
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE HAWAII REVISED STATUTES AND
RECOMMEND AMENDMENTS TO INCORPORATE GENDER-NEUTRAL
TERMINOLOGY.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is committed to fostering
2 inclusivity, equality, and respect for all individuals,
3 regardless of gender identity or expression; and
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5 WHEREAS, many existing statutes within the Hawaii Revised
6 Statutes contain binary, gendered language that may not reflect
7 the diverse identities of the State's residents; and
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9 WHEREAS, the use of gender-neutral language in legislation
10 promotes inclusivity and ensures that all individuals are
11 equally recognized and protected under state law; and
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13 WHEREAS, in 2013, the Hawaii State Legislature passed
14 marriage equality, ensuring that same-sex couples have the right
15 to marry, and the rest of the Hawaii Revised Statutes should
16 reflect this legal recognition when addressing married couples;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Hawaii State Legislature expanded
20 gender markers from the false narrative of the gender binary
21 that utilizes "F" for female and "M" for male on state
22 identification cards and driver's licenses; and
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24 WHEREAS, now, forms of state identification also include
25 the marker "X" for those who do not identify within the gender
26 binary; and
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28 WHEREAS, other jurisdictions have undertaken similar
29 efforts to modernize statutory language to be more inclusive,
30 and the State should also ensure that state laws reflect the
31 values of respect and aloha for all; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
3 that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a
4 comprehensive review of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and
5 recommend amendments to incorporate gender-neutral terminology;
6 and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
9 Bureau is requested to:

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- 11 (1) Draft recommended legislation to incorporate
12 gender-neutral terminology in the Hawaii Revised
13 Statutes;
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 - 15 (2) Draft a recommendation for bill review to ensure
16 future legislation incorporates gender-neutral
17 terminology;
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 - 19 (3) Submit an interim report of its findings and
20 recommendations, including proposed legislation
21 containing the suggested statutory amendments, to the
22 Legislature no later than forty days prior to the
23 convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and
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 - 25 (4) Submit a final report of its findings and
26 recommendations, including proposed legislation
27 containing the suggested statutory amendments, to the
28 Legislature no later than forty days prior to the
29 convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
32 Bureau is requested to consult with:

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- 34 (1) The Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,
35 Queer, Plus Commission;
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 - 37 (2) The State Commission on the Status of Women;
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 - 39 (3) Civil rights experts at the Hawaii Civil Rights
40 Commission and the University of Hawaii at Manoa
41 William S. Richardson School of Law; and
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1 (4) Law-related organizations such as Lambda Law Hawai'i
2 and the Hawaii LGBT Legal Association; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of the
6 Legislative Reference Bureau; Chairperson of the Hawaii State
7 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission;
8 Chairperson of the State Commission on the Status of Women;
9 Chair of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission; Dean of the
10 University of Hawaii at Manoa William S. Richardson School of
11 Law; Director of the Hawaii LGBT Legal Association; and Chair of
12 the Lambda Law Hawaii student organization at the University of
13 Hawaii at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law.

