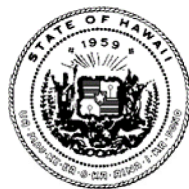


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



DEPT. COMM. NO. 474

RYAN I. YAMANE  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

August 7, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker  
and Members of the House of  
Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

Enclosed is the Annual Report of the Lesbian, Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission submitted in accordance with section 369-5(8), Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS).

Per section 93-16, HRS, this report will be available to review electronically at the Department's website, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>. For questions regarding this report, contact Michael Golojuch, Jr., Vice-Chair of the Hawaii State LGBTQ+ Commission, at [mgolojuchjr@gmail.com](mailto:mgolojuchjr@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Yamane".

Ryan I. Yamane  
Director

Enclosure

c: Governor's Office  
Lieutenant Governor's Office  
Department of Budget and Finance  
Legislative Auditor  
Legislative Reference Bureau Library (1 hard copy)  
Hawaii State Public Library, System State Publications Distribution Center (2 hard copies, one electronic copy)  
Hamilton Library, Serials Department, University of Hawaii (1 hard copy)

**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2025**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
SECTION 369-5(8), HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, ON THE  
HAWAI'I STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER PLUS  
COMMISSION**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
Hawai'i State  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission  
August 2025**



**Annual Report  
July 2025  
Hawai'i State  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus  
Commission  
(HI LGBTQ+ Commission)**

Prepared by:

HI LGBTQ+ Commission Vice-Chair Michael Golojuch, Jr., and  
Administrative Assistant Devyn Goo

Submitted to:

Governor Josh Green, Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke, and the Hawai'i State Legislature

## 1. Introduction

The Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission (HI LGBTQ+ Commission) was established by the 2022 Hawai'i State Legislature via [Senate Bill 2670, SLH 2022 – Act 41](#), with the following guiding purpose:

“...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.” ([HRS 369](#))

Commission Mission Statement:

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission is dedicated to advancing equity, inclusion, and opportunity for the Māhū, LGBTQIA+/MVPFAFF+ community, connecting their voices and the Hawai'i State government. We serve as a vehicle for collaboration, advocacy, and education, promoting public awareness and policy change to ensure equal rights. Through civic engagement and partnerships at all levels, we strive to create a more just and inclusive Hawai'i for all.

The HI LGBTQ+ Commission is composed of fourteen (14) members:

Eight (8) voting commissioners: four (4) representing the City and County of Honolulu, one (1) each representing the counties of Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i, and one (1) representing the Hawai'i Sexual & Gender Minority (SGM) Working Group of the State of Hawai'i's Department of Health. Six (6) ex-officio (non-voting) members representing the University of Hawai'i System, and Hawai'i State's Departments of: Education; Labor and Industrial Relations; Human Resources Development; Human Services; and Health.

Governor Josh Green appointed all eight (8) voting commissioners in 2024, and the State Senate approved their appointments by May 1, 2024. Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke performed their swearing-in ceremony on June 28, 2024, the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. The Stonewall Uprising gave birth to the modern fight for justice and equal rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, bigender, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, agender, gender-queer, gender non-conforming, and more (LGBTQIA+) community.

The Officers and Commissioners:

- Kathleen O'Dell, PhD (she/her) – Chair (C&C Honolulu)
- Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him) – Vice Chair (C&C Honolulu)
- Philip Steinbacher (he/him) – Secretary (Kaua'i County)
- Shanda Brack (she/her) – Finance Director (SGM Working Group)
- Sandy Harjo-Livingston, PhD (he/him/they/them) – Member (C&C Honolulu)
- Joe Tolbe (he/him) – Member (Maui County)
- Richard Velasquez (he/him) – Member (C&C Honolulu)
- Joseph “Rocco” Vick (he/him) – Member (Hawai'i County)

Ex-officio Members:

- Superintendent of Education designee Beth Schimmelfennig, Director of the Department of Education, Civil Rights Compliance Office
- President of the University of Hawai'i System designee Camaron Miyamoto, PhD., Director, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer+ Center, UH Mānoa (he/him)
- Director of Labor and Industrial Relations designee David Rodriguez
- Director of Human Resources Development designee Signe Nakamura-Dureza
- Director of Human Services (DHS) designee Jonathan Kimura, Executive Specialist
- Director of Health designee Thaddeus Pham (he/him), MPH, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, Harm Reduction Services Branch

Staff:

- Devyn Goo, Office Assistant (DHS) [also supports the Commission on Fatherhood]
- Erin Lau, Deputy Attorney General (AG)

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- Shaun Joaquin, Webmaster (DHS)
- Amanda Stevens, Public Information Officer (DHS)

The Commissioners would like to extend their deepest gratitude to everyone at DHS for their support in helping establish the HI LGBTQ+ Commission and making history over the past 12 months. From Director Ryan Yamane to Malia Taum-Deenik, Shaun Joaquin, Amanda Stevens, and especially Kristen Takushi. The HI LGBTQ+ Commission would not have been able to do anything without their instrumental support.

## 2. Overview of 2024 (July – December 2024)

The HI LGBTQ+ Commission held its first meeting on July 30, 2024, at 'Olelo headquarters and has met monthly since then using a hybrid format. The physical location is the Department of Human Services Director's Conference Room, located at 1390 Miller Street, 2nd Floor, Conference Rooms 1 & 2, Honolulu, HI 96813. Meetings are conducted using the Zoom platform.

At their first meeting, the Commission got off to a strong start by endorsing Constitutional Amendment Question 1 (Con Am #1), which removed discriminatory language from the Hawai'i State Constitution's Bill of Rights. Con Am #1 passed at the General Election on November 5, 2024, by 51.3% - 'YES' votes. The other votes were 40.4% - 'No', 7.3% - blank, and 0.4% - 'over'.

The Commission's logo was designed by Gabrielle Huliganga, a student from the University of Hawai'i, who was recruited by UH ex officio designee Camaron Miyamoto, PhD. The foreground of the logo features the eight main Hawaiian islands, while the background of the logo is Gabrielle Huliganga's interpretation of the Intersex Inclusive Progressive Pride Flag.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RVK1cMwv8MOGfU3BW0Aw8wkczt\\_EfNY/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RVK1cMwv8MOGfU3BW0Aw8wkczt_EfNY/view?usp=sharing)

With the assistance of DHS staff, the Commission has a webpage and will be building it out to help bridge the gap between Hawai'i's LGBTQIA+/ MVPFAFF+1 community and the State government, as well as be a resource for services and support.

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/>

The HI LGBTQ+ Commission has established social media accounts on the following platforms:

- Facebook /hawaiiistatelgbtqpluscommission
- Instagram @hawaiiistatelgbtqpluscommission
- Threads @hawaiiistatelgbtqpluscommission
- YouTube: @HawaiiStateLGBTQPlusCommission (recordings of the Commission meetings are stored)

Before establishing these social media accounts, the HI LGBTQ+ Commission drafted and approved a Social Media Comment Policy and a Posting Policy. The platforms are managed by Vice-Chair Michael Golojuch, Jr. All Commission's policies are available to the public and can be found in a Google folder.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12TGptAvBJnJ5EM2uQTTqTLfy\\_HB088K?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12TGptAvBJnJ5EM2uQTTqTLfy_HB088K?usp=sharing)

The HI LGBTQ+ Commission has established an online form for members of the public to easily request Commission meeting notices. <https://forms.gle/M6hSetJMTxyDZWYf8> The public can also make the request by emailing the Commission at:

[hawaiiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com)

The HI LGBTQ+ Commission provided assistance to help recruit applicants for the Administrative Assistant II position, which they shared with the Hawai'i State Fatherhood Commission. This was achieved using the Commission's social media accounts and the Commissioners sending out the announcement to their networks.

The HI LGBTQ+ Commission created a Community Resource Guide for local queer and allied organizations. The guide is updated as needed throughout the year.

<https://bit.ly/HILGBTQplusComResourceGuide>

The HI LGBTQ+ Commissioners' first public (non-meeting) appearance was on October 1, 2024, at the City and County of Honolulu Mayor Blangiardi's October Pride Flag raising ceremony and Proclamation Ceremony declaring the Rainbow Shower Tree (*Cassia x nealiae* 'Wilhelmina Tenney') as the Official Pride Tree for the City and County of Honolulu. An informational plaque was unveiled at the base of a Rainbow Shower Tree outside the Frank F. Fasi Municipal Building, thanks to the *Lei Pua 'Ala Queer Histories of Hawai'i* project, an O'ahu-based LGBTQIA+ group that has also installed informative plaques at the former site of the "Glade Show Club" in Chinatown and at the Healer Stones of Kapaemahu in Waikīkī. Secretary Steinbacher and Commissioner Tolbe traveled to Honolulu for this event, where Chair O'Dell, Vice Chair Golojuch, Commissioners Harjo-Livingston, and Velasquez joined them. This appearance for the Commissioners was made possible thanks to the invitation from Honolulu's Mayor, the Honorable Rick Blangiardi.

On October 19, 2024, the HI LGBTQ+ Commissioners participated in their first Pride Parade as a commission. The Commissioners marched in the 2024 Honolulu Pride Parade, produced by *Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation*. Secretary Steinbacher and Commissioner Vick traveled to Honolulu to participate. Their unit and interview of Chair O'Dell can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/ZNh5ekHHeM0?si=B-YvOJyVe0kDkJd&t=6624>.

On November 8, 2024, Chair O'Dell and Vice-Chair Golojuch attended an informal election debriefing Zoom meeting with Executive Directors of LGBTQ+ State Commissions from Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Washington. This group usually meets every month and has representatives from the other statewide LGBTQ+ Commissions – Michigan, Minnesota, and New Jersey. They found the HI LGBTQ+ Commission through the Commission's social media platforms.

Vice-Chair Golojuch attended the 2024 International LGBTQ+ Leaders Conference produced by the *LGBTQ+ Victory Institute* in Washington, DC, from December 5 – 7, 2024. At the conference, Vice-Chair Golojuch attended breakout sessions covering collaborative strategies for LGBTQ+ advocates, how to prepare for the coming attacks from the new Federal administration, building youth online safety legislation that supports LGBTQ+ teens, and a workshop for researchers, activists, and civil society. The conference held plenaries on the Intersex community (advocating and knowing their needs); looking forward after the 2024 elections; the future of artificial intelligence in advocacy and campaigns; being an LGBTQ+ advocate in Latin America and the Caribbean; and increasing support for Black, out LGBTQ+/SGL (Same Gender Loving) candidates and their issues. Vice-Chair Golojuch was able to start building relationships with other advocates and elected LGBTQIA+ officials. As well as share what Hawai'i is doing right for Hawai'i's LGBTQIA+/ MVPFAFF+ communities.

### **3. Overview of 2025 (January – June 2025)**

HI LGBTQ+ Commission was a Silver Sponsor for the 2025 Hawai'i State Harm Reduction Conference, themed "Rainbow Resilience", produced by the Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center. The event explored how to reduce harms and amplify resilience for Hawai'i's Māhū, LGBTQIA+, Transgender, QTPI+<sup>2</sup> communities. Breakout sessions unpacked the complexities faced by individuals and communities as they push for social change, especially at the intersection of health, wellness, advocacy, empowerment, and resilience. The conference was held on Friday, January 10, 2025, at the University of Hawai'i's Mānoa Campus in the Campus Center. For more information, go to: <https://www.hhhrc.org/hshrc>. This was the Commission's first tabling opportunity. Secretary Steinbacher and Commissioner Vick traveled to Honolulu to participate, where they joined Chair O'Dell, Finance Director Brack, and Commissioner Velasquez.

Vice-Chair Golojuch and Commissioner Velasquez attended the international 2025 Creating Change Conference in Las Vegas, NV, from January 22- 26, 2025.

Vice Chair Michael Golojuch, Jr.'s (he/him) summary: By volunteering two shifts, he saved the Commission \$650 in registration fees and gained early access to organizers and attendees.

Key takeaways include:

- **Accessibility & Technology:** The conference emphasized accessibility through ASL, interpretation, scholarships, and meal assistance. The PheedLoop app and printed materials helped navigate the extensive schedule.
- **Workshops & Institutes:** Sessions covered queer multiracial identity, labor organizing, post-election advocacy, sex work decriminalization, DEIA (diversity, equity, inclusion, and access) backlash, and legal strategies to protect rights.
- **Plenaries & Special Events:** Highlights included a powerful Indigenous land recognition, union-focused organizing, and networking at social events like the Pride at Work Caucus and House Ball.
- **Strategic Engagement:** Participated in a funders' gathering, identifying the possible need for a nonprofit arm of the Commission to pursue external funding opportunities.
- **Networking & Future Plans:** Reconnected with national contacts and plans to submit presentation proposals for the 2026 conference in Washington, D.C.

Overall, the conference was a valuable opportunity for learning, advocacy, and strengthening national networks to support Māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ communities in Hawai'i.

Commissioner Rick Velasquez's (he/him) summary: The *Creating Change* conference brought together LGBTQIA+ advocates from across the U.S. and internationally, responding to escalating anti-DEI policies. The event emphasized inclusion, accessibility, and community resilience.

#### Key Highlights:

- **Orientation & Accessibility:**  
First-time attendees were welcomed with a focus on creating safe, supportive spaces. The conference provided ASL interpreters, mobility scooters, and on-site mental health support.
- **Racial Justice Institutes (Jan 22):**  
Sessions like the Pasifika and Latinx Institutes focused on community storytelling and cultural healing. The Latinx track offered real-time translation, and discussions included police violence and support for transgender sex workers.
- **Intergenerational Programming (Jan 23):**  
Programs from Puerto Rico, Maine, and Las Vegas highlighted youth-elder engagement, LGBTQ centers, and creative arts therapy as models for Hawai'i to consider.
- **LGBTQ+ Aging & Mental Health (Jan 24):**  
Research revealed high rates of isolation and past trauma among LGBTQ+ elders. Sessions stressed the need for legal end-of-life planning and culturally informed care.
- **Advocacy & Strategy (Jan 25):**  
Workshops covered building coalitions, policy change, and creating sanctuary cities. A session on "Queering Hospice" reinforced the need for legal protections.

#### Takeaways for Hawai'i:

Programs focused on intergenerational connection, mental health, and localized support centers could be adapted locally. The conference reinforced the urgency of strategic advocacy and community care in the face of national rollbacks.

Their complete reports can be found in the Commission's February Board Packet:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uAUj9Y2MQBE6BEYikH-BHeQADxRsOrf/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uAUj9Y2MQBE6BEYikH-BHeQADxRsOrf/view?usp=share_link)

At the February 10, 2025, meeting, the Commission began the conversation that would lead to the creation of **Queer Leaders Quarterly Meeting**. Leading this project are Commissioner Harjo-Livingston and ex officio Camaron Miyamoto, PhD. The inaugural queer leaders meeting was held on March 27, 2025. The meeting was hosted by the *Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation* in their Waikīkī office. There were representatives from 17 different queer and allied organizations.



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The second meeting was held on June 12, 2025, and Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center hosted it at their Ka'akako headquarters with a Zoom option. There were 23 queer and allied organizations in attendance from 2 counties.

At the June 9, 2025, Commission meeting to help give the gathering a branding, the Commission voted to call these gatherings: *Rainbow Pau Hana – Queer Leadership Gathering*. To assist in connecting organizations across the Aloha State, all future meetings will have the Zoom option. These have proven to be so popular that organizations have stepped up to host them into mid-2026.

At the March 10, 2025, meeting, the Commission voted to host the inaugural **Queer Days at the Capitol** with Vice Chair Golojuch leading the project. The historic event took place on Thursday, April 17, 2025, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Hawaii State Capitol.

- Over 75 different organizations and businesses were invited directly, with a call for exhibitors made on all the Commission's social media channels.
- There were 31 confirmed exhibitors representing three counties, with 29 exhibitors showing up.
- There was a digital directory of the exhibitors that included for each exhibitor a short description, website &/or social media, primary focus, and area(s) they serve.
- The link to the guide was posted to our social media channels and in the Facebook event. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/QueerDayAtTheCapitol>
- Rainbow Family 808 and Devyn Goo made the decorating of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor possible.
- All decorations were on loan from Vice Chair Golojuch (he/him)
- Commission sent out a "Mahalo" email to all the exhibitors with a survey. Out of the 28 emails sent out, the Commission received 22 responses. (See results in May Board Packet)
- Commission asked exhibitors to share photos if they were willing to do so, and a photo album was created on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1YSNthN2ZT/?>
- Cost of the event: Rental: Tables (30), Chairs (40) \$853.11, plus 3 parking passes: \$12 = \$865.11

A full recap of the event can be found in the Board Packet for the Commission's May meeting. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PHX0DCPJk7ZEznfKhcebSdhnC5Qn7UzZ/view?usp=sharing>.

On Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31, 2025, the Commission had a table at the event produced by Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center. Finance Director Shanda Brack led the tabling effort.

To help highlight and kick off the **2025 Pride Month**, the Commission voted at the April 14, 2025, meeting to request a proclamation from Governor Josh Green declaring June as Pride Month. Governor Green granted the request. After submitting the request Vice Chair Golojuch reached out to Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson of *Lei Pua 'Ala Queer Histories of Hawai'i* to request them to ask the Governor to grant permission to raise Pride flags on the eight (8) auxiliary flag poles lining Beretania Street in front of the Hawai'i State Capitol, for the first time in Hawai'i State history. Governor Green granted this request as well.

*Lei Pua 'Ala Queer Histories of Hawai'i* led the **2025 Hawaii State Capitol Pride Flag Display** in collaboration with the Commission. Vice Chair Golojuch was the lead for the Commission on the project. *Lei Pua 'Ala* agreed to cover the cost for the eight (8) - 6' x 4' Intersex Inclusive Progressive Pride Flags. Together, they were able to build a coalition of 39 organizations representing the Māhū, LGBTQAI+, QTPI+, and allied communities in support of the project, with representation from all four counties.

On June 2, 2025, Governor Green hosted the first **Pride Flag Raising Ceremony** at the Hawai'i State where approximately 75 people were in attendance. In support of the project, a digital flyer



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was created to recognize this historic event and educate the public. The PDF version of the flyer can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2025HIPrideFlag>. At the ceremony, Governor Green presented the Proclamation declaring June 2025 as Pride Month. Copies of the proclamation were presented at Kaua'i, Maui, and Hilo Pride celebrations. The proclamation can be viewed here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12J7TiqMLWlpcNM51wyChTQU1NrUUUmma/view?usp=sharing>

On July 1, 2025, Lei Pua'Ala *Queer Histories of Hawai'i* sent the joint Mahalo letter to Governor Green on behalf of the Commission and our coalition members.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ax7zzRiK5fR8qCvYeBeQ9jVJiMXN9Zia/view?usp=sharing>

On June 4, 2025, the Commission launched a glossary webpage that is the first of its kind for any American state government. The page is dedicated to understanding and being able to use the correct terms when talking about the rainbow community from Māhū to LGBTQIA+ to QTPI+ to MVPFAFF+ and beyond. This list is not exhaustive and will be updated as appropriate. If anyone has a word or phrase that they would like to be considered to be added to this glossary, they can submit it using this URL: <https://forms.gle/snNggtVWa6KQxEVM9>  
Glossary page: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtqiaplus-glossary/>

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission participated in the 2025 Kaua'i Pride Parade and Festival on Saturday, June 7. Commission Chair Kat O'Dell, Vice-Chair Michael Golojuch Jr, and Secretary Philip Steinbacher were in attendance. The Commission had a unit in the parade, which included a decorated car, a large banner, the three Commissioners, as well as Kaua'i youth waving flags and ribbon banners and handing out stickers to the crowd. Following the parade, the Commissioners hosted a table at the Pride Festival, where they offered visitors the opportunity to ask questions about the Commission's work, as well as provide input and feedback, and sign up for the Commission's email list. The three Commissioners also made a brief presentation on stage to share Governor Green's Pride Month Proclamation with festival attendees.

The Maui Pride festival was held on June 14th, 2025. Our Maui Commissioner, Joe Tolbe, arranged for the table, chairs, and tent for our Commission booth. Michael Golojuch, Jr., and Kat O'Dell flew over from Oahu to staff the booth and to present the Governor's proclamation on Pride month to the festival organizers. Commissioners had the opportunity to speak to LGBTQIA+ youth through kupuna as well as allies to educate the public on the purpose of the commission and to give them the opportunity to share their concerns and priorities with the commission.

Michael Golojuch, Jr., and Shanda Brack represented the Hawai'i LGBTQI+ Commission at the Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) AIDS Walk Fundraiser. They showed support for community efforts to raise awareness and funds for HIV prevention, care, and advocacy. We shared the QR code, inviting community feedback on our legislative goals.

Hawai'i Island Pride Parade and Festival took place on June 28, 2025, in downtown Hilo. Chair O'Dell, Vice Chair Golojuch, and Commissioner Velasquez flew over to join Commissioner Vick, who traveled from Kona to form the Commission's contingent in the parade and staff the booth at the festival. Commissioner Vick provided the tent, table, and chairs for the booth as well as his Jeep for the parade.

Shanda Brack attended Gender Journeys Day, an annual event organized through the collaboration of numerous local organizations and Stanford Children's Hospital's gender clinic. This day is dedicated to supporting gender expansive youth in Hawai'i, offering tailored tracks for healthcare providers, educators, and families of trans kids. The event fosters education, community connection, and access to resources that advance gender-affirming care and inclusion. By supporting this event, the Commission built trust with the community and affirmed our commitment to both trans\* youth and everyone working tirelessly to ensure Hawai'i's trans keiki and 'ōpio have the opportunity to thrive.

#### 4. Legislative Efforts for 2025

The following were the priorities that were voted on by the Commission in 2024 for the 2025 Legislative session:

- a. Pass a Gender Affirming Care protection bill (aka GAC Shield) to turn Hawai'i into a safe haven state for Gender Affirming Care. **Commission Lead: Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)**  
Bills: [HB 615/SB 1150](#)  
  
Status: SB 1150 passed HHS/CPN, but it was deferred in the joint hearing of WAM and JDC. HB 615 was not scheduled for a hearing.
- b. Expand gender markers for birth certificates. The legislature expanded them to add "X" as an option on State IDs and Driver's Licenses, now we need to complete the circle. **Commission Lead: Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)**  
Bill: [SB 947](#)  
  
Status: SB 947 was never heard.
- c. Mandate privately funded (including state and county) health insurance policies offered in Hawai'i to cover gender-affirming care procedures. **Commission Lead: Shanda Brack (she/her)**  
Bills: [HB 710/SB 1224](#)  
  
Status: Neither bills were heard.
- d. Mandate an accurate count of Hate Crimes in Hawai'i. This law turns 24 years old in 2025, and to this day, none of the police departments in the State are collecting any usable data. The only data being collected is whether the case goes to trial, then to sentencing, and only if the enhanced sentencing is used. **Commission Lead: Sandy Harjo-Livingston, PhD (they/them/he/him)**  
Bills: [HB 614/ SB 1149](#)  
  
Status: SB 1149 SD1 was deferred in JHA. HB 614 was never heard.
- e. Expand the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission from 8 voting members to 11 members. First additional spot to be reserved for a person under the age of 35, then one member to be appointed by the Senate President, and the other by the Speaker of the House. **Commission Lead: Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)**  
Bill: Bill was drafted but not introduced.
- f. Ban forced gender mutilation (formerly known as 'gender assignment surgery') on infants. About 2 in every 1,000 births, a baby is born intersex (aka with ambiguous genitalia). Meaning between 1.7 – 2% of the earth's population is intersex. Neither the doctors nor the parents should be allowed to decide the baby's gender. The baby needs to be able to mature/grow up and discover their gender. **Commission Lead: Shanda Brack (she/her)**  
Bills: [HB 612/SB 873](#)  
  
Status: HB 612 was deferred in the Health Committee, and SB 873 was never heard.
- g. Amend the surrogacy laws so queer (and straight) couples do not have to adopt their own child(ren). **Commission Lead: Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)**  
Bills: [HB 1193/ SB 1231](#)

Status: SB 1231 was the vehicle for this issue. It passed, and the Commission asked the Governor for a public signing ceremony. **The bill was signed into law on July 7, 2025, and is now Act 298.**

- h. Establish emergency/low-barrier shelters on all islands for homeless unaccompanied minors. 40% of all homeless unaccompanied minors identify as LGBTQIA+.

**Commission Lead: Richard Velasquez (he/him)**

Bills: [HB 613](#)/ [SB 1098](#)

Status: HB 613 HD1 SD1 CD1 Relating to Homeless Youth makes the Safe Spaces for Youth Program permanent in the State Office of Youth Services (which is an attached agency to the Department of Human Services). The bill will allow for funding of programs that can provide shelter for Homeless Youth statewide and appropriates the funds to start these contracts. **There was widespread community support for these programs, and the Governor signed the bill into law in a public signing ceremony on July 7, 2025, and it is now Act 297.**

- i. Pass a resolution to establish a task force to perform a complete review of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include only gender-neutral language, amending any hetero-normative terms or phrases. **Commission Lead: Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)**

Bills: [SCR 179](#)/[HCR 99](#)

Status: SCR 179 was amended to ask LRB to draft legislation to address these issues. It did pass the Senate but was never heard in the House, where it was referred to LMG and FIN. It did have an SR version - SR 149, and that passed the Senate as well. We are waiting to see if the LRB will be moving forward on this issue.

- j. Pass a resolution to establish an education requirement of teaching LGBTQIA+/MVPFAFF+ history (our achievements and contributions) in public schools K-12 and the UH system. **Commission Lead: Kathleen O'Dell, PhD (she/her)**

Status: On hold

- k. Ensure that the LGBTQIA+/MVPFAFF+ community has access to mental health care on all islands through education requirements for re-licensing of mental health professionals.

**Commission Lead: Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)**

Bills: [SB 1445](#)/ [HB 1126](#)

Status: SB 1445 passed HHS but was never heard by WAM. HB 1126 was never heard.

Other bills and resolutions that the Commission testified on:

HB 22	SB 116 – Act 259
HB 457	SB 350
HB 755	SB 799
HB 1118	SB 816
HCR 86/HR 80	SB 1225
HCR 99/HR 95	SB 1231
HCR 100/HR 96	SB 1284
HCR 107/HR 103	SB 1300 – Act 139
HCR 141/HR 135	SB 1651
HCR 179/HR 175	

In honor of Harvey Milk Day (May 22, 2025), the Commission launched a questionnaire where they asked the public to rank the Commission's 2025 legislative priorities. Those who responded were also given the opportunity to provide recommendations for future legislative and policy priorities. Executive summary from the questionnaire can be found [here](#):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sbyaiwXHTNo3Ap3nmkZiP-PbwcDvRdfK/view?usp=sharing>

## 5. Non-Legislative Recommendations

The HI LGBTQ+ Commission recommends an official onboarding program and/or guidelines for all new State Commissioners, especially for commissions without an Executive Director. This way, the commissioners know what training they need to take and what forms they need to fill out after being confirmed. They also recommend clarification from the Legislature about which Commission members need to fill out the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission – Financial Disclosure form.

## 6. Commissioner's Reports

### **Kathleen O'Dell, PhD (she/her):**

The legislative priority to pass a resolution to establish an education requirement of teaching LGBTQIA+/MVPFAFF+ history (our achievements and contributions) in public schools K-12 and the UH system has been delayed and will be proposed for the 2026 session in order to have more time to research current requirements and plan for curriculum.

However, there were actions made in supporting LGBTQIA+/MVPFAFF+ students within the HIDOE and the UH systems. A statement to encourage UHM to republish the LGBTQ+ Student Center website was made by the commission, and that website was back up soon after. A subsequent statement in support of President Hensel's actions to defend academic freedom in the face of the current federal attacks. Letters were written to the Maui Preparatory Academy denouncing their anti-transgender policies. Reports were regularly given at our monthly meetings by the HIDOE ex-officio regarding their response to new federal mandates. Finally, the commission issued a statement in unwavering support of mähū, transgender, intersex, and nonbinary athletes participating in school athletics across our islands.

A bright spot worth noting was the presentation by UHM Human Development and Family Resource students on their research regarding the lack of LGBTQIA+ content within the HIDOE sex education curriculum. This was a powerful reminder of the work that needs to be done going forward.

### **Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him):**

We all should be very proud of the work we have done in the inaugural year of the Commission. Looking at all the historic events that we helped make happen, the ones that I am most proud of are:

- Establishing the *Rainbow Pau Hana* (the quarterly Queer Leadership meetings) – has queer groups collaborating and talking that was not always happening
- Inaugural *Queer Day at the Capitol* – reminded members of the rainbow community that the State Capitol is their building
- Passage of HB 613, now Act 297 – Establishing low-barrier emergency shelters for homeless unaccompanied minors is something that I have worked on for the past 15+ years, and this bill is a big step toward meeting this goal.
- Historic Pride flags flying at the Capitol – at a time when Pride flags are being banned, we were able to assist in helping fight back against that narrative. A major tool to fighting back against discrimination is visibility, especially during these turbulent times.
- Establishing the Mähū, LGBTQIA+, QTPI+, MVPFAFF+ Inclusive Glossary – this will be a tool that will hopefully be used for years to come. Education is powerful, and this is a powerful tool.

Each one of these helps the Commission fulfill the duties found in section 369-5, HRS, and more importantly, helps strengthen our Mähū, LGBTQIA+, QTPI+, MVPFAFF+ community.

**Shanda Brack, MSN, APRN (she/her):**

In its inaugural year, the Hawaii State LGBTQ+ Commission focused on building collaborative goals, setting clear expectations for our work, and establishing partnerships with organizations across the state. These efforts strengthen our ability to serve LGBTQ+ individuals and the broader community.

As a team, we were honored by an invitation from the Honorable Mayor Blangiardi to attend the ceremonial raising of the Pride flag on October 1st. The event also celebrated the designation of the Wilhelmina Tenney Rainbow Shower Tree as Honolulu's Official Pride Tree, followed by a Blessing and unveiling of Lei Pua 'Ala's commemorative plaque.

I represented the Commission at several community events, fostering education and collaboration:

- Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction's semi-annual conference, which focused on LGBTQ+ issues
- Transgender Day of Visibility
- AIDS Walk (planned)

Many attendees I met were unaware of the Commission's existence and appreciated learning about the state's support for LGBTQ+ communities. Along with fellow members, I proudly marched in the Honolulu Pride Parade. In our monthly meetings, we listen to community concerns and share resources and events to improve lives across diverse groups.

As the Commission's liaison to the Department of Health's Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Workgroup, I regularly shared updates from the Commission and communicated feedback from the Workgroup. In my role as chair of the SGM Kupuna Committee, I've worked to broaden our collective efforts to improve the well-being of LGBTQ+ elders.

I joined a coalition of advocates urging the governor to issue an Executive Order protecting access to gender-affirming care. I also supported SB1150, collaborating with the Commission's legislative lead and partner organizations to submit testimony and advocate for the bill's continued advancement through the legislature.

As the legislative lead for HB612/SB73, which would prohibit non-consensual surgeries on intersex infants and children, I provided lawmakers with key information, testified on behalf of the Commission, and advocated for the bill's progression. Similarly, I led advocacy efforts for HB710/SB1224, working to ensure commercial insurance coverage is aligned with the Gender Affirming Treatment Act 29, passed in 2022.

In addition to these efforts, I actively supported other legislative proposals adopted as Commission priorities, contacting legislators and submitting written testimony to advance these critical measures. As a practicing Family Medicine Nurse Practitioner, I remain available to anyone in the legislature or Hawaii's government agencies to provide evidence-based information about LGBTQ+ health issues.

**Philip Steinbacher (he/him):**

As the Kaua'i representative to the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission, I have had a range of opportunities to address areas of concern and participate in events that strengthened my understanding of the needs of the LGBTQ+ population of Hawai'i. My priorities in serving as a commissioner are supporting LGBTQ+ youth in regards to personal safety and equal treatment in schools; securing protections for gender-affirming healthcare; and supporting LGBTQ+ families. I represented the Commission in the October 1, 2024, Honolulu Mayor's Pride Flag Raising ceremony, the October 2024 Pride Parade and Festival, and the January 2025 Health and Harm Reduction Conference. These opportunities have allowed me to connect with diverse members of the community and develop my understanding of their needs. I am currently in the process of sponsoring and bringing to Kaua'i the exhibition of the "Toward Queer Justice" display, curated

and produced by the Lei Pua 'Ala organization for a month-long residency. I am also organizing and overseeing the Commission's participation in the June 2025 Kaua'i Pride Parade and Festival. I am currently working on ways to increase the participation of LGBTQ+ youth and families in this Kaua'i event. Additionally, I have created a Hawai'i LGBTQ+ Resource Guide, which is posted on the Commission's website.

**Rick Velasquez (he/him):**

In researching HB 613/SB 1098, I have been able to network with different youth organizations and plan to continue volunteering with them. I am also interested in linking these youth service providers with kupuna organizations to facilitate mutually beneficial interactions between different age groups.

**Rocco Vick (he/him):** statement not available at the time of this report.

**Sandy Harjo Livingston, PhD (he/him/they/them):**

Over the last year, I have been very proud of the work we have done on the commission. We have developed a quarterly gathering that helps local community leaders and non-profits to meet with commissioners and one another to learn more about the political needs of our state and the strategies being used to communicate and drive action.

We worked on several bills to help strengthen the rights of Hawai'i's LGBTQ+ community. In particular, we are proud to have successfully helped pass legislation to protect unaccompanied youth. We have more work to do, and the next year will, hopefully, see more legislation.

On the community side, with the help of our Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island commissioners, we have reached out to our neighbor island communities to support their Pride initiatives and help them feel connected to our broader strategies to protect Hawai'i's vulnerable populations. We have also embarked on providing representation to ensure that our state's transgender students have equity and safety. In particular, we have supported Maui Prep's marginalized transgender students in an effort to protect them from discrimination and harassment. All in all, I am looking forward to 2026, and we as a commission will be able to support and strengthen our community and state.

**Joe Tolbe, Jr. (he/him):**

I've been busy with Aloha Maui Pride on Maui with Pride Month! Miss Kathleen O'Dell and Michael Golojuch Jr flew in to represent the Oahu Commissioners! We had about 3000 people who showed up to enjoy the festivities! (They even attended our NO KINGS event on Maui, too!) I also invited House Representative Miss Terez Amato, who spoke at one of our events as well! As Maui's First LGBTQ+ Commissioner, I have been involved and active in reaching out to our community here with different groups and organizations, letting them know who I am and what I can do to help in any way, especially with our Youth! I'm waiting to hear from Joe Wilson or Dean Hammer to see if they can possibly present and speak about the Documentary "Kapaemahu" here at the UH Maui Campus, or if Kumu Hina can present. I have been honored to represent Maui as its First LGBTQ+ Commissioner!

## **7. Statements from the Commission**

These are the links to statements released by the Commission to address the tempestuous times that we are all living in. The statements came from the entire Commission or from Chair O'Dell and Vice Chair Golojuch in-between meetings.

**Addressing the Continued Attacks on the Māhū, LGBTQAI+, QTPI+ Community from the Federal Government – February 20, 2025**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FuevtfvErQ4eaxbl2PTziBFSIHqxVyyt/view?usp=sharing>

**Regarding the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Response to Executive Orders Attacking Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – March 10, 2025**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10g2q4zruJblqSaXzs-L99ZgDQ7PDRMbi/view?usp=sharing>

**Support for Māhū, Transgender, Intersex, and Non-binary Athletes – April 12, 2025**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gmESSmT7BLkIVmeJBwNEK10MOqz\\_Ehoi/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gmESSmT7BLkIVmeJBwNEK10MOqz_Ehoi/view?usp=sharing)

**Support for University of Hawai'i President Wendy Hensel's Stance in Defense of Academic Freedom – April 22, 2025**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C6hW5WN7wCZb2prZKTVazXfiHt42fiVm/view?usp=sharing>

**Opposition to U.S. Supreme Court's Decision to Allow the Trump Administration's Transgender Military Ban – May 6, 2025**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_g\\_yPWJ2HTnPe4NtYDKOl3YmrJH5Oo/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_g_yPWJ2HTnPe4NtYDKOl3YmrJH5Oo/view?usp=sharing)

**Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission Condemning the Order to Rename the USNS Harvey Milk – June 3, 2025**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YJ6yOSvVd9qQ3a2FoY5eXzvaPWa-Yy7e/view?usp=sharing>

**Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission Condemning the Skrametti Ruling – June 18, 2025**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1urH\\_NXHZAmF8PY0L\\_jx0LqhzaqPPEDiSg/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1urH_NXHZAmF8PY0L_jx0LqhzaqPPEDiSg/view?usp=sharing)

**Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission responds to multiple SCOTUS decisions – June 27, 2025**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iL5KdrxWTII2W9kIdF\\_25iF9ZSpDZ\\_HZ/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iL5KdrxWTII2W9kIdF_25iF9ZSpDZ_HZ/view?usp=sharing)

## 8. Earned Media

The links to the media coverage that the Commission has generated.

**Column: Progress, but much to do for LGBTQ+ By: Chair Kathleen O'Dell and Vice Chair Golojuch, Jr. - Honolulu Star-Advertiser June 29, 2025**

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2025/06/29/editorial/island-voices/column-progress-but-much-to-do-for-lgbtq/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KkamihsbcOkIhdQIlb3auVP5mPlwgcGO/view?usp=sharing>

**Pride flags fly over state Capitol for first time to mark milestone – The Garden Island June 5, 2025**

<https://www.thegardenisland.com/2025/06/05/hawaii-news/pride-flags-fly-over-state-capitol-for-first-time-to-mark-milestone/?TGI=4d525504d5a2fcfa55fa2e8f7dc010872fbf361f>

**Pride flags fly over state Capitol for first time to mark milestone – Honolulu Star-Advertiser June 3, 2025**

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2025/06/03/hawaii-news/pride-flags-fly-over-state-capitol-for-first-time-to-mark-milestone/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15zYvce726IKJOL6DeMMwmAzuvVlxxY15/view?usp=sharing>

**Hawai'i joins Wisconsin in raising LGBT flag to ring in Pride Month – Washington Examiner, June 2, 2025**

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/entertainment/3428236/state-capitol-hawaii-pride-flag-lgbt-month/>

**Hawai'i is doing this for the first time in history. How you can see it – Yahoo! News June 2, 2025**

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/hawai-doing-first-time-history-211500174.html>



**Pride flags to fly at Hawaii State Capitol for the first time in June** – KITV Island News June 2, 2025

[https://www.kitv.com/news/local/pride-flags-to-fly-at-hawaii-state-capitol-for-the-first-time-in-june/article\\_89ab72fb-da52-4d3a-8f02-96c8608ebf77.html](https://www.kitv.com/news/local/pride-flags-to-fly-at-hawaii-state-capitol-for-the-first-time-in-june/article_89ab72fb-da52-4d3a-8f02-96c8608ebf77.html)

**Hawai'i is doing this for the first time in history. How you can see it** – KHON2 June 2, 2025

<https://www.khon2.com/local-news/hawai-i-is-doing-this-for-the-first-time-in-history-how-you-can-see-it/>

**Leading With Pride: An Interview With Kathleen O'Dell** -Honolulu Magazine May 16, 2025

<https://www.honolulumagazine.com/kathleen-odell-leading-with-pride/>

**Hawai'i LGBTQ+ Commission celebrates Queer Day at Capitol** – Hawai'i News Now April 17, 2025

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/04/18/hawaii-lgbtq-commission-celebrates-queer-day-capitol/>

**Maui Prep Policies For Transgender Students Face Legal Scrutiny** – Civil Beat April 9, 2025

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/04/maui-prep-policies-for-transgender-students-face-legal-scrutiny/>

**Transgender Students Have Strong Protections In Hawai'i. That May Not Last** – Civil Beat March 21, 2025

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/03/transgender-students-have-strong-protections-in-hawai-i-that-may-not-last/>

**Gender-affirming care bill clears Senate committees** – Spectrum February 13, 2025

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/hi/hawaii/news/2025/02/13/gender-affirming-care-bill-clears-senate-committees>

**Honolulu celebrates Pride Parade while marriage equality amendment is on the ballot** - Hawai'i Public Radio, October 21, 2025

<https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2024-10-21/honolulu-celebrates-pride-parade-marriage-equality-amendment-ballot>

**New LGBTQ+ Commission off to an active start** – Spectrum October 15, 2024

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/hi/hawaii/news/2024/10/14/new-lgbtq-commission-off-to-an-active-start>

**Issues Of Equality And Justice Are On Hawai'i's Ballot** – Civil Beat October 15, 2024

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/10/issues-of-equality-and-justice-are-on-hawaiis-ballot/>

**Gov. Green creates state's first LGBTQ+ advisory commission** - Maui Now, October 13, 2024

<https://mauinow.com/2024/10/13/gov-green-creates-states-first-lgbtq-advisory-commission/>

**Hawai'i Governor David Ige signs pro-LGBTQ+ bills** – Washington Blade June 20, 2022

<https://www.washingtonblade.com/2022/06/20/hawaii-governor-david-ige-signs-pro-lgbtq-bills/>

2022 **Hawai'i's governor signs three bills supporting LGBTQ community** – Spectrum June 16,

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/hi/hawaii/news/2022/06/16/hawaii-s-governor-signs-3-bills-supporting-lgbtq-community>

## 9. Financial Reports

# Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission

## Fiscal Report – July 2025

1. Pride Flag Raising Ceremony 10.01.24							
a. Joe Tolbe				138.03	336.84	422.38	
b. Philip Steinabcher				138.03	336.84	474.87	
2. Honolulu Pride 10.19.24							
a. Philip Steinbacher				169.21	389.55	558.76	
b. Rocco Vick(PO 1983813)				80.89	467.44	548.33	
c. Banner and Magnetic Signage				317.87		317.87	
3. Zoom Subscription							
a. Kat O'Dell (PO1983666)					167.43	167.43	
4. LGBTQ+ International Conference 12.03.24-12.08.24							
a. Michael Golojuch (PO 1983797)				1156.4	1426.78	2583.18	
5. HHRH Rainbow Resiliene Conference 01.10.25							
a. Silver Sponsorship				500		500	
b. Aiea Copy for banner Kat paid (PO 1983767)					78.53	78.53	
c. Philip Steinabcher					634.63	634.63	
6. Creating Change Conference							
a. Michael Golojuch				722.8	1445.69	2218.49	
b. Rick Velasquez (PO 01983912)					2807.69	2819.1	
7. Queer Day 04.17.25							
a. Accel Rental (table and chairs)				853.11		853.11	
b. Parking Passes				200		200	
8. Kauai Pride							
a. Michael Golojuch				180.35	20	200.35	
b. Kat O'Dell				258.85	20	278.85	
c. YWCA of Kauai Sponsorship				500		500	
9. Maui Pride							
a. Michael Golojuch				160.04	20	180.04	
b. Kat O'Dell				238.54	20	258.54	
c. Aloha Maui Pride Sponsorship				500		500	
10. Hilo Pride							
a. Michael Golojuch				153.99		153.99	
b. Kat O'Dell				266.49		266.49	
c. Rick Velasquez				153.99		153.99	
11. Owl				500		500	
13. Table cover, stickers, and banner						440.17	
12. Honolulu Pride Sponsorship				500		500	
13. Kona Pride Sponsorship				500		500	
14. Honolulu Aids Walk				25		25	
15. Gender Journey Days Sponsorship				500		500	
TOTAL:				8713.59	8171.42	17334.1	

## 10. Summary

The Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission had a very productive and historic inaugural year, from:

- 
- ◇ Assisting in flying Pride Flags at the State Capitol for the first time;
  - ◇ Co-sponsoring two (2) local conferences;
  - ◇ Commissioners attended four (4) different conferences (2 local and two international);
  - ◇ Establishing the quarterly queer leadership gathering – Rainbow Pau Hana
  - ◇ Establishing Queer Day at the Capitol;
  - ◇ Helping to pass the constitutional amendment to remove discrimination;
  - ◇ Holding a meeting every month;
  - ◇ Issuing statements in real time to address the attacks on the rainbow community;
  - ◇ Launching the first-ever state government inclusive LGBTQIA+ glossary; and
  - ◇ Participating in four different Pride celebrations in all four counties.
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Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke challenged the Commissioners at their swearing-in ceremony to set the bar high for future commission members and treat each battle as if it were their last. From this lengthy report, it is clear that the Commission has met this challenge.

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### Definitions:

#### 1. MVPFAFF+

Fakafine activist Phylesha Brown-Acton coined the acronym MVPFAFF to recognize & honor identities that don't align with the LGBTQIA+ acronym & are specific to Pasifika communities. With each having their own different & unique meanings as well as different cultural significance. Prior to Western contact, these identities were honored and embraced by their communities.

M - Māhū (Hawai'i & Tahiti)  
V - Vaka sa lewa lewa (Fiji)  
P - Palopa (Papua New Guinea)  
F - Fa'afine (Samoa)  
A - Akava'ine (Rarotonga)  
F - Fakaleitī (Tonga)  
F - Fakafine (Niue)  
+ - Fakaleiti, Rae rae, & Fafine & more

#### 2. QTPI+

The term "Queer and Trans Pacific Islanders" (QTPI) was coined during a gathering of Pacific Islander organizers from UTOPIA WA, UTOPIA PDX, and UTOPIA Eastern WA in Fresno, CA. The term is pronounced "Cutie-Pie".