



# HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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April 18, 2016  
Rm. 325, 9:30 a.m.

To: The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: William D. Hoshijo, Executive Director  
Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: Governor’s Message 355  
Nomination of Linda Hamilton Krieger  
to the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. 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.

The Executive Director of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) supports the confirmation of the nomination of Linda Hamilton Krieger to the Commission. The Executive Director is responsible for the enforcement activities of the HCRC, including investigation, conciliation, and litigation of discrimination complaints. The Commission has two primary roles: it adjudicates contested cases and renders final decisions, based on hearings examiner’s recommended findings and conclusions; and it makes policy for the HCRC, including promulgation of rules.

Linda Hamilton Krieger has served as Chair of the Commission since her appointment in 2011, and has served as a holdover from July 1, 2015, through the present. She meets the HRS § 368-3 requirements that Commissioners have “knowledge and experience in civil rights matters” and “a demonstrated commitment to the preservation of the civil rights of all individuals.”

Chair Krieger grew up in Hawai‘i and returned home in 2007 to join the faculty at the University of Hawai‘i William S. Richardson School of Law, as a Law Professor and the Director of the Ulu Lehua Scholars Program (a pre-admission program whose mission is to provide opportunity for legal education for students from underrepresented communities). A former U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Staff Attorney, she is a nationally recognized expert in civil rights and fair employment law. Chair Krieger has been diligent and committed in the performance of her duties as HCRC Chair, and her knowledge and expertise have been invaluable to the Commission in policy-making, rulemaking, and adjudication.