



April 16, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **GM778**, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSICA SHAFFER, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

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 **GM778**, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSICA SHAFFER, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

Hearing: Friday, April 17, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (Commission), I would like to thank the Committee for hearing this important measure. I would like to express our **support** of **GM778**, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jessica Shaffer.

Commission members and staff look forward to collaborating with the nominee on our gender equity efforts given their experience in the prevention and intervention of workplace violence, discrimination, gender-based violence, and student misconduct.

Over the past five years, I have collaborated with the nominee on multiple efforts in their role as Co-Chair of the University of Hawaii's Commission on the Status of Women and in their role as a Compliance Officer with the university. I have found the nominee to be diligent, hardworking, knowledgeable, collaborative, creative, ethical, and thoughtful, qualities well-suited to the role and scope of a state Commissioner.

We respectfully urge this Committee to **pass GM778**, affirming this nominee's appointment to the Commission as a representative of Oahu.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

GM-778

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 9:20:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/17/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica meyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 14, 2026

Position: Support of GM 778, Confirmation of Jessica Shaffer

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

From: Aaron Kalei Ruiz, Associate Professor, Leeward Community College

Re: Testimony in Support of Jessica Shaffer

Hearing: GM 778, State Capitol

I would like to thank the Committee for scheduling this confirmation hearing. I would like to express my support of Jessica Shaffer's confirmation to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

In my experience working closely with Ms. Shaffer during her time as an Assistant District Attorney, I found her to be thoughtful, principled, and deeply committed to fairness and public service. She consistently demonstrated sound judgment, strong advocacy, and a genuine respect for the individuals and communities she served.

I respectfully urge this Committee to confirm Jessica Shaffer.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

April 15, 2026

Position: Support of GM 778, Confirmation of Jessica Shaffer

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

From: Kate Randle, Preschool Teacher; Family Friend to Jessica Shaffer

Re: Testimony in Support of Jessica Shaffer

Hearing: GM 778, State Capitol

I would like to thank the Committee for scheduling this confirmation hearing. I would like to express my support of Jessica Shaffer's confirmation to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (Commission).

In her role with the University of Hawai'i, Jessica has demonstrated rigorous commitment to serving others and advancing the well-being of the community. I am writing in strong support of her confirmation to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

I have known Jessica for five years as the early childhood education teacher for her two sons and as a family friend. Through this, I have seen her consistently demonstrate fairness, intelligence, and a genuine commitment to supporting others and the greater good.

Jessica took the time to genuinely connect with me as her child's teacher, always showing respect and a willingness to collaborate. She approaches conversations with openness and without judgment, creating trust and understanding. She also handles situations with calmness, fairness, and perspective, even when it involves her own children.

I respectfully urge this Committee to confirm Jessica Shaffer.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Kate Randle

Position: Support of GM 778, Confirmation of Jessica Shaffer

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

From: Christine Chun, Director of Compliance, EEO, and Title IX for the University of Hawaii
Community College System

Re: Testimony in Support of Jessica Shaffer

Hearing: April 17, 2026; 10:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I would like to thank the Committee for scheduling this confirmation hearing. I would like to express my support of Jessica Shaffer's confirmation to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women ("Commission").

I know Jessica Shaffer in a professional capacity, having worked with her for the past four years, where she has served as an Investigator and Compliance Officer in my office at the University of Hawaii ("University"). In her position as an Investigator and Compliance Officer, Jessica services all seven Community Colleges at the University, as well as the Community College System office, providing support and leadership to Administration in the area of civil rights. As part of her job, Jessica addresses allegations of discrimination and harassment, and ensures that there are effective policies and processes that advance equity. I have known her to be a strong advisor and communicator, deeply caring about assisting each University campus in all areas of civil rights from addressing complaints, to providing educational trainings, to proactive programming on all topics concerning equity. She also currently serves as the Co-Chair of the University's Commission on the Status of Women, which reports to the President of the University, and whose mission is to promote equality and oppose discrimination in all forms, including sex and gender-based discrimination. Jessica is bright, diligent, motivated, and has been an extraordinary leader of the University's Commission on the Status of Women this past year, exploring topics of childcare, period poverty, and pay equity.

Jessica's current and prior work makes her an ideal candidate to serve on the State's Commission. Her values align with the Commission's which focuses on advancing the equal treatment and opportunity of women in the State. Her prior expertise makes her highly suited to contribute to a group whose mandate is to create public awareness and understanding of the needs and contributions of women in society. Moreover, she has vision and initiative, and has the ability to build connections with others, which would make her a valuable asset to the Commission.

I fully believe that Jessica's expertise and experience will serve the State well as a member of the Commission. Your favorable action on her confirmation is respectfully requested. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support.

April 16, 2026

Position: In Support of GM 778, Confirmation of Jessica Shaffer

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

From: Jamie Newalu, Private Citizen

Re: Testimony in **Support** of Jessica Shaffer

Hearing: GM 778, State Capitol

On behalf of myself, I would like to express my sincere support of Jessica Shaffer's confirmation to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. I have known Ms. Shaffer for the past few years, and watched her work as a dedicated employee to the University of Hawai'i Community College System. She frequently advocates for sex- and gender-based equity and justice while having integrity within a compliance role. She is familiar with issues and policies that may be affecting women in the State of Hawai'i, and she is more than qualified to be a commissioner for the State CSW.

I respectfully urge this Committee to confirm Jessica Shaffer.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,
Jamie Newalu

LATE

GM-778

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 1:15:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/17/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Reichhardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Jessica Shaffer for the last three years in a personal capacity. She speaks of her work with passion, commitment, and understanding of its important impact on our community. Her well established work on the UH Commission on the Status of Women and her long history of work addressing sexual misconduct, sexual harrassment, and Title IX makes her a wonderful candidate for the Commission on the Status of Women. Certainly, our state will benefit from her contributions and support in this role.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for Jessica Shaffer.

Position: Support of GM 778, Confirmation of Jessica Shaffer



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

From: Brian Aune, Investigator and Compliance Officer
Office of Compliance, EEO, and Title IX
University of Hawaii Community College System

Re: Testimony in Support of Jessica Shaffer

Hearing: April 17, 2026; 10:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Greetings Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to express my support for Jessica Shaffer for confirmation to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (the “Commission”).

I work with Jessica forty plus hours a week on issues related to compliance and civil rights. She is the very definition of a tireless advocate for equality, for fairness and accuracy of process for all, and for educating the community about University members’ rights and obligations under our civil rights policies. In her professional capacity, I trust her completely to treat all parties and witnesses in cases with the utmost respect and care. She is exceptionally intelligent and hardworking. Every task receives her best effort, and every project is approached with conscientiousness and diligence. I am grateful anytime we work on a project together.

In her personal capacity, I know her to be passionate and well informed about gender-related issues. From what I have seen, she has been a lifelong advocate for improving the status of women. She also works in every way she is able to raise awareness of the historical and systemic challenges that women face in finding success and happiness in our modern society.

One of the things that I find remarkable about Jessica is that, even though I know her personal passions and interests, she is diligent and constantly thoughtful about ensuring that any personal opinions or biases play no role in her professional duties. I have never seen her treat anyone, personally or professionally, with anything other than respect and the most thorough thoughtfulness. The Commission would be very fortunate to have her.

April 16, 2026

LATE

Position: Support of GM 778, Confirmation of Jessica Shaffer

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

From: Syreeta D. Washington, Assistant Professor, Leeward Community College

Re: Testimony in Support of Jessica Shaffer

Hearing: GM 778, State Capitol

I would like to thank the Committee for scheduling this confirmation hearing. I am honored to express my strong support for Jessica Shaffer's confirmation to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women.

In her role with the University of Hawai'i, Jessica has demonstrated a sustained commitment to thoughtful, well-informed engagement on issues affecting women and girls. I have had the opportunity to collaborate with her on several webinars and panel discussions, and she has consistently distinguished herself as someone who brings both balance and substance to the conversation. She approaches important and, at times, complex topics with fairness, intellectual rigor, and a clear commitment to grounding discussion in credible data and meaningful context.

Just as importantly, Jessica is deeply collaborative. She is the kind of colleague who strengthens the work through both her insight and her presence. She listens carefully, contributes thoughtfully, and helps create space for dialogue that is both substantive and respectful. In every collaboration I have shared with her, she has been a pleasure to work with and a steady, credible voice in the room.

For these reasons, I believe Jessica would serve the Commission with integrity, discernment, and purpose. She possesses the analytical strength, collaborative spirit, and sound judgment necessary to contribute meaningfully to the Commission's important work.

For these reasons, I believe Jessica Shaffer should be confirmed to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony.

LATE

April 16, 2026

Position: Support of GM 778, Confirmation of Jessica Shaffer

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

From: Mari Ishii

Re: Testimony in Support of Jessica Shaffer
Hearing: GM 778, State Capitol

I am writing to offer my support for Jessica Shaffer's Confirmation to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women.

Her previous background as a prosecutor and her current role at the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges demonstrate a long-standing dedication to equity, civil rights, and public service. Throughout her career, she has championed initiatives that promote equity and spread awareness of critical issues.

Her deep understanding of the systemic challenges facing women, coupled with her dedication to enacting change, makes her uniquely qualified to serve on the Commission. She has the vision and dedication necessary to contribute to the Commission's mission and goals, particularly in the areas of advocacy and education.

I am confident that Jessica Shaffer will be an impactful member of the Commission on the Status of Women. Her integrity and passion to implement meaningful change will be invaluable.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this highly qualified nominee. I respectfully recommend that the Committee confirm Jessica Shaffer.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Mari Ishii

LATE

GM-778

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 9:51:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/17/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Moriarty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 16, 2026

Position: Support of GM778, Confirmation of Jessica Shaffer

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony on **GM778 in support of Jessica Shaffer's appointment to the State of Hawai`i Commission on the Status of Women**. My name is Sarah Shaw Pomaika`i Moriarty. I am a daughter, wife, mother, native Hawaiian community member, leader, and administrator at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa. I have known Jessica Shaffer for several years and I have observed her positive impact on University of Hawai`i community members and the people of Hawai`i in both her personal and professional life. Her leadership skills and experience speak for itself, but her service-minded values and passion for gender equity and helping others is why I submit this testimony in favor of her appointment. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Sarah Moriarty

LATE

GM-778

Submitted on: 4/17/2026 4:57:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/17/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Finnerty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In my experience, Ms. Shaffer is an excellent lawyer who displays integrity and professionalism. She would be a great addition.