



April 7, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **SR25**, URGING STATE AGENCIES AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW TO COLLABORATE TO DEVELOP EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAW STUDENTS TO ASSIST IN THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

To: Senators Donna Mercado Kim and Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chairs
Senators Michelle N. Kidani and Mike Gabbard, Vice Chairs
Members of the Senate Committees on Education, and on Government Operations

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

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SR25, URGING STATE AGENCIES AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW TO COLLABORATE TO DEVELOP EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAW STUDENTS TO ASSIST IN THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

Hearing: Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women **supports SR25**, initiating a comprehensive review and update of Hawaii Administrative Rules by state agencies, with the involvement of law students through externships. As a statewide feminist government body dedicated to advancing equality for women and girls, we recognize that **administrative rules shape the implementation of laws and policies that directly affect gender equity, inclusion, and access to resources.**

A thorough review of administrative rules presents an important opportunity to identify and address outdated or inequitable provisions that may inadvertently perpetuate barriers for women and girls. **Involving law students** in this process not only **builds future legal capacity** but also introduces fresh perspectives that can help ensure rules reflect current best practices and the lived experiences of diverse communities. This approach aligns with our commitment to data-driven decision making and inclusive policymaking.

We encourage state agencies and participating institutions to prioritize the identification of rules that impact women and girls, particularly in areas related to health, safety, economic opportunity, and protection from discrimination. By supporting this measure, we believe Hawaii can make meaningful progress toward a more equitable and responsive regulatory environment.

We respectfully urge these Committees to **pass SR25**. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.