



Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission

December Meeting Minutes

Date: December 16, 2024

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 2:35 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

1. Chair Kathleen O'Dell, PhD (she/her) – via Zoom
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. Joseph "Rocco" Vick (he/him) – via Zoom
7. Richard Velasquez (he/him/his) – via Zoom

Commissioners Not Present

1. Joe Tolbe (he/him)

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 (0:08:30)
 - Commissioner Brack shared concerns over the recent Maui Preparatory Academy's anti-trans policy and federal National Defense Authorization Act, which would bar health-related health care.
 - Commissioner Golojuch shared concerns regarding Maui Preparatory Academy's anti-trans policy and made a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion about this and issue a statement. A vote was taken regarding amending the agenda but the motion did not pass. Commissioner Golojuch also stated the need for the development of policies for addressing issues in real time.
 - Commissioner Steinbacher posed questions about travel reimbursement.
2. Discussion: Hawai'i State Harm Reduction Conference (0:27:40)
 - 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 (0:49:16)
 - Commissioner O'Dell updated the commission and stated that Kristen Takushi would be interviewing 3-4 applicants in January.
5. Update on National Governors Association Policy Academy to Drive Thriving Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey (0:49:50)
 - Commissioner Velasquez presented an update.
6. Update on the Commission Legislative Policies for 2025 Legislative Session (0:51:05)
 - 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.
7. Update on Required Report to the Governor and Legislature for 2024 (0:59:12)
 - Commissioner Golojuch shared a draft of a letter in the board packet. Commissioner Harjo-Livingston made a motion to approve the report with minor amendments; Commissioner Velasquez seconded the motion. All commissioners in attendance voted in favor.
8. Debrief of National LGBTQIA+ Conference (1:08:35)
 - Commissioner Golojuch shared insights from the Conference in the board packet and elaborated on these.
9. Review and Vote: Logo Use Policy (1:18:17)
 - Commissioner Steinbacher drafted a logo use policy, shared in the board packet. Commissioner Brack moved to vote on approving the policy with one small amendment; Commissioner Velasquez seconded. All Commissioners present voted in favor.
10. Vote: Commission Logo Tagline (1:22:55)
 - Commissioner Golojuch made a motion to vote on the approval of "Advocating for the Hawai'i

LGBTQIA+ community” as the commission's tagline. Commissioner Velasquez seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in favor.

11. Discussion and Vote: Including a list of resources on Commission website (1:28:08)

- Commissioner Golojuch made a motion to vote including a resource list on the website. Commissioner Harjo-Livingston seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in favor.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Vote: Commission Legislative Policy to deal with testimony to the legislature (1:33:35)

- Commissioner Golojuch prepared a testimony submission policy (in board packet), which commissioners discussed. Commissioner Brack made a movement to vote to approve the policy; Commissioner Golojuch seconded the movement. Six yes votes, one abstention.

2. Dates and topics for 2025 meetings (1:41:40)

- Commissioners discussed and agreed upon meeting dates, locations, and topics for 2025 meetings.

3. Discussion: Creating Change Conference in Las Vegas, January 22-26, 2025 (1:46:35)

- Commissioners discussed and agreed that Commissioners Golojuch and Velasquez would attend, funding to be provided by the commission.

4. Discussion and Vote: Letter regarding an Executive Order from Governor Green identifying Hawai'i as a sanctuary state for gender affirming care (1:56:04)

- Commissioner Golojuch prepared a draft letter (in board packet) to Governor Green, which commissioners discussed. Commissioner Harjo-Livingston made a movement to vote to approve the letter; Commissioner Velasquez seconded the movement. All commissioners present voted in favor.

IV. ADJOURNMENT – A motion was made by Commissioner Harjo-Livingston to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Golojuch. The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.