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

Agenda: September 14, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Mailing Address: LGBTQ+ Commission, c/o The Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96809-0339
Email: hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com
Web: https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/

In-person location: 1390 Miller Street, 2nd Floor DHS Conference Rooms 1 & 2 Honolulu, HI 96813
Virtual meeting Zoom link:
https://zoom.us/j/92198507509?pwd=hieXyWvs3IPkxKPWliHOlqUKuG7jbm.1
Dial in by phone: +1 669 444 9171 US
Meeting ID: 921 9850 7509 | Passcode: 509173 | Waiting room opens 5 - 15 minutes before meeting

Commission Purpose: [From Chapter 369, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes] The legislature finds that there is a need to establish a body to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government. Accordingly, the purpose of this chapter is to establish a commission to provide for a statewide program, on a permanent and continuing basis, on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus individuals in Hawai‘i.

CALL TO ORDER

I. Introduction and Roll Call *(per HRS §92-3.7(a), state name of anyone present at a private location)*

A. Commissioners (voting members)
   1. Chair - Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him) - *C&C Honolulu*
   2. 1st Vice Chair - Shanda Brack (she/her) - *SGM Working Group*
   3. Secretary - Sandy Harjo Livingston, PhD (he/him/they/them)- *C&C Honolulu*
   4. Finance Director & VC of Keiki/Health Care - Sylvia Romm, MD (she/her) - *C&C Honolulu*
   5. VC Education - Crissi Doyle (she/her) - *C&C Honolulu*
   6. Philip Steinbacher (he/him) - *Kaua‘i County*
   7. Joe Tolbe (he/him) - *Maui County*
   8. VACANT - *Hawai‘i County*

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

C. Staff – Hanne Bulagay - Administrative Assistant, Department of Human Services

D. Deputy Attorney Generals for Sunshine Law Issues

II. Approval of Board Minutes:

A. August 10, 2026
   1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
   2. Vote

B. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

III. Public Comment

A. Public testimony on any item relevant to this agenda may be taken at this time, or a testifier may wait to testify at the time the agenda item is called for discussion, pursuant to HRS §92-3

B. Distribution and review of written testimony not received by **September 11, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.** - if written testimony is received at the meeting, a break for Commissioners to review testimony may be required.

IV. Presentation (20 minutes)

A. Tommy Johnson, Director of the State of Hawai'i's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and
Christin M. Johnson (she/her), Oversight Coordinator for Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission
In response to the murder of Denise Foster at Hālawa Correctional Facility in August 2026 the Commission has requested a presentation to see how the needs of māhū, transgender, gender expansive, and intersex inmates are addressed.

V. Reports - Note: Any item brought up during this session not agendized below cannot be discussed or debated - for informational purposes only.

A. Chair's Report (see Board Packet)
   1. October 2nd from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. - City and County of Honolulu's 38th Annual Talk Story Festival – Theme is "Out is Paradise" in the Mission Memorial Auditorium
   2. October 8th - National Coming Out Day Resource Fair at UH Mānoa

B. Finance Director's Report (see Board Packet)

C. Official Communications from State Officials

D. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

VI. Action Items

A. Update on the next Rainbow Pau Hana: Queer Community Leaders Gathering
   1. Vote for lead on coordinating the Rainbow Pau Hana
   2. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

B. Additional Commission's 2027 Legislative Priorities FYI: 2026 Legislative tracker - https://bit.ly/2026LegHILGBTQplus and 2027 Legislative Questionnaire Executive Summary
   1. Confirmation – Modernization of state requirements and allowances for telehealth
      a) Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
      b) Vote
   2. Confirmation – Addressing the state of Hawai'i's youth suicide crisis

a) Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
b) Vote
3. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

C. 2026 Pride Events
1. Upcoming 2026 Pride Schedules for the State of Hawai'i and Commission: Kona Pride: Sept. 19th and Honolulu Pride: Oct. 17th
a) Vote set Honolulu Pride's budget
2. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

D. Discuss and review of adopting Bylaws for the Commission. Included in the Board Packet will be a proposed document related to Standards of Conduct and ethics for Commissioners along with roles and responsibilities for officers.
1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
2. Vote

E. Sponsorship for H3RC Youth Pride: Rainbow Prom Hawai'i 2026 - October 3, 2026 at the Capitol Modern- Free for students 14 – 20 years old
1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
2. Vote

F. Attendees for 2027 Creating Change – January 27–31, 2027 in Louisville, KY
1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
2. Vote

VII. Updates on Ongoing Business

A. Commission's website - https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/
1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

B. Letter to Maui Preparatory Academy donors re: Maui Prep's anti-LGBTQIA+ policies for students
1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

C. Addressing the needs of our community's kūpuna, especially māhū, trans, non-binary, and intersex.
1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

D. Hawai'i Coalition for Civil Rights
1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

E. Statement condemning medical organizations abandoning māhū, transgender, gender non-conforming, QTPI+ community and/or meetings with medical organizations in Hawai'i
1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

F. "No Hate in the 808" ad campaign regarding Hawai'i's non-discrimination laws
1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

G. Developing written protocols/procedures and record keeping for the Commission (See Board Packet)
1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

H. Update on 2026 report to the Legislature
1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

I. Updates on Commission's 2027 Legislative Priorities
1. Expand gender markers on birth certificates from F & M to F, M & X to match Drivers
2. Require a more accurate and comprehensive count of hate crimes in Hawai'i.

3. Expand the Hawai‘i State LGBTQ+ Commission from 8 voting members to 11 members.
4. Ensure that the māhū, LGBTQIA+, QTPI+ (Queer and Trans Pacific Islander plus) and MVPFAFF+ communities have access to mental health care on all islands
5. Banning forced gender mutilation surgeries for intersex minors.
6. Establish an education requirement of teaching māhū, LGBTQIA+, QTPI+ and MVPFAFF+ history (achievements and contributions) in public schools K- 12 and University of Hawai‘i system.
7. Chosen names used in Dept. of Education schools. University of Hawai‘i already has a simple system in place. The chosen name is used on all forms except transcripts, legal and financial forms.
8. Resolution – Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study to determine the cost and timeline of implementing a comprehensive, statewide survey of māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ populations in Hawai‘i
9. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

J. Update on the 2026 campaign to encourage voter registration and voting in the General Election for members of the māhū, LGBTQI+, and QTPI+ community.
   1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

K. Update from the PIG (Permitted Interaction Group) named “Healthcare PIG,” created to:
   (1) Advocate with insurers to improve access to hair removal services to ensure access to medically necessary surgeries already included in covered medical services but which are difficult to obtain due to lack of a contract with a service provider.
   (2) Advocate with insurers to revise their coverage-denial practice so that any denial is reviewed by a professional with appropriate subject matter expertise, as required by law (HRS § 431:10A-118.3 (insurers), HRS § 432D-26.3 (HMOs), and
   (3) Advocate with medical organizations to increase access to specific medical procedures
   1. Public Testimony

L. Update on conducting outreach to māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ community members who are willing to share their experiences encountering barriers to obtaining gender-affirming care including surgery
   1. Request to the Insurance Commissioner to craft and do a training for the māhū, transgender, queer, gender nonconforming and intersex community members on how to file a complaint when they have been denied insurance coverage for gender-affirming care including surgery.
   2. Community partner with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) protections to gather experiences for those that have been denied insurance coverage for gender-affirming care including surgery.
   3. Public Testimony

VIII. New Business

A. None

IX. Future Meeting Topics or Speakers

A. Discussion on inviting government and Non-Government Organization to present to the Commission

1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

X. Announcements - Note: Any item brought up during this session not agendized below cannot be discussed or debated - for informational purposes only.

A. Commissioners
B. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)

XI. Adjournment

A. Discussion
B. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
C. Vote on Adjournment

Future 2026 Commission meeting dates:
October 12th, November 9th, and December 14th

Board Packet: Click here for the folder where the Board Packet will be placed a minimum of 3 business days before the meeting

Additional meeting information:
Written and oral testimony will be accepted. Written testimony must be received by September 11, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. to be included in the board packet. Written testimony received after that time will be distributed to the Commissioners at the meeting.

Written testimony may be submitted as follows:
By email: hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com
By postal mail: Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission
c/o The Department of Human Services
PO Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

- Written testimony should include the words "Public Testimony" with the agenda item number and description in the subject line to aid the Commission in reviewing the testimony.
- Written testimony submitted to the Commission will be treated as a public record, and any contact information contained therein will be available for public inspection and copying.

Request for auxiliary aids: If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Hanne Bulagay at hbulagay@dhs.hawaii.gov or call (808) 586-4887 as soon as possible, preferably by **September 9, 2026.** Requests made as early as possible will be more likely to be fulfilled.

Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.