



Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission

January Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2025

Time: 2:30 p.m.

In-person meeting location:

1390 Miller Street

2nd Floor Conference Rooms 1 & 2

Honolulu, HI 96813

RECORDED MEETING LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0e2tj7s5OU>

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 2:33 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL (0:00:36)

Commissioners Present

1. Chair Kathleen O'Dell, PhD (she/her) – in person
2. Vice Chair Michael Golojuch Jr. (he/him) – in person
3. Secretary Philip Steinbacher (he/him) – via Zoom
4. Finance Director Shanda Brack (she/her) – via Zoom
5. Sandy Harjo-Livingston, PhD (he/him/they/them) – via Zoom
6. Joe Tolbe (he/him) – via Zoom
7. Joseph "Rocco" Vick (he/him) – via Zoom
8. Richard Velasquez (he/him/his) – via Zoom

Ex-Officio(s) or designees Present

1. Superintendent of Education designee Beth Schimmelfennig, Director of the Department of Education, Civil Rights Compliance Office
2. Director of Human Resources Development designee Signe Nakamura-Dureza
3. Director of Human Services designee Kristen Takushi, Cross-Enrollment Coordinator
4. Director of Health designee Thaddeus Pham (he/him), MPH, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, Harm Reduction Services Branch

Ex-Officio(s) or designees Absent

1. President of the University of Hawai'i System designee Dr. Camaron Miyamoto, Director, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer+ (LGBTQ+) Center, UH Mānoa (he/him/his)
2. Director of Labor and Industrial Relations designee David Rodriguez

II. ONGOING BUSINESS AND UPDATES

1. Commissioner shares or concerns (0:05:18)
 - Commissioner Golojuch highlighted items from the board packet, including business cards, the GLSEN rating, Federal government and Title IX, the Victory Empowerment Fellowship, procedures for Commission travel, and the upcoming MLK Day Parade on O'ahu.
 - Commissioner Brack requested that Commissioners send information about travel reimbursement requests (and when reimbursement is received) in order that she can oversee the budget.
 - Commissioner Velazquez asked Commissioners to read the letter in the board packet from Rick Ramirez.
2. Discussion: Hawai'i State Harm Reduction Conference debrief (0:21:06)
 - Discussion regarding who would attend in an official capacity and what materials would be available at the Commission table. Commissioner Harjo-Livingston moved to vote to approve funding for a banner, Commissioner Velasquez seconded. All commissioners present voted in favor.
3. The agenda has no item 3.
4. Update on hiring the Administrative Assistant II position (0:30:13)
 - Commissioner Golojuch shared that an Administrative Assistant has been hired.
5. Update on Commission Legislative Policies for 2025 Legislative Session (0:31:22)
 - Commissioners Brack, Golojuch, Harjo-Livingston, O'Dell, and Velasquez presented brief updates of the current status of their respective legislative issues as listed in the board packet.
6. Discussion on the Creating Change Conference in Las Vegas in late January (0:43:26)
 - Commissioners Golojuch and Velasquez will be attending the conference and shared information about various sessions they will be attending while there. Commissioners are encouraged to make suggestions as to which sessions might be beneficial to the Commission.
7. Update on Resources for Commission website (0:53:07)
 - Commissioner Steinbacher shared an update on the resource list being generated via Google form for the Commission website. Commissioners are encouraged to share information about resources to include. A pdf will be created and made available on the website. It was suggested that information about the various Pride events across the state be shared as well.
8. Update on letter to the governor requesting an Executive Order from Governor Green to turn Hawai'i into a sanctuary state for gender affirming care (1:05:37)
 - The governor did respond to the Commission's letter; Commissioner Golojuch would like a more specific and personal response.
9. Discussion of expectations from each Commissioner (1:09:45)
 - Commissioners shared their individual expectations regarding their membership on the Commission.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Vote: Draft a letter regarding the anti-LGBTQ+ policies for students at Maui Preparatory Academy (1:32:35)
 - Discussion regarding the letter and where specifically it should be sent.. Commissioner Golojuch made a movement to vote to write and send the letter; Commissioner Brack seconded the movement. Eight yes votes.
2. Discussion and Vote: Policy on how to address urgent LGBTQ+ issues in real time (1:50:10)
 - Commissioners discussed; decision was made to table further discussion after Erin Lau has had time to review the proposed policy. Commissioner Golojuch made a movement to table the discussion; Commissioner Steinbacher seconded the movement.
3. Discussion: Inviting Governor Josh Green to attend a Commission meeting (02:01:06)
 - Tabled till next meeting
4. Discussion: Accepting private funding
 - Tabled till next meeting
5. Discussion: Creating a Commission Mission Statement
 - Tabled till next meeting

IV. ADJOURNMENT (02:02:19) – A motion was made by Commissioner Golojuch to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Vick. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.