



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: hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com
Web: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/>

February 10, 2026

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

Hearing: Friday, February 12, 2026, at 10:30 AM

RE: Strong Support for House Bill 1877

Aloha Chair Martin, Vice Chair Olds, and fellow committee members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1877 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 offers its strong support for House Bill 1877, which expands the Commission's membership from eight to eleven voting members, reserves one seat for an individual under the age of 29, and authorizes the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to each appoint a voting member.

Since our founding, the visibility, scope, and demand for the Commission's work have grown significantly. What began as a newly established advisory body has evolved into a trusted convener, policy partner, and community bridge between state government and LGBTQ+ communities across Hawai'i. Events such as **Queer Day at the Capitol**, taking place this year on February 17th, along with the Commission's monthly meetings, and collaborative initiatives we have sponsored or co-sponsored, have demonstrated the clear and growing need for strong, structured, and representative leadership within the Commission.

With that growth has come increased responsibility. The Commission is regularly called upon to provide policy recommendations, review legislation, and respond to emerging federal attacks impacting our community. Expanding the Commission's membership will ensure that this important work is sustainable, thoughtful, and reflective of the diversity of Hawai'i's LGBTQ+ communities.

Importantly, reserving one seat for a person under the age of 29 ensures meaningful youth representation. Young people—particularly māhū, transgender, gender non-conforming, and queer youth—are directly impacted by many of the policies the Commission addresses. Their lived experience, insight, and leadership are not symbolic; they are essential. This reserved seat creates a formal pathway for intergenerational leadership development and ensures that decisions are informed by those shaping the future of our state.

Providing appointment authority to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate further strengthens coordination between the legislative and executive branches while reinforcing the Commission's accountability and transparency. Broader appointing authority also supports geographic, cultural, and professional diversity among Commissioners.

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 HB 1877

House Bill 1877 is not simply about adding seats. It is about strengthening infrastructure at a time when LGBTQ+ communities nationwide face unprecedented policy challenges. It ensures that Hawai'i continues to lead with intention, inclusion, and integrity.

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission respectfully urges your support and passage of House Bill 1877.

If you or any member of your staff has any questions regarding my testimony you can reach me at hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

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

[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 māhū 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.

2nd Annual
Queer Day at the Capitol
Tuesday, Feb 17, 2026
Community Resource Fair
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM on 4th Floor

Everyone is invited to come OUT and experience Hawai'i's diverse Māhū, LGBTQIA+, QTPI+, MVPFAFF+ Community and our Allied Orgs

Panels in the Capitol Auditorium Chamber Level

9 AM - 10:30 AM	2 PM - 3:30 PM
Healthcare, Not Politics: The Case for Gender-Affirming Care	From Policy to Protection: Defending Queer Lives Against Federal Attacks.
	

 **Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ community** 



February 10, 2026

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 10:30 AM

RE: **STRONG SUPPRT for House Bill 1877**

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

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is an official chapter of [Pride at Work](#) which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice. We write in **strong support of House Bill 1877**.

Pride at Work Hawai'i is proud to stand in strong support of House Bill 1877, which expands the membership of the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission from eight to eleven voting members, reserves one seat for a person under the age of 29, and provides appointment authority to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate.

As an organization representing LGBTQ+ union members and working families, we understand that strong institutions are built on broad representation and diversity of thought. Expanding the Commission's membership is not simply about increasing numbers—it is about strengthening the range of lived experiences, professional expertise, geographic perspectives, and policy viewpoints that inform the Commission's work.

Our community is not monolithic. LGBTQ+ people in Hawai'i span every industry, income level, ethnicity, island community, and generation. Ensuring that the Commission reflects this diversity strengthens its ability to provide thoughtful recommendations to policymakers and to respond effectively to emerging challenges that impact working people and their families.

We are particularly encouraged by the reserved seat for a person under the age of 29. Young LGBTQ+ people—especially those entering the workforce, navigating higher education, or organizing in their communities—bring critical insight into the realities facing the next generation. Too often, decisions that directly affect young people are made without their voices meaningfully included. This bill ensures that youth leadership is not symbolic, but structural.

At a time when LGBTQ+ rights and worker protections are increasingly intertwined, expanding the Commission helps ensure it has the capacity and breadth of perspective necessary to meet the moment. A larger, more representative body strengthens collaboration between government and community and reinforces Hawai'i's commitment to equity and inclusion.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i's Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Re: HB 1877

Pride at Work Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to pass House Bill 1877.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

In Solidarity,

[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)



HA‘AHEO, ‘OHANA, KAULIKE‘UI
Pride Family Justice Activate
WHERE PRIDE BECOMES POLITICAL POWER

Website: www.hokupac.org ♦ Email: info@hokupac.org

LATE

February 11, 2026

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 10:30 AM

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 1877**

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

This testimony on behalf of **HOKU PAC**, Hawai'i's LGBTQ+ political action committee dedicated to building queer political power and advancing policies that protect our communities. We write in **strong support of House Bill 1877**.

HOKU PAC was founded to build political power for Hawai'i's LGBTQIA+ community and to ensure that our voices are present where decisions are made. House Bill 1877 is a practical and necessary step toward strengthening the infrastructure that supports that representation.

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission has grown into a visible and active body that engages directly with lawmakers, state agencies, and the broader public. As community participation increases—through events like Queer Day at the Capitol and ongoing advocacy efforts—the demands on the Commission have expanded as well. Increasing its membership from eight to eleven voting members is a commonsense way to ensure it has the capacity to meet that growth responsibly and effectively.

We are especially supportive of reserving a seat for someone under the age of 29. Young māhū, LGBTQIA+ leaders are organizing, mobilizing, and shaping the political landscape in real time. They are not the leaders of tomorrow—they are leaders today. Formalizing youth representation ensures their lived experience informs policy discussions at the highest advisory levels of state government.

Additionally, allowing the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to each appoint a voting member strengthens institutional alignment and reinforces the Commission's connection to the legislative process. At a time when LGBTQIA+ communities across the country are facing coordinated political attacks, Hawai'i must continue investing in strong, durable structures that protect and advance equality.

House Bill 1877 is about building capacity, expanding representation, and ensuring that Hawai'i remains a national leader in inclusion and equity. HOKU PAC respectfully urges your support and passage of this measure.

For these reasons, HOKU PAC **strongly urges passage of House Bill 1875**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1877

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:55:36 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/12/2026 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Duffy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Respectfully oppose. Hawai'i already maintains a fully functioning LGBTQ+ Commission with appointed voting members, staff support, and direct access to executive and legislative leadership. The Commission's mission and representation are well established. Expanding its voting membership at this time does not address a demonstrated deficiency in representation, nor has there been evidence that the current structure is unable to fulfill its statutory duties.

Again, respectfully oppose.