



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



Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community

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March 17, 2025

House's Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Thursday, March 20, 2025

RE: Strong Support for House Concurrent Resolution 99

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and committee members,

I am writing in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 99 on behalf of the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission, which was established by the 2022 Hawai'i State Legislature with the following 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."

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission strongly supports House Concurrent Resolution 99, which requests the State LGBTQ+ Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women to review the Hawai'i Revised Statutes and make recommendations for gender-neutral language terminology.

The State of Hawai'i has long been a leader in advancing equality and inclusion for LGBTQIA+ individuals. In 2013, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed marriage equality, ensuring that same-sex couples have the legal right to marry and be recognized under state law. This landmark legislation affirmed the dignity and rights of LGBTQIA+ families, and it is imperative that the rest of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes reflect this legal recognition when addressing married couples.

Furthermore, in 2019, the Hawai'i State Legislature took another significant step forward by expanding gender markers on state identification cards and driver's licenses beyond the false gender binary of "F" for female and "M" for male. This progressive policy acknowledges that gender exists on a spectrum and respects the identities of nonbinary, genderqueer, and other gender-diverse individuals in Hawai'i.

Despite these advances, much of Hawai'i's statutory language continues to reinforce outdated and exclusionary gender assumptions. Terms such as "husband" and "wife" remain in statutes

Proudly established pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 369, as enacted through Act 41, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022

HI State LGBTQ+ Commission Testimony in Strong Support of HCR 99

where "spouse" would be more inclusive. Similarly, gendered pronouns are often used where neutral terms could better reflect the diversity of gender identities in our state. Updating these statutes to reflect gender-neutral language is not only a matter of inclusivity but also one of legal consistency with existing Hawai'i laws that affirm LGBTQIA+ rights.

Hawai'i has a proud history of embracing diversity and fostering a society where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect. By ensuring that our laws reflect the full spectrum of gender identities and family structures, we take another important step toward equity and justice for all residents.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission urges the passage of this resolution to review and recommend gender-neutral terminology in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Should you or any member of your staff have any questions regarding this testimony you can reach the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission at hawaiiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully ask for your support,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
Vice Chair
[Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#)



March 18, 2025

Position: Support of HR95/HCR99

To: Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

From: Llasmin Chaîne, LSW, Executive Director, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support of HR95/HCR99, Requesting the State LGBTQ+ Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women to Review the Hawai'i Revised Statutes for Gender-Neutral Language Terminology

Hearing: Thursday, March 20, 2025, 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the committee for hearing these important resolutions. I would like to express my **support of HR95/HCR99**, Requesting the State LGBTQ+ Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women to Review the Hawai'i Revised Statutes for Gender-Neutral Language Terminology, **and offer comments** on HR95/HCR99.

I offer the following amendments to these resolutions for your consideration.:

- **HR95:**
 - Proposed resolution amendment to workgroup members, on page 2, lines 7-8:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LGBTQ+ Commission and **a designee from** the Commission on the Status of Women are requested to:
 - Proposed resolution amendment to workgroup deliverables and timeline given the scope of the review, on page 2, lines 17-21:

(3) Submit ~~a~~ **an interim** report of their findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation containing the suggested statutory amendments, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; ~~and~~

(4) Submit a final report of their findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation containing the suggested statutory amendments, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027;

(5) The workgroup shall be dissolved on December 31, 2026; and

- **HCR99:**

- Proposed resolution amendment to workgroup members, on page 2, lines 10-11:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LGBTQ+ Commission and **a designee from** the Commission on the Status of Women are requested to:

- Proposed resolution amendment to workgroup deliverables and timeline given the scope of the review, on page 2, lines 20-24:

(3) Submit ~~a~~ **an interim** report of their findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation containing the suggested statutory amendments, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; ~~and~~

(4) Submit a final report of their findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation containing the suggested statutory amendments, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027;

(5) The workgroup shall be dissolved on December 31, 2026; and

I respectfully urge this Committee to pass HR95/HCR99. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony and comments.