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

Agenda: October 12, 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. Char Sinclair (she/her) - *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. Tara O’Neill, Professor, STEMS^2 and Science Education
   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. September 14, 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 **October 9, 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 (5-10 minutes)

A. Introduction of newly appointed Hawai'i County Commissioner - Char Sinclair

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. Update from the City and County of Honolulu's 38th Annual Talk Story Festival – "Out is Paradise"
   2. Update from the 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. Motion to approve collaborating with the State of Hawai'i's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to update the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's policies regarding the māhū, transgender, intersex, and gender expansive individuals under their prevue to include but not limited to inmates, and detainees.
   1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
   2. Vote

C. Discuss Medicaid changes to federal funding for gender affirming care for youth. Updates regarding steps already taken.
   1. Discuss on strategies or options to mitigate loss of care and improve access, including encouraging the state to fund.
   2. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
   3. Vote

D. Review the letter sent to State of Hawai'i's Attorney General Anne Lopez requesting guidance related to strategies to encourage insurance companies to more closely follow statutes related to denials of services related to Gender Affirming Care. (See Board Packet)
    1. Motion to approve 'after the fact' the letter sent to AG Lopez.
    2. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
    3. Vote
    4. Discussion on additional measures to may be taken to encourage insurance companies to more closely follow statutes related to denials of services related to Gender Affirming Care.
    5. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
    6. Vote
E. Discussion on adopting the proposed Commission's 'Culture of Practice Statement' (See Board Packet)
    1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
    2. Vote

VII. Updates on Ongoing Business

A. Update from Kona Pride: Sept. 19th
    1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
B. Upcoming 2026 Pride Event: Honolulu Pride: Oct. 17th
    1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
C. Update on H3RC Youth Pride: Rainbow Prom Hawai'i 2026 that has been rescheduled to November 22, 2026 at the Capitol Modern- Free for students 14 – 20 years old
    1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
D. Commission's website - https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/
    1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
E. Addressing the needs of our community's kūpuna, especially māhū, trans, non-binary, and intersex.
    1. Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
F. Hawai'i Coalition for Civil Rights
    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 driver's licenses and State IDs.
    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. Addressing the state of Hawai‘i’s youth suicide crisis
10. Modernization of state requirements and allowances for telehealth
11. 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 (allow 1 minute)

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. Update on the 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. Update on the campaign to announce the 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 (allow 1 minute)

M. Attendees for 2027 Creating Change – January 27–31, 2027 in Louisville, KY
    1. Public Testimony

VIII. New Business (Not requiring action)

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:
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. If the link does not work go to: https://bit.ly/HIStateLGBTQBoardPacket

Additional meeting information:
Written and oral testimony will be accepted. Written testimony must be received by October 9, 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 **October 7, 2026.** Requests made as early as possible will be more likely to be fulfilled.

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