
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new chapter to title 20 to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "CHAPTER

5 HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS

6 COMMISSION

7 § -1 **Findings and purpose.** The legislature finds that
8 there is a need to establish a body to improve the State's
9 interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual,
10 transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and
11 long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an
12 effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the
13 equity of this population in all aspects of state government.
14 The legislature further finds that establishing a program to
15 enable a better understanding of the risks and challenges,
16 including suicide, bullying, and ostracization, that the



1 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community face
2 will support better prevention and intervention strategies to
3 help this population.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this chapter is to provide for
5 a statewide program, on a permanent and continuing basis, on the
6 status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus
7 people in Hawaii.

8 § -2 **Definitions.** For purposes of this chapter:

9 "Commission" means the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual,
10 transgender, queer, plus commission.

11 "County committee" means each committee on the status of
12 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs as
13 appointed by the mayor of each respective county in accordance
14 with this chapter.

15 "Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus" includes
16 any individual who identifies as a member of the lesbian, gay,
17 bisexual, transgender, or queer community, or any individual who
18 identifies as a member of a sexual or gender minority, including
19 intersex, asexual, or pansexual individuals.

20 § -3 **Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,**
21 **queer, plus commission; membership.** (a) There is established



1 the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer,
2 plus commission for a special purpose within the department of
3 human services for administrative purposes.

4 (b) The commission shall consist of the following:

5 (1) Ex officio, nonvoting members or their designees,
6 including the:

7 (A) Superintendent of education;

8 (B) President of the University of Hawaii system;

9 (C) Director of labor and industrial relations;

10 (D) Director of human resources development;

11 (E) Director of human services; and

12 (F) Director of health; and

13 (2) Seven voting members who shall be appointed by the
14 governor in accordance with section 26-34; provided
15 that of these seven members:

16 (A) One member shall be from the county of Hawaii;

17 (B) One member shall be from the county of Kauai;

18 (C) One member shall be from the county of Maui; and

19 (D) Four members shall be from the city and county of
20 Honolulu.



1 (c) The governor shall appoint members of the commission
2 on the basis of their interest and knowledge in, and their
3 ability to make contributions to, the solution of problems
4 relating to the status of the lesbian, gay, bisexual,
5 transgender, queer, plus community.

6 (d) A chairperson of the commission shall be elected
7 annually from the seven appointed members of the commission. A
8 quorum to do business or validate any act of the commission
9 shall consist of a majority of the seven appointed members of
10 the commission.

11 § -4 **Compensation.** The members of the commission shall
12 serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses,
13 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
14 their duties.

15 § -5 **Executive director.** The commission shall appoint
16 an executive director for the proper administration and
17 enforcement of this chapter. The executive director shall be
18 appointed without regard to chapter 76.

19 § -6 **Powers and duties of the commission.** The
20 commission shall:



- 1 (1) Act as a central clearinghouse and coordinating body
2 for governmental and nongovernmental activities and
3 information relating to the status of the lesbian,
4 gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community in
5 the State;
- 6 (2) Create public awareness and understanding of the
7 responsibilities, needs, potentials, and contributions
8 of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer,
9 plus community and their roles in the changing
10 society;
- 11 (3) Recommend legislative and administrative action on
12 equal treatment and opportunities for members of the
13 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus
14 community;
- 15 (4) Promote the diversity of cultural expressions of
16 persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities,
17 gender expressions, and sex characteristics and ensure
18 the recognition of culturally based sexual and gender
19 identities specific to Hawaii, such as mahu and
20 aikane;



- 1 (5) Encourage a long-range program of education of members
2 of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer,
3 plus community in their political rights and
4 responsibilities, particularly with respect to their
5 voting duties;
- 6 (6) Maintain contacts with appropriate federal, state,
7 local, and international agencies concerned with the
8 status of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,
9 queer, plus community;
- 10 (7) Cooperate and collaborate with national groups on the
11 status of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,
12 queer, plus community and arrange for participation by
13 representatives of the State in White House
14 conferences and other national conferences;
- 15 (8) Administer funds allocated for the commission's work,
16 including accepting, disbursing, and allocating funds
17 that may become available from other governmental and
18 private sources; provided that all funds shall be
19 disbursed or allocated in compliance with any specific
20 designation stated by the donor; provided further that
21 in the absence of any specific designation, the funds



1 shall be disbursed or allocated to projects related to
2 any of the purposes of this chapter; and

3 (9) Submit to the governor and legislature an annual
4 report with recommendations.

5 § -7 **County committees on lesbian, gay, bisexual,**
6 **transgender, queer, plus affairs; membership; organization.** (a)

7 The mayor of each county may appoint a county committee on the
8 status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus
9 affairs. Each county committee may be charged with:

10 (1) The duty and responsibility of developing information
11 as the commission requires or as the county committee
12 deems advisable concerning the status of the members
13 of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer,
14 plus community within the respective counties; and

15 (2) Any other appropriate duties and responsibilities as
16 may be deemed necessary by the respective counties.

17 (b) The county committees may submit to the commission
18 plans and proposals affecting the status of members of the
19 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community in
20 the respective counties.



1 (c) Each county committee may endeavor to secure the
2 widest possible citizen participation in its efforts and, for
3 this purpose, use existing public or private organizations.
4 Each county committee may include the county attorney or
5 corporation counsel and the county representative of the
6 commission as ex officio members. The other members may be
7 selected on the basis of their interest and knowledge in, and
8 their ability to make contributions to, the solution of problems
9 relating to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus
10 community within the respective county and their knowledge of
11 local conditions. The chairperson of each county committee may
12 be elected annually from the nongovernmental members of the
13 county committee. The terms of office of each member may be
14 four years. Each county committee may meet at least four times
15 a year. The members of the county committees shall not receive
16 compensation for their services. The county legislative bodies
17 shall be authorized to make appropriations to meet the necessary
18 expenses of their respective committees."

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for



H.B. NO. 1576

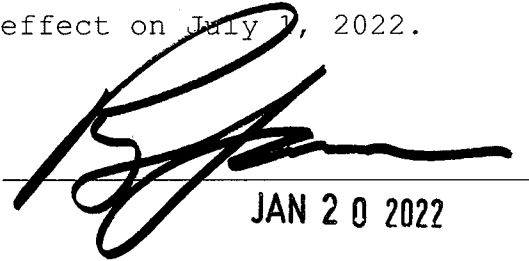
1 the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer,
2 plus commission and to carry out the purposes of this Act.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 human services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
6 provided that section 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

7

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 20 2022



H.B. NO. 1576

Report Title:

Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission; County Committees; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus commission. Permits each county mayor to appoint a county committee on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs. Appropriates funds.

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