



March 30, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HCR42/HR38**, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO MEET THE CRITERIA NECESSARY TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE CHEERLEADING AS A TITLE IX SPORT IN HAWAII.

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

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

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR42/HR38, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO MEET THE CRITERIA NECESSARY TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE CHEERLEADING AS A TITLE IX SPORT IN HAWAII.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 31, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women **supports HCR42/HR38**, which addresses the recognition of competitive cheerleading in relation to Title IX.

As a statewide feminist government body, our mission is to advance equality and equity for women and girls in Hawaii through advocacy, education, and policy development. This resolution is significant to our work because **equitable access to athletic opportunities is a core component of gender equity**, and Title IX remains a critical tool in ensuring that women and girls receive fair treatment in educational settings, including sports.

Recognizing competitive cheerleading as an athletic opportunity under Title IX can help address disparities in sports participation and representation for female students. Such recognition aligns with best practices in promoting equality, inclusion and the visibility of female athletes, empowering individuals, supporting their achievements, and fostering leadership. It also advances the broader goal of ensuring that state programs and policies reflect the experiences and needs of women and girls. Ongoing evaluation and stakeholder engagement will help ensure that efforts to expand athletic opportunities truly enhance equity and do not unintentionally create new barriers.

We respectfully urge this Committee to **pass HCR42/HR38**, expanding athletic opportunities and gender equity efforts.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.