

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3873**

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 22 2026

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 572

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 572, submitting for study and consideration the nomination of:

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

G.M. No. 572 KERESTIN WALKER
for a term to expire 06-30-2026,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Kerestin Walker for service on the Commission on the Status of Women.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the appointment of Kerestin Walker from the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women; Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission; Salted Logic; and five individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Ms. Walker's background and dedication to serving the public qualify her to be appointed to the Commission on the Status of Women as a member. Your Committee notes that Ms. Walker is currently attending Portland State University, where she is pursuing a Masters Degree of Technical and Professional Writing. Your Committee additionally notes that Ms. Walker was most recently a mental health educator at Mental Health America of Hawai'i from 2023 to 2025, where she delivered mental health wellness trainings to organizations and schools and provided



crisis support and connected individuals with resources. Ms. Walker was also a coordinated care case manager at Care Hawai'i, where she addressed crisis situations with one-on-one support. Your Committee also notes that Ms. Walker is active in her community. She currently serves as a coalition member for Hawai'i Justice Rising, is an advisory member for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness at the Hawai'i Disability Rights Center, and is co-lead for the Equity Workgroup at HepFree Hawai'i. Your Committee finds that Ms. Walker has a thorough understanding of the role and responsibilities of board members and her extensive experience in mental health will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Commission on the Status of Women. Your Committee therefore recommends that Kerestin Walker be appointed to the Commission on the Status of Women based on her knowledge, background, and dedication to public service.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominee, has found the nominee to be qualified for the position to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC
Advise and Consent

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| Governor's Message No.:* GM 572 | Committee Referral: JDC | Date: 4/10/2026 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision. | | | | |
| The Recommendation is: | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345 | | | | |
| Members | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
| RHOADS, Karl (C) | ✓ | | | |
| GABBARD, Mike (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| CHANG, Stanley | | | | ✓ |
| SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. | ✓ | | | |
| AWA, Brenton | ✓ | | | |
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| TOTAL | 4 | — | — | 1 |
| Recommendation: | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted | | | | |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature: | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Distribution: | | | | |
| Original | Yellow | Pink | | |
| File with Committee Report | Committee | Drafting Agency | | |

*Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes