



April 9, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **GM572**, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee, KERESTIN WALKER

**To:** Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

**From:** Llasmin Chaîne, LSW, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

**Re:** Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **GM572**, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee, KERESTIN WALKER

Hearing: Friday, April 10, 2026, 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the Committee for hearing this important measure. I would like to express our **support** of **GM572**, Gubernatorial Nominee, KERESTIN WALKER.

Commission members and staff look forward to collaborating with the nominee on our gender equity efforts given their background in mental health, mentoring, grants management, brand development, community outreach, and coalition building.

We respectfully urge this Committee to **pass GM572**, affirming this nominee's appointment to the Commission as a representative of Oahu.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



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



*Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community*

Mailing Address: LGBTQ+ Commission, c/o The Department of Human Services,  
P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809-0339

Email: [hawaiistatelgbtpluscommission@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiistatelgbtpluscommission@gmail.com)  
Web: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/>

April 7, 2026

Senate's Committee on Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, April 10, 2026, at 10:00 AM

**RE: Strong Support for Governor's Message 572 - Kerestin Walker's Appointment to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and fellow committee members,

I am writing in strong support of Governor's Message 572 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 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 submits testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 572, appointing Kerestin Walker to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women.

Kerestin Walker brings a deep and demonstrated commitment to advancing equity, inclusion, and justice for women and marginalized communities across Hawai'i. Her work reflects an understanding of the intersectional challenges faced by women, particularly those who are also impacted by systemic inequities related to sexual orientation, gender identity, race, and socioeconomic status.

The Commission on the Status of Women plays a critical role in ensuring that policies and programs uplift all women in our state. It is essential that its members reflect both the diversity of Hawai'i and the lived experiences of those most impacted by gender-based disparities. Ms. Walker's background, leadership, and community engagement make her exceptionally well-qualified to contribute meaningfully to this important work.

Importantly, her perspective will help strengthen collaboration across state efforts to address issues such as gender-based violence, economic inequality, healthcare access, and discrimination; areas that disproportionately affect mähū, LGBTQIA+ individuals, especially transgender women and women of color.

*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 Support of GM 572 - Kerestin Walker

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission is confident that Kerestin Walker will serve with integrity, thoughtfulness, and a strong commitment to equity. Her appointment will further the shared goal of building a Hawai'i where all women and girls can thrive.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to advise and consent to the appointment of Kerestin Walker to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

If you or any member of your staff has any questions regarding my testimony you can reach me at [hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com).

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

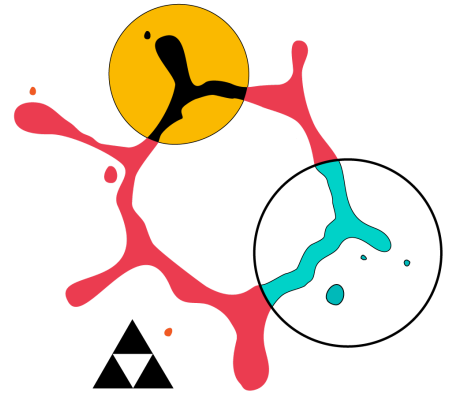
Vice Chair

[Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#)

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### [Inclusive LGBTQIA+ Glossary](#)

The [Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#) has this webpage and that is dedicated to understanding and being able to use the correct terms when talking about the rainbow community from mähū to LGBTQIA+ to QTPI+ to MVPFAFF+ and beyond. The list found on this page is not an exhaustive list and will be updated as appropriate.



April 09, 2026

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Keke Walker to the Commission on the Status of Women.

As the Chief Operating Officer and Lead Creative Strategist at Salted Logic, I've had the opportunity to participate in and document various events organized and led by Keke through her role at SWOP Hawai'i.

Her commitment and dedication to community is singular in it's focus. She is passionate about protecting the dignity and safety of our most vulnerable. It is my belief that the Commission on the Status of Women needs to be composed of individuals who are boots on the ground, that understand the needs of women in Hawai'i – Keke is that individual.

I respectfully implore the Committee to recommend consent to Ms. Walker's nomination.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Hinakealohaila Wilkerson

**GM-572**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 3:05:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and JDC Committee members,

I write in **unequivocal support for Kerestin "Keke" Walker** as she seeks confirmation for confirmation to the Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women.

As a public health professional, I have worked with Keke since 2023—as a colleague, community partner, and fellow advocate for public health equity—to address health disparities, inclusive of, but not limited to, infectious disease. Specifically, Keke co-leads the Hep Free Hawai'i Equity Workgroup to center the expertise of people affected by hepatitis via community-based projects (eg, video storytelling, sex worker education).

Outside of her studies and collaboration with HFH, Keke works with several local and national organizations to promote public health and social justice. These include the Birmingham Black Repertory Theatre Collective (as Development Associate), SWOP HI (as Core Organizer/ Development Director), the Cupcake Girls (as Board Member), and the BIPOC Sex Worker Writers Space (as Founder/ Programs Coordinator). This last organization was created to provide paid professional pathways for those with lived experience.

She currently serves as an advisor for both the Peace Development Fund and the New Moon Fund, and she has previously advised the Third Wave Fund. Keke was recently appointed to the Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women, and she continues to serve the Hawai'i Disability Rights Center and Oahu's Reimagining Safety Coalition.

**Keke is a bold, compassionate, and inspiring leader** whose dedication to justice, especially in underserved communities, is unwavering. I fully support her confirmation to the Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women so that our islands will be more equitable and healthy for all women.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

**GM-572**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:14:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicholas Chagnon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Nicholas Chagnon and I am an Assistant Professor of Sociology at UH West Oahu. I am writing to express my support for Keke Walker's appointment to the Commission on the Status of Women. I have known and worked with Keke for approximately four years through our shared interest in improving public safety and wellness in Hawaii, during which time she has impressed me as a visionary advocate and insightful leader. Keke has extensive experience in writing and managing grants and leading advocacy efforts. She exhibits passion and commitment to helping the marginalized in our community and I strongly recommend that she be appointed to serve on the Commission on the Status of Women.

Respectfully,

Nicholas J. Chagnon



April 6, 2026

Dear Commission on the Status of Women:

I write in strong support of Kerestin “Keke” Walker as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women. I first met Ms. Walker in Fall 2023 through what is now known as the Hawai‘i Community Safety Coalition. The coalition works to develop restorative responses to harm as well as transform the conditions of society so that harm is much less likely to occur. We work toward these approaches rather than relying on the punitive actions of the criminal legal system. Ms. Walker has been an integral part of this coalition, always raising the perspectives of those she has come to know through her important community outreach.

While Ms. Walker is involved in several community-based projects, one where she routinely provides vital community care is through the Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP). Each week, Ms. Walker is a part of offering dinner and basic safety / hygiene kits to people on the street, many of whom are unhoused, are sex workers, and/or struggle with chronic health conditions. This is one of the ways that Ms. Walker has worked to build relationships with and organize sex workers as well as other people who have been marginalized. The process has been slow, but, like any good community organizer, Ms. Walker realizes that trust is built over time. By continuously providing resources, Ms. Walker, along with SWOP, are making sure that people who are the most vulnerable have access to basic care. She has even worked with college students who are interested in being involved in community outreach, including one of my former students.

The wisdom and poise that Ms. Walker brings to her work compels people from a variety of communities and backgrounds to engage with her. She is warm to individuals who are open to learning about community organizing and outreach, sex work, behavioral health, and harm reduction. She meets people where they are in their learning while also encouraging people to imagine the world with care at the center. When it comes to oppressive systems, however, Ms. Walker does not mince words. She is a tireless advocate for people living in poverty, people of color, trans folks, sex workers, justice-involved neighbors, and those experiencing mental and behavioral health conditions. In addition to the weekly outreach coordination she does, her advocacy comes through submitting testimony to the State legislature on significant bills, organizing creative writing workshops with BIPOC sex workers, facilitating community dialogues on public safety, and much more.

One of the characteristics that I appreciate most about Ms. Walker is her ability to maintain focus on the overall goal of social justice rather than get too caught up in details that threaten solidarity or take focus off of the target. In meetings, I have listened to how she deftly analyzes a situation and calmly offers insight, which then invites others to remember the goal at hand rather than fret about egos or limit efforts to reforms that could have negative consequences for those who are made most vulnerable by unjust systems.

Because of Ms. Walker’s thoughtfulness and creativity, she is the first person I thought of when needing to pass along my volunteer role as lead instructor / facilitator of the Creative Writing Project at the women’s prison in Hawai‘i. When I told Ms. Walker that I’ll be moving out-of-state this summer and was wondering if she might be

interested in continuing with the project, she responded with interest and excitement but also with the careful wisdom of wanting to come and meet with those in the class to see if it is a fit. This is the type of gracious and considerate person Ms. Walker is. She never seems to lose sight of community care and wellbeing, making sure to center those most impacted.

I strongly recommend Ms. Kerestin “Keke” Walker as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women. She will be a tremendous asset in advancing justice for all women, both cisgender and trans.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [mcrb@hawaii.edu](mailto:mcrb@hawaii.edu) or 808-729-1670.

Sincerely,

*Colleen Rost-Banik*

Colleen Rost-Banik, Ph.D.  
Instructor



April 6, 2026

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Re: Support for Kerestin Walker Appointment  
to the Commission on the Status of Women

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard:

This is to strongly support the appointment of Kerestin (Keke) Walker to the Commission on the Status of Women (Commission). I was recently appointed to the Hawaii Disability Rights Center PAIMI Advisory Council (Council) and even in the short time I have known her I have no doubt Ms. Walker will be a terrific addition to the Commission.

Keke not only will bring a wealth of experience, she will provide a unique and much needed perspective on the status of women in Hawaii to the Council's activities.

Thus, without any reservations, I urge the Committee to recommend consent to Ms. Walker's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James B. (Jim) Gottstein, Esq.", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

James B. (Jim) Gottstein, Esq.

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April 7, 2026

**To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,**

I am writing in strong support of Kerestin “Keke” Walker’s nomination and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women for a term to expire June 30, 2026.

I have had the privilege of organizing alongside Keke through SWOP-Hawai’i since 2023. In that time, we have collaborated on numerous initiatives, events, and community-based efforts centered on sex worker rights, harm reduction, and advocacy. Through this work, I have witnessed firsthand Keke’s deep commitment to community care and justice.

Keke consistently demonstrates integrity, initiative, and a strong ability to engage diverse communities. She is not only dedicated, but also intentional about centering those most marginalized—particularly individuals impacted by criminalization, stigma, and systemic inequities. Her leadership is grounded in lived experience, compassion, and a clear understanding of the structural barriers facing women and gender-diverse people in Hawai’i.

Keke brings a thoughtful, community-informed perspective that is critically needed on the Commission. She listens deeply, acts collaboratively, and is committed to advancing policies and practices that promote equity, dignity, and safety for all.

I strongly urge you to support Kerestin “Keke” Walker’s confirmation. Her leadership will be an invaluable asset to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Jim Kwak*

**LATE**

**GM-572**

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 5:02:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amber Ward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support KeKe's appointment. She is an incredible advocate and champion for those marginalized and underrepresented. She would be an amazing asset and bring an abundance of wisdom and expertise.

**LATE**

**GM-572**

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 5:09:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

I'm writing in **strong support of Kerestin "Keke" Walker as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women.** I first met Keke when we were both volunteering for the 2024 Hawai'i People's Fund Giving Project. I was immediately struck by Keke's breadth of experience (both life and professional), her maturity beyond her years, her deep commitment to social justice and her creativity and compassion.

In these past couple years of knowing Keke, I've seen how much she walks her talk by organizing and doing outreach for SWOP, being a board member of Cupcake Girls and participating in their Giving Circle, facilitating writing groups for sex workers, writing grants and zines, leading workshops for marginalized groups and more. I'm constantly in awe of all the social justice and community organizing projects she's spearheading or participating in to make the lives of marginalized folks safer and better.

Keke has also generously shared resources and education with me so that I can better understand and support the sex worker community and I am grateful for her guidance.

Keke is smart, savvy and passionate about the intersectional community work she does and she is driven to make a positive difference in the world through her advocacy and organizing. She is thoughtful, welcoming, strategic and a natural leader who will undoubtedly bring a wealth of skills and experience to the Commission on the Status of Women.

**I strongly encourage you to support Kerestin "Keke" Walker as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women.**

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lee

**LATE**

**GM-572**

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 6:20:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Re: GM572 - Support for Kerestin Walker Appointment to the Commission on the Status of Women

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Ms. Kerestin (Keke) Walker to the Commission on the Status of Women (Commission).

Since 2023, I have worked with Ms. Walker in multiple coalitions, including my current participation in the Hawai'i Community Safety Coalition. Our coalition aims for Transformative Justice, focusing on proven, community-based solutions that address root causes and create thriving communities.

I support Ms. Walker's appointment to the Commission on the Status of Women because of her commitment to bridging the gap between high-level policy and the lived realities of Hawaii's most vulnerable populations. Her lived experiences and a decade of service alongside people experiencing homelessness, domestic violence (DV), and substance use will assist the Commission in fulfilling its mandate.

Ms. Walker is committed to advocacy through an intersectional lens. She is interested in advancing the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and specifically focusing on reproductive justice and healthcare access, ending gender based violence, rights for criminalized communities, and housing as a human right. Her active role in community organizing ensures that she remains connected to the evolving needs of the public in real-time.

For these reasons, I believe that Ms. Walker will contribute to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women's mission to work towards equality for women and girls in the State through advocacy, education, collaboration, and program development.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.

**LATE**

**GM-572**

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 7:19:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Kristen Young. I am writing to express strong support for Kerestin “Keke” Walker’s confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women. As a woman who was born and raised in Hawai‘i and continues to reside in Hawai‘i, I would be grateful to have someone like Keke on the Commission because I know that she will consider ALL women.

I first met Keke through our involvement in what is now called the Hawai‘i Community Safety Coalition. This coalition is made up of local residents with professional expertise, representatives of local organizations, and community members who want to see change in public safety and justice reform in Hawai‘i. Our coalition seeks to address root causes of public safety issues, remembering the humanity in our neighbors who are too often criminalized. Keke has been an important member of our coalition, representing SWOP (Sex Workers Outreach Project). We have been in this coalition together over the past few years. During this time, we have collaborated on projects, attended meetings and events. I have always been grateful for Keke’s strong yet warm leadership, her professional grant and advocacy expertise, and for the perspective and wisdom she brings from her own personal experience and from the community connections she’s cultivated. I know that Keke will remain committed to justice, equality, equity not just in her professional life, but also her personal life. Keke would be an excellent addition to the Commission.

I humbly affirm and echo the testimony in support of Keke’s confirmation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share,

Kristen Young  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

**LATE**

**GM-572**

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 8:59:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karina Wiberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

GM-572 — Written Testimony in Support of Kerestin "Keke" Walker

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and JDC Committee Members,

I write in full and enthusiastic support of Kerestin "Keke" Walker for confirmation to the Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women.

I have known Keke since 2023, having first met her through Project Koa Yoga's BIPOC community class. From the very beginning, I noticed something about her — wherever something meaningful was happening in our community, Keke was there. Not for recognition, but because service is simply who she is.

In the time I have known her, I have watched Keke show up consistently at the intersection of everything that matters — culture, community, health, and justice. At major Hawaiian celebrations like Lā Ho'ihoni'oni' Ea, you will find her at a booth, educating community members and sharing resources. Not because anyone asked her to, but because she understands that presence is its own form of advocacy.

What sets Keke apart as a leader is her rare ability to read a room — to sense what energy a space needs and bring exactly that. She listens not just to what people say, but to what they mean and how they feel. She validates lived experiences, breaks down barriers, and creates the kind of safety that allows people to move forward. In my experience, that quality cannot be taught. It is a gift, and Keke offers it freely to everyone around her.

The Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women exists to advocate for the most vulnerable women in our islands — the underserved, the marginalized, those whose voices are too often left out of the room. Keke has spent years actively showing up for exactly those communities. Her values are not just in alignment with this commission — they are the living embodiment of what this commission is meant to do.

I offer my full support for her confirmation and have no doubt she will serve the women of Hawai'i with the same dedication, compassion, and grace she brings to everything she does.

Mahalo,

Karina Wiberg

**LATE**

**GM-572**

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 11:05:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elaine Chan, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable Committee Members,

I am a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist in Hawaii who performs full spectrum reproductive care, including abortions for patients across the islands. I have the privilege of working at Queens Medical Center, Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, and two Planned Parenthoods. I am in full support of the confirmation of Keke Walker to the Commission of the Status of Women.

I met Keke Walker at La Hoi Hoi Ea in Thomas Square, where Keke introduced me to the work Sex Workers Outreach Project was doing to support health, emotional, intellectual, and safety needs of sex workers as well as other vulnerabilized neighbors in Hawaii. Since then, Keke and I have crossed paths multiple times over, including through our shared membership in Hawaii Abortion Coalition, at queer community events aimed at self preservation and healing, and at trade centers rooted in Native Hawaiian cultural practices based in reciprocity and community care. Keke is one of the most disciplined, embodied, and community focused people I have met on the islands. As someone who works within the medical system, I am grateful for Keke's continued interest in educating me and my colleagues. I have invited Keke to be on a panel at the national conference of Society of Family Planning where thousands of OB-Gyns will be in attendance because I believe that Keke's perspective from her intersecting identities, scholarship, and community advocacy is important in any space that cares for the reproductive lives of women and queer people.

Because of these reasons, Keke Walker would be a wonderful, needed addition to the Commission of the Status of Women.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your continued commitment to the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Chan, MD



**LATE**

**GM-572**

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 11:11:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of Kerestin Walker's appointment to the Commission On The Status of Women. As a community advocate and organizer, Kerestin demonstrates passion, commitment, and knowledge when advocating on issues related to criminal justice reform and the disabled. In particular, I am always impressed by Kerestin's ability to communicate in a way that really connects you to the issues and how they are often connected. Again, I fully support Kerestin's nomination and confirmation to the Commission. Thank you.

**LATE**

**GM-572**

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 11:59:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sophie Lee Kahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Dear Members of the Committee,**

**I am writing in strong support of Kerestin “Keke” Walker’s appointment to the Commission on the Status of Women.**

**I met Keke when I joined the Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) as an organizer. Keke’s natural inclination to lead and educate has directly impacted me as her teammate and I often seek her insight while problem solving in my own advocacy work. At SWOP, Keke’s commitment to serving marginalized peoples is only amplified by her realism; her attentiveness to the needs of our community members and her fellow organizers alike reflects the depth of Keke’s experience in advocacy. I often find myself inspired by Keke’s passion and values– her thoughtfulness and capacity to reflect are contagious.**

**I strongly support Kerestin “Keke” Walker’s appointment to the Commission on the Status of Women.**

**Mahalo,**

**Sophie Lee Kahn**

**LATE**

**GM-572**

Submitted on: 4/10/2026 6:47:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kumella Aiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support for the confirmation of Keke Walker to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Keke is committed to community safety and care especially for those who may not have a seat at the table.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Kumella Aiu

**LATE**

April 10, 2026

Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Re: For the consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, KERESTIN WALKER.


Dear Chair Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Gabbard, and members of the Committee on  
Judiciary:

I write this letter of strong support for the confirmation of Kerestin (“Keke”) Walker to the  
Commission on the Status of Women. I have had the pleasure of working with Keke when she  
volunteered on the Reimagining Public Safety Coalition and in our various community outreach  
events. At one event, I recall how Keke noticed that our outreach table was understaffed as so  
many people were quickly approaching. Without hesitation, she jumped right in to help and I  
appreciated how she spoke to each individual that approached our table with the respect and  
dignity we all deserve.

Keke’s resume is strong, she is rooted in the community, and she is the type of member I would  
like to see serve on the Commission on the Status of Women as a strong advocate for women and  
girls. As a father to a teenage daughter and married to my wife for nearly 20 years, I am grateful  
that Hawaii had the forethought in 1964 to establish the Hawaii State Commission on the Status  
of Women. I believe that Keke’s service will continue to move the Commission forward as a  
catalyst for positive change not only for my own daughter but for all the women and girls in our  
lives.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit my strong support of Keke Walker for your  
consideration.

Sincerely,



Sergio J. Alcubilla, Esq.

**LATE**

**GM-572**

Submitted on: 4/10/2026 9:09:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Commey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Keke Walker’s nomination to serve on the Commission on the Status of Women. It is an honor to speak to her character, leadership, and commitment to community.

I have known Keke as both a colleague in community work and a trusted friend. For years, I have witnessed her show up consistently, organizing and leading Saturday outreach efforts to make sure vulnerable members of our community had access to basic necessities, care, and dignity. This was sustained, hands-on service rooted in deep care for people.

Keke leads with warmth and high standards. She holds compassion for people while honoring their dignity and agency. This shows up in how she organizes, builds relationships, and responds to complex needs with care and clarity.

Her professional work reflects this same commitment. Keke’s work spans participatory grantmaking, mental health education, and community organizing, where she has helped secure and distribute critical funding and resources to communities facing high barriers to access. She understands how systems work and knows how to move resources in ways that are equitable, community-informed, and grounded in lived experience.

Beyond her formal roles, what stands out most is how she shows up for people. Keke listens deeply. She builds trust. She creates spaces where people feel seen, respected, and supported. And she does this while maintaining a clear vision for what safer, more just communities can look like.

The Commission on the Status of Women needs leaders who are connected to the communities most impacted. Keke brings both lived experience and demonstrated leadership in service of these communities along with a proven track record of turning **values into action**.

I cannot think of a more grounded, committed, and capable person to serve in this role. I strongly encourage you to confirm her nomination.

Respectfully,

Marissa Commey