



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

April 21, 2026

House's Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 3:00 PM

**RE: Strong Support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 11**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and fellow committee members,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 11 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 this testimony in **strong support** of Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, requesting the United States Congress to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity across key areas of public life.

This measure reflects Hawai'i's long-standing commitment to equality, fairness, and the fundamental dignity of all people. While our state has been a national leader in enacting protections for māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ individuals, those protections are not uniformly guaranteed across the country. As a result, queer people—particularly transgender individuals, Native Hawaiian, māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ individuals, and those living at the intersections of multiple marginalized identities—remain vulnerable to discrimination in employment, housing, education, public accommodations, and access to essential services.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 stands as one of the most significant civil rights laws in our nation's history. However, its protections remain incomplete without explicit inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity. While recent federal court decisions have expanded interpretations of sex discrimination, those rulings are subject to change and do not provide the comprehensive, durable protections that congressional action would ensure.

No one should face the risk of being fired, denied housing, refused service, or excluded from educational opportunities simply because of who they are or whom they love. Yet in many parts of the United States, these risks remain a daily reality. This inconsistency undermines both civil

*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 SCR 11

rights and economic security, forcing LGBTQ+ individuals to navigate a patchwork of protections that vary widely by state.

SCR 11 affirms Hawai'i's role as a leader in advancing equity and sends a clear message that civil rights protections must be inclusive, explicit, and nationwide. It also aligns with our state's core values of aloha, kuleana, and mālama to ensure that all people are treated with respect, responsibility, and care.

At a time when māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ rights are increasingly under threat in other parts of the country, it is critical that Hawai'i stand firmly on the side of equality and urge federal action to secure these protections for all.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission respectfully urges the Committee to pass SCR 11.

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,

Sandy Harjo Livingston (he/him/they/them)  
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.



# **HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION** **KOMIKINA PONO KIWILA O HAWAI‘I**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411, HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: (808) 586-8636 · FAX: (808) 586-8655 · TDD: (808) 586-8692

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 430 & Videoconference  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

To:

[COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS](#)

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

From: Marcus L. Kawatachi, Executive Director of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission  
and HCRC Staff

## **Re: SCR11 – Federal Equality Act; Sex; Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity** **HCRC Staff Comments**

**While the Commission has not yet had the opportunity to meet and take an official position on SCR11, the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) staff provides following comments:**

Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR11) requests that the United States Congress pass legislation to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, federally funded programs, credit, and jury service.

As background, the HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5. HCRC has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment (Chapter

378, Part I, HRS), housing (Chapter 515, HRS), public accommodations (Chapter 489, HRS), and access to state and state-funded services (HRS § 368-1.5).

Hawai'i has a long and proud history of providing greater protections at the state level than those rights enumerated rights at the federal level. Hawaii's nondiscrimination statutes that are enforced by the HCRC, generally have been expanded to protect as many historically marginalized groups as possible in accordance with the State's fundamental principles of fairness, equality, and justice. Sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity are protected groups through the State's nondiscrimination laws in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

Over the years, HCRC has had workshare agreements with the federal U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. For rights that are protected at both the state and federal level, complaints could be dual-filed with those federal agencies. However, what used to be a core tenet of nondiscrimination laws, **that federal protections were the floor beneath which rights cannot fall, rather than a ceiling above which states cannot grant broader protections**, now is uncertain.

Past agency interpretations and protections granted at the federal level have been abandoned or directly rejected by the current administration. Specifically, certain protected characteristics (such as gender identity or expression and sexual orientation, protected under Hawai'i nondiscrimination laws), and commonly used analytical theory (disparate impact) have been targeted by the federal agencies as noncompliant to federal laws. This resolution (SCR11) to amend the federal Civil Rights Act to explicitly include sex, sexual orientation, and gender

identity will ensure that these protections cannot be erased by agency interpretation or guidance.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.

**SCR-11**

Submitted on: 4/21/2026 2:26:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/22/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Llasmin Chaine	Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women	Support	In Person

Comments:

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women **supports SCR11**, affirming the principles of the Federal Equality Act and its protections against discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

As a statewide feminist government body dedicated to advancing equality for women and girls, our mission is rooted in ensuring that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect, free from discrimination. This resolution is significant because it aligns with our commitment to equity, inclusion, and the protection of fundamental rights for all people in Hawaii, especially those who have historically faced barriers due to gender or identity.

By supporting the Federal Equality Act, the measure **promotes a legal framework that upholds protections against discrimination in vital areas such as employment, housing, and public accommodations**. These protections are essential for the well-being, safety, and full participation of women, girls, and gender minorities in society. Research and best practices indicate that comprehensive anti-discrimination laws contribute to healthier, more equitable communities, and **foster environments where everyone can thrive**.

We respectfully urge this Committee to **pass SCR11**. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: [\(808\) 927-1214](tel:(808)927-1214) / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)

*Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor*



## COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative David Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

3:00 PM

Room 430 and VIDEOCONFERENCE

## **STRONG SUPPORT for SCR11 - FEDERAL EQUALITY ACT; SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY**

Aloha Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for almost three decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,602 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars<sup>1</sup> and under the "care and custody" of the Department Corrections and Rehabilitation on April 13, 2026.

We are always mindful that 816 (44%) of Hawai'i's imprisoned male population are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciates the opportunity to express our **STRONG SUPPORT for SCR11** that amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to expressly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, federally funded programs, credit, and jury service.

Mahu were the healers, the caretakers of kupuna and recognized and honored for their knowledge and wisdom.

---

<sup>1</sup> DCR Weekly Population Report, April 13, 2026

[Pop-Reports-Weekly-2026-04-13.pdf](#)

Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully asks the committees to support the Federal Equality Act that furthers the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to underscore that sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity are embedded in the sacred history of Hawai`i nei.

Every member of our community is important and valued - Equality and Equity for all of Hawai`i nei!

Mahalo for allowing Community Alliance on Prisons to firmly stand in strong support of our friends, family, and neighbors across the Hawaiian archipelago and that the committees will proudly pass SCR 11.



Committee: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 430 & Via Videoconference  
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SCR11**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") writes in **support of SCR11**, which requests the United States Congress to pass legislation to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, federally funded programs, credit, and jury service.

This measure is essential to protecting Hawai'i's cultural and genealogical integrity. In Kanaka Maoli culture, *māhū* describes someone who embodies *kāne* and *wahine* energies.<sup>1</sup> While the visibility of *māhū* individuals has recently increased, ongoing barriers remain.<sup>2</sup>

Transgender youth who are affirmed in their gender by their families establish healthy relationships with their parents and peers, do better in school, and are better equipped to plan for their future.<sup>3</sup> Denying them support increases the likelihood of dropping out of school and increases their risk for substance use, depression, anxiety, and suicide.<sup>4</sup> In 2023, 63% of Kanaka 'Ōiwi high school transgender youth or youth questioning their

---

<sup>1</sup> Papa Ola Lōkahi. *No Ka Māhū Toolkit*. [https://www.papaolalokahi.org/wp-content/uploads/No\\_Ka\\_Mahui\\_v3.pdf](https://www.papaolalokahi.org/wp-content/uploads/No_Ka_Mahui_v3.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Regidor, I., Haitsuka, K., Cavalieri, M., & Machida, A. (2025). *Hāpu 'u Ke Aloha: Māhū Listening Tour Report*. Papa Ola Lōkahi. [https://www.papaolalokahi.org/wp-content/uploads/Digital\\_1Page\\_Version\\_Layout\\_Hapuu\\_Report\\_July25.pdf](https://www.papaolalokahi.org/wp-content/uploads/Digital_1Page_Version_Layout_Hapuu_Report_July25.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Campaign Foundation. (2024). *2024 Report on the Experiences of Parents of Transgender and Non-binary Children*. Human Rights Campaign. <https://reports.hrc.org/experiences-of-parents-of-transgender-and-non-binary-children#child-mental-health>

<sup>4</sup> Matouk, K.M. & Wald, M. (2022, March). *Gender-affirming Care Saves Lives*. Columbia University Department of Psychiatry. <https://www.columbiapsychiatry.org/news/gender-affirming-care-saves-lives>. See ACLU National: <https://www.aclu.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/transgender-rights/transgender-people-and-health-care>

gender reported signs of depression.<sup>5</sup> In 2024, more than 1 in 3 transgender/unsure of gender youth attempted suicide.<sup>6</sup> This measure is essential to ensuring the well-being of Hawai‘i’s communities and families.

While Hawai‘i has important protections, federal law does not currently prohibit discrimination against sexual and gender minorities in public accommodations and facilities, education, federally funded programs, employment, housing, credit, and jury service. No one should be disadvantaged from accessing opportunities based on their sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Hawai‘i should take an important stance in ensuring that everyone has the freedom to be their authentic selves and has equal access to important opportunities. We urge you to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

*Donavan Kamakani Albano*

Donavan Kamakani Albano

Policy Fellow

ACLU of Hawai‘i

[dalbano@acluhawaii.org](mailto:dalbano@acluhawaii.org)

*With more than 4,000 Hawaii-based members, the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai‘i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United States and Hawai‘i State Constitutions through legislative, litigation, and public education work. The ACLU of Hawai‘i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai‘i has been serving our communities in Hawai‘i for over 60 years.*

---

<sup>5</sup> Hawai‘i State Departments of Education and Health, Hawai‘i Health Data Warehouse, Hawai‘i School Health Survey: Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

[https://hhdw.org/report/query/selection/yrbs/\\_YRBSSelection.html](https://hhdw.org/report/query/selection/yrbs/_YRBSSelection.html)

<sup>6</sup> Hawai‘i Sexual and Gender (SGM) Minority Workgroup. *Sexual & Gender Minority Youth in Hawai‘i*. (2024). <https://health.hawaii.gov/harmreduction/files/2024/03/Presentation-SGM-Youth-in-HI-2017-2019-FINAL-VERSION-2-3-4-2024.pdf>



April 21, 2026

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

**Re: S.C.R. 11 – REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY IN EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS, EDUCATION, FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS, CREDIT, AND JURY SERVICE**

**Hearing: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 3:00 PM, Conference Room 430 & Videoconference**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Women Lawyers is a lawyer's trade organization that aims to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all.

**Hawaii Women Lawyers supports S.C.R. 11.**

This resolution urges the United States Congress to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in critical areas including employment, housing, education, public accommodations, federally funded programs, credit, and jury service.

S.C.R. 11 aligns directly with Hawaii Women Lawyers' mission to enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunity. While Hawaii has enacted strong state-level protections for LGBTQ+ individuals and women, those protections are not guaranteed under federal law or in many other states. Without comprehensive federal protections, individuals remain vulnerable to discrimination simply because of where they live.

By supporting S.C.R. 11, the Legislature can affirm its commitment to civil rights and equality for all people, particularly those historically marginalized due to their gender or identity. Amending the Civil Rights Act to reflect these values would close longstanding legal gaps and bring consistency and dignity to the lived experiences of millions of Americans.

**For the above reasons, we respectfully request that the Committee pass this resolution.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.



[www.AlohaILHawaii.org](http://www.AlohaILHawaii.org)

Apr 22, 2026

#### MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### Chair / Sec

Valerie Yamada

##### Vice Chair

Zora Shove

##### Treasurer

Jonathan Yap

##### Member

Scott Suzuki  
Sheila Castaneda  
Jennifer Hartssock

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT:** SCR11 – Requesting the United States Congress to Pass Legislation to Amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to Prohibit Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity in Employment, Housing, Public Accommodations, Education, Federally Funded Programs, Credit, and Jury Service.

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) is a cross-disability, community-based nonprofit Center for Independent Living that supports people with disabilities to live in the community of their choice across Hawaii. AILH **strongly supports SCR11.**

Disabled people are disproportionately LGBTQIA2S+, and many of the people we serve experience discrimination based both on disability and on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. When people are denied housing, jobs, education, credit, or fair treatment in public accommodations because of who they are, it becomes much harder to avoid homelessness, institutionalization, or long-term reliance on systems that limit independence.

Hawaii has made important progress by explicitly protecting sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in housing, public accommodations, employment, and jury service, including Act 40 (2022). These protections are essential for Independent Living, because they reduce barriers to stable housing, income, and full participation in civic life for disabled and non-disabled people alike.



[www.AlohaILHawaii.org](http://www.AlohaILHawaii.org)

### MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair / Sec**  
Valerie Yamada

**Vice Chair**  
Zora Shove

**Treasurer**  
Jonathan Yap

**Member**  
Scott Suzuki  
Sheila Castaneda  
Jennifer Hartssock

However, without explicit federal protections, sexual and gender minorities—including disabled LGBTQIA2S+ people—remain vulnerable in many other states and in federal systems that shape access to employment, housing, education, federally funded programs, credit, and jury service. Federal protections, such as those envisioned by the Equality Act, would help ensure that basic civil rights do not disappear when someone moves, travels, or interacts with interstate employers and institutions.

We also appreciate that SCR11 recognizes that, before Western contact, Native Hawaiian society accepted same-sex relationships and gender fluidity and recognized mähū as a distinct third gender. This acknowledgment is consistent with the values of dignity, self-determination, and respect for cultural identity that are at the heart of the Independent Living philosophy.

For our cross-disability community, including LGBTQIA2S+ consumers, explicit, nationwide protections against discrimination are a necessary foundation for real choice and control over where and how to live, work, learn, and participate in community life. AILH respectfully urges the Committee to pass SCR11.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden  
Executive Director



April 21, 2026

House's Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 3:00 PM

RE: **Strong Support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 11**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i submits this testimony in **strong support** of Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, which requests that the United States Congress amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

As an organization representing LGBTQIA+ union members and allies across Hawai'i, we view this resolution as fundamentally about **worker dignity, economic security, and fairness on the job**.

No worker should have to choose between earning a paycheck and being their authentic self. Yet across the United States, LGBTQIA+ workers—especially transgender and nonbinary workers—continue to face discrimination in hiring, firing, promotions, wages, and workplace conditions. In too many places, a worker can still be denied a job or terminated simply because of who they are or who they love.

While court decisions have extended some protections under federal law, those interpretations are incomplete and vulnerable to reversal. Workers need clear, explicit, and durable protections that only Congress can provide. Amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964 would ensure that LGBTQ+ workers have consistent rights regardless of their zip code.

From a labor perspective, discrimination is not just a civil rights issue—it is an economic justice issue. Workplace discrimination contributes to wage gaps, job instability, and barriers to career advancement. It weakens collective bargaining power and undermines solidarity across the workforce. When employers are allowed to discriminate against some workers, it lowers standards for all workers.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i's Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Re: SCR 11

Hawai'i has demonstrated that strong protections for LGBTQ+ people and strong labor values go hand in hand. Our state has long recognized that inclusive workplaces are more equitable, more productive, and more resilient. SCR 11 extends that vision nationally and reinforces the principle that **an injury to one is an injury to all**.

At a time when workers' rights and LGBTQ+ rights are both under coordinated attack in many parts of the country, this resolution sends a powerful message: Hawai'i stands with workers, stands with LGBTQ+ communities, and stands for fairness and equality under the law.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to pass SCR 11 and to call on Congress to finally deliver comprehensive, nationwide civil rights protections for LGBTQ+ people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

President

[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)



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

Website: [www.hokupac.org](http://www.hokupac.org) ♦ Email: [info@hokupac.org](mailto:info@hokupac.org)

April 21, 2026

House's Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 3:00 PM

**RE: Strong Support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 11**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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. HOKU PAC submits this testimony in **strong support** of Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, requesting that the United States Congress amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

As Hawai'i's LGBTQ+ political action committee, HOKU PAC works to elect leaders who are committed to equality, justice, and accountability. SCR 11 represents a clear opportunity for Hawai'i to once again lead by example and call for long-overdue federal action to ensure that civil rights protections apply to everyone, everywhere.

Despite progress in Hawai'i and other states, māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ people across the country still face a patchwork of protections that leaves millions vulnerable to discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, credit, federally funded programs, and even jury service. These gaps are not theoretical—they have real consequences for people's livelihoods, safety, and ability to fully participate in civic life.

Federal law should be clear and unequivocal: discrimination has no place in our society. While court rulings have interpreted existing law to extend some protections, those decisions are limited in scope and subject to change. Only an explicit amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 can provide the comprehensive and enduring protections that māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ Americans deserve.

SCR 11 is also about political accountability. Voters increasingly expect their elected officials to stand firmly on the side of equality. By advancing this resolution, Hawai'i affirms that supporting māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ rights is not optional—it is a fundamental expectation of public leadership.

Hawai'i has long been at the forefront of advancing māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ equality, grounded in the values of aloha, inclusion, and respect for human dignity. Passing SCR 11 continues that legacy and sends a strong message to Congress that the time for half-measures has passed. Full federal equality is both necessary and overdue.

At a moment when māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+ rights are being challenged across the country, Hawai'i must remain steadfast. SCR 11/SR 9 ensures that our state's voice is heard loud and clear: civil rights protections must be explicit, comprehensive, and nationwide.

For these reasons, HOKU PAC respectfully urges the Committee to pass SCR 11.

*Paid for by HOKU PAC – Not Authorized by any Candidate or Candidate Committee*

**HOKU PAC Testimony in support of SB 2051 1452:  
RELATING TO INSURANCE**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**SCR-11**

Submitted on: 4/21/2026 7:19:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/22/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abby Simmons	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i respectfully offers **strong support for SCR 11**. This important resolution urges Congress to finally enact comprehensive federal civil rights protections for LGBTQ+ people and others who remain vulnerable to discrimination in many parts of the United States.

Hawai‘i has long been a leader in recognizing the dignity and humanity of all people. As this resolution notes, Native Hawaiian society historically recognized māhū and accepted gender diversity prior to Western contact. Hawai‘i has also enacted protections over time in employment, housing, public accommodations, and jury service. SCR 11 reflects our state’s values of inclusion, fairness, and aloha.

Yet millions of Americans still live in states where they can face discrimination because of who they are or whom they love. No one should fear losing a job, being denied housing, refused service, excluded from education, or treated unfairly in public life simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Equal protection under the law should not depend on a ZIP code. Federal civil rights protections must be clear, consistent, and nationwide.

At a time when LGBTQ+ communities are facing increased hostility and legal attacks in many states, Hawai‘i has an opportunity to send a strong message that civil rights matter, human dignity matters, and equality matters.

For these reasons, the Stonewall Caucus respectfully urges passage of SCR 11.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Abby Simmons (she/her)

Chair, Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i



**SCR-11**

Submitted on: 4/20/2026 9:28:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/22/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael A. Cobb Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. We have enough protections under current law.

**SCR-11**

Submitted on: 4/21/2026 4:31:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/22/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha from Kauai.

I write to you today to express my strong support for SCR 11 which will request that the United States congress to pass legislation to amend the civil rights act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, federally funded programs, credit, and jury service.

In the face of discrimination of all types across America, a country built by immigrants, we must support SCR 11.

Thank you.

**SCR-11**

Submitted on: 4/21/2026 8:17:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/22/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lori Kizer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Writing in strong support of SCR11 requesting the U.S. Congress to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in various areas such as employment and housing. Mahalo.

Lori Kizer, Kapaa

**SCR-11**

Submitted on: 4/21/2026 9:23:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/22/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ellen Ebata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Re: SCR11 - Supprting Amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony in extremely strong support of SCR11 which urges Congress to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation and gender identity in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, federally funded programs, credit and jury service.

These protections are especially important for LGBTQ+ individuals who, at this time in our country's history, have been experiencing increasingly disproportionate levels of discrimination and harm.

Ensuring equal protection under federal law affirms that everyone deserves dignity and equal opportunity.

SCR11 sends a clear message that Hawaii supports civil rights for all and calls on Congress to do the same.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ellen Ebata

Kauai

**SCR-11**

Submitted on: 4/21/2026 10:12:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/22/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am testifying in **strong support** of SCR11. Mahalo.