized Representative Amato who was in the audience since she was at the Pride Flag raising ceremony), and while other states and the Federal Government are trying to limit access to gender-affirming care the state of Hawai'i is passing Act 59, SLH 2026, to protect access to this life saving, medically necessary health care. In closing he thanked Aloha Maui Pride and the Maui AIDS Foundation for organizing the 2026 Maui Pride Festival.

2026 Honolulu AIDS Walk

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission participated in the Honolulu AIDS Walk in June 2026, engaging directly with community members, partner organizations, legislators and public health stakeholders. The event provided an opportunity to increase public awareness of the Commission's mission, responsibilities, and ongoing initiatives to advance equity and improve the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals across Hawai'i.

Commission representatives spoke with numerous participants about the Commission's work, solicited community feedback to help inform future priorities, and encouraged civic engagement by promoting voter participation. These conversations strengthened relationships with

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community members and reinforced the Commission's commitment to ensuring that LGBTQ+ voices are represented in state government.

The event also fostered stronger collaboration with multiple Hawai'i Department of Health programs and divisions, creating opportunities to improve coordination and expand access to healthcare resources for LGBTQ+ communities. In addition, the Commission strengthened its partnership with the Hawai'i Commission on Youth, identifying shared priorities and opportunities for future collaboration to better support LGBTQ+ youth and young adults throughout the state.

Hawai'i Island Pride Parade and Festival (Hilo)

On Saturday, June 27, 2026, the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission participated in the 2026 Hilo Pride Parade and Festival produced by Hawai'i Island Pride and Equality HI. The Commission provided sponsorship through Equality HI. Commission's Vice-Chair Michael Golojuch Jr. (C&C of Honolulu) and Commissioner Kathleen O'Dell, PhD. (C&C of Honolulu) traveled to Hilo where they were picked up by Commissioner Christopher Luthy (Hawai'i County) and his partner Noah. They were joined in the Pride Parade by Commissioner Luthy's parents, with Mr. Luthy helping Vice Chair Golojuch carrying the banner and passing out the Commission fans to the Pride parade spectators. Commissioner Luthy drove his truck (saving the Commission money as they did not have to rent a vehicle) in the parade with Commissioner O'Dell keeping him company with Noah and Mrs. Luthy riding in the

The Commission had a booth at the Pride Festival that took place right after the parade. Between the Pride Parade and the Pride Festival the Commission gave out over 450 fans. Vice Chair Golojuch was asked to present the Governor Green's Proclamation declaring June Pride Month at the beginning of the entertainment portion of the festival. Commissioner Luthy joined VC Golojuch on stage.

After the presentation VC Golojuch informed the audience that while other states and Governors are banning Pride flags in the state of Hawai'i our Governor is raising them with us at our State Capitol, and while other states and the Federal Government are trying to limit access to gender-affirming care the state of Hawai'i is passing Act 59, SLH 2026, to protect access to this life saving, medically necessary health care. He thanked Hawai'i Island Pride and Equality HI for organizing the 2026 Hilo Pride Parade and Festival. In closing he reminded everyone to register to vote and make sure that they vote in the upcoming elections.

By the end of June, the Commission gave out about 1,500 custom fans at these different events. The remaining fans will be used during the 2026 Kona Pride Festival and 2026 Honolulu Pride Parade and future tabling opportunities in 2026 and 2027.

Gender Journey Days

Hawai‘i’s Gender Journeys Day is a collaborative educational conference hosted by a diverse group of local healthcare providers and organizations in partnership with Stanford University School of Medicine created to advance knowledge of gender-affirming care for youth. The one-day, annual event brings together educators, healthcare professionals, and families of transgender and gender-diverse keiki to strengthen their understanding of best practices for providing affirming, culturally responsive care. Conference sessions in July of 2025 addressed topics including implicit gender bias, creating safe and inclusive environments, effective communication with families, and Hawai‘i’s cultural traditions that recognize and honor gender diversity.

Representatives of the Hawai‘i State LGBTQ+ Commission attended the conference to engage with organizations serving transgender and gender-diverse youth, strengthen collaborative partnerships, and identify opportunities to support affirming policies and practices across the state. The Commission’s participation demonstrated the State’s commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of transgender and gender-diverse youth and their families while reinforcing its mission to promote equity, inclusion, and access to affirming services for all residents of Hawai‘i.

7. Statements from the Commission

Statement from Chair and Vice Chair of the Hawai‘i State LGBTQ+ Commission on United States Supreme Court Decision in West Virginia v. B.P.J. & Little v. Hecox

Statement from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Hawai‘i State LGBTQ+ Commission condemning US House votes attacking access to health care for māhū, transgender, and gender non-conforming youth.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i6VlwbJyLSft1VqAh4cuARzXYOxcjl_v/view?usp=sharing

Statement from the Hawai‘i State LGBTQ+ Commission in Support of All Mail-In Voting

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15DIj0sxnWLTlHZZgwzqYxo2oO8VjCcN7/view?usp=sharing>

Facts of Protecting Gender-Affirming Care

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Px2PjeNMwTAz9v5IQgZvze4sb_LUevhd/view?usp=sharing

Hawai‘i State LGBTQ+ Commission Chair and Vice Chair Condemns the Erasure of Bisexual People from the Stonewall National Monument

https://drive.google.com/file/d/17q9Ad9YrZPN4cs_k58xVrfEe7svZgx0I/view?usp=sharing

8. Earned Media

HAWAI'I STATE LGBTQ+ COMMISSION RECOGNIZED IN NATIONAL LGBTQ+ BUSINESS CLIMATE REPORT

[2026 LGBTQ+ State Business Climate Index Report](#), [Press Release](#), [EIN – June 16, 2026](#), [Kaua'i Now News – June 16, 2026](#), [Big Island Now – June 21, 2026](#), [Lavender Magazine – June 22, 2026](#)

PRIDE FLAGS FLY AT HAWAI'I STATE CAPITOL AS GOVERNOR GREEN DECLARES JUNE AS PRIDE MONTH IN THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

[Press Release – May 29, 2026](#), [KHON – May 29, 2026](#), [Honolulu Star-Advertiser – May 31, 2026](#), [Governor's Instagram](#)

STATE COMMISSIONS LAUNCH “NO HATE IN THE 808” CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT DISCRIMINATION ACROSS HAWAI'I

[Press Release – April 27, 2026](#); [Governor's Website](#); [Big Island Now – April 29, 2026](#); [Kaua'i Now – April 29, 2026](#); [Hawai'i Tribune Herald – April 30, 2026](#); [West Hawaii Today – April 30, 2026](#); [Big Island Thieves Media – April 30, 2026](#); [NewsBreak – April 30, 2026](#)

HAWAI'I STATE LGBTQ+ COMMISSION CONGRATULATES VICE CHAIR MICHAEL GOLOJUCH JR. ON VISIONARY LEGACY AWARD – [Video Announcing the Lifetime Achievement Award](#); [Press Release – March 31, 2026](#); [Big Island Now – Apr 1, 2026](#); [Kaua'i Now – Apr 1, 2026](#); [Maui Now – Apr 5, 2026](#); [Lavender Magazine – Apr 7, 2026](#)

[‘Justice delayed is justice denied’: Hawaii’s queer ohana find support, solidarity at Capitol](#) – [Hawai'i News Now – Feb 17, 2026](#)

2ND ANNUAL QUEER DAY AT THE CAPITOL BRINGS COMMUNITY, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY TO THE HAWAI'I STATE CAPITOL

[Press Release – Feb 11, 2026](#)

HAWAI'I MODERNIZES PARENTAGE LAW, STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR LGBTQIA+ FAMILIES

[Press Release – Dec 31, 2025](#); [hoodline – Jan 1, 2026](#); [Maui Now – Jan 4, 2026](#); [Kaua'i Now – Jan 5, 2026](#); [Big Island Now – Jan 5, 2026](#)

[Advocates urge state lawmakers to protect LGBTQ+ community this legislative session](#)
December 8, 2025

[LGBTQ+ community raises concerns over federal rollbacks of funding and rights](#)
August 14, 2025

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9. Financial Reports

<u>LGBTQ+ Commission Expenses 2025-2026:</u>	<u>State Paid</u>	<u>Reimbursement</u>	<u>Total Spent</u>
1. August Zoom Subscription 2025 (PO 1984103)		167.43	167.43
6. Honolulu Pride Parade 10/18/25			
a. Philip Steinbacher		268.00	268.00
b. Joe Tolbe	154.01	20.00	174.01
7. Kona Pride Festival 09/13/25			
a. Kathleen O'Dell	128.08	61.66	189.74
b. Michael Golojuch	147.09	20.00	167.09
c. Shanda Brack	128.08	20.00	148.08
8. Aiea Copy Center Banner	136.11		136.11
9. Creating Change Conference 2026			
a. Michael Golojuch	983.81	1,714.21	2,698.02
10. Queer Day			
a. Accel Events	1,136.35		1,136.35
b. Aiea Copy Center	125.64		125.64
c. Joe Tolbe	293.20		293.20
11. The Bus Ad			
a. To be split between the LGBTQ+ and the HSCSW	753.93		753.93
b. Aiea Copy (Posting)	458.64		458.64
12. Kaua'i Pride Parade & Festival 06/06/26			
a. Sponsorship	1,000.00		1,000.00
b. Travel	1,122.98	80.00	1,202.98
13. Maui Pride Festival 06/14/26			
a. Sponsorship	1,000.00		1,000.00
b. Travel	665.42	40.00	705.42
14. Hilo Pride Festival 06/27/26			
a. Sponsorship	500.00		500.00
b. Travel	483.40	40.00	523.40
15. Kona Pride Festival 09/19/26			
a. Sponsorship	500.00		500.00
16. Honolulu AIDS Walk 06/27/26			
a. Sponsorship	500.00		500.00
17. Gender Journey Days Sponsorship 07/11/26	2,000.00		2,000.00
18. Swag (Circle hand fans)	2,434.80		2,434.80
19. Table Cover	148.50		148.50
20. Retractable Banner	114.94		114.94
21. Tabletop Retractable Banners	137.14		137.14
TOTAL:	15,052.12	2,431.30	17,483.42

10. Executive Summary

Pursuant to section 369-5(8), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission respectfully submits this Annual Report to the Hawai'i State Legislature for the reporting period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This report highlights the Commission's efforts to advance equity, improve government engagement with Hawai'i's māhū, LGBTQIA+, and MVPFAFF+ communities, and fulfill its statutory responsibility to advise state government on issues affecting LGBTQ+ residents.

During the reporting period, the Commission held 12 public Commission meetings that provided a transparent forum for public testimony, policy discussion, presentations from state agencies and community organizations, and strategic planning. Commissioners also participated in committee work, interagency collaboration, and community engagement activities throughout the year to further the Commission's mission.

The 2026 Legislative Session marked a significant year of advocacy for the Commission. Commissioners monitored and reviewed many measures (see report for full list) impacting LGBTQ+ communities, submitted testimony on priority legislation, and engaged directly with legislators, executive branch agencies, and community partners throughout the legislative process. The Commission supported legislation advancing civil rights, health equity, education, family protections, and government inclusion, including HB 1875 (Act 59) – Gender-affirming health care shield law.

The Commission also organized and participated in the 2nd Annual Queer Day at the Capitol, bringing together legislators, advocates, nonprofit organizations, students, and community members to celebrate LGBTQ+ leadership while increasing public awareness of legislative priorities and strengthening civic engagement. Commissioners further supported the Governor's 2026 Pride Month Proclamation and the annual Hawai'i State Capitol Pride Flag Display in a reaffirmation of the State's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity.

Community engagement remained a cornerstone of the Commission's work. Commissioners attended Pride celebrations and festivals across the state that included Pride events on O'ahu (Honolulu Pride), Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Island (Hawai'i Island Pride and Kona Pride) as a means of connecting directly with residents, distributing educational resources, and building relationships with local organizations and government partners. Commissioners also represented the State at conferences, educational forums, health equity events, youth initiatives, and professional trainings focused on LGBTQ+ inclusion, culturally responsive government, and public service. (See report for a full accounting of these conferences.)

Throughout the year, the Commission strengthened relationships through community pau hana gatherings which are professional networking events that give community leaders the opportunity to become supportive stakeholders and the forum to foster collaboration amongst nonprofit organizations, advocates, healthcare providers, educators, businesses, county governments, and state agencies. These engagements provided valuable opportunities to hear directly from community members and identify emerging issues affecting LGBTQ+ people across Hawai'i.

A major milestone during the reporting period was the launch of the "No Hate in the 808" campaign, which has been a collaborative statewide public awareness initiative developed in partnership with fellow state commissions to promote inclusion, combat discrimination, and encourage respectful communities throughout Hawai'i.

The Commission also expanded partnerships with state departments, county governments, educational institutions, healthcare organizations, Native Hawaiian organizations, and community-based nonprofits to improve coordination, increase public education, and advance policies that support the health, safety, and well-being of LGBTQ+ residents statewide. These monthly speakers brought an array of LGBTQ+ and ally representation to the community where information, explanations, and collaborations were shared.

Collectively, these accomplishments reflect the Commission's continued commitment to serving as Hawai'i's official advisory body on LGBTQ+ issues. Through legislative advocacy, public education, community engagement, and cross-sector collaboration, the Commission has strengthened its role as a trusted partner to the Legislature, the Executive Branch, and the people of Hawai'i. The Commission respectfully submits the recommendations contained in this report and looks forward to continued collaboration in advancing equity, dignity, and opportunity for all.

Definitions:

1. MVPFAFF+

Fakafine activist Phylesha Brown-Acton coined the acronym MVPFAFF to recognize & honor identities that don't align with the LGBTQIA+ acronym & are specific to Pasifika communities. With each having their own different & unique meanings as well as different cultural significance. Prior to western contact these identities were honored and embraced by their own communities.

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M - Māhū (Hawai'i & Tahiti)
V - Vaka sa lewa lewa (Fiji)
P - Palopa (Papua New Guinea)
F - Fa'afafine (Samoa)
A - Akava'ine (Rarotonga)
F - Fakaleitī (Tonga)
F - Fakafifine (Niue)
+ - Fakaleiti, Rae rae, & Fafafine & more

2. QTPI+

The term “Queer and Trans Pacific Islanders” (QTPI) was coined during a gathering of Pacific Islander organizers from UTOPIA WA, UTOPIA PDX, and UTOPIA Eastern WA in Fresno, CA. The term is pronounced "Cutie-Pie".