

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 10, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1355 HD2 – RELATING TO THE STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Hearing: Monday, March 11, 2019, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

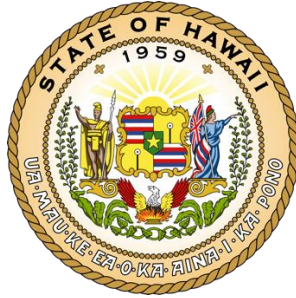
DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to the State Commission on the Status of Women. The House Committee on Finance changed the appropriation to an unspecified amount and made technical amendments (HD2).

The State Commission on the Status of Women requires additional funds to better fulfill its statutory mandate defined in section 347-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The additional funds will support an annual public awareness campaign, cooperate with national groups to host a conference and trainings around sex trafficking, and assist with the costs of design work, paid media, including radio, bus, and social media promotion. Also, per section 347(3)(5), the commission requires basic funding for transportation of the executive director and the commissioners for quarterly meetings and important state conferences.

The Commission advocates for policies that support social and economic mobility for Hawaii residents. Addressing existing social inequalities is to improve the community's overall well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke
Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine

Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women

Prepared for the Senate Committee on Human Services

In Support of HB1355 HD2

Monday, March 11, 2019, at 2:45 p.m. in Room 016

Dear Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports HB1355 HD2, which would appropriate funds to the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women to correct salary adjustments.

The Commission is the oldest commission of its kind – the very first state women’s commission in the United States. The Commission was created in state law by the Legislature in 1970 to “aid in the implementation of its recommendations, to develop long-range goals, and to coordinate research planning, programming, and action on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in Hawaii. It is the purpose of this chapter to provide for a statewide program, on a permanent and continuing basis, on the status of women in Hawaii.” (HRS § 367-1)

For over 50 years, the Commission has served as the main consultant to policymakers and as the central clearinghouse for women’s resources. The Commission has also been instrumental in coordinating the three county commissions on women, producing statewide research, and supporting community programs on the most marginalized issues affecting women and girls.

This measure is critical to maintain the Commission’s budget by providing \$18,888 to compensate for salary adjustments. Accordingly, the Commission respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure with an appropriation of \$18,888.

Sincerely,
Khara Jabola-Carolus

HB-1355-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2019 6:01:57 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Testifying for Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1355-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 11:17:50 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	Testifying for AAUW of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Ruderman, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a testimony in strong support of HB1355 HD2 which would provide funding for the operations of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. Please also ensure that the appropriate funds needed to correct for one-time salary adjustments for the Director and Secretary II is included. The Commission is a vital voice and resource for not only Hawaii's women and girls, but for everyone in our communities.

American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is a state-wide organization made up of six branches (Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu) and includes just over 450 active members with over 1700 supporters statewide. As advocates for gender equity, AAUW of Hawaii promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons.

HB-1355-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2019 4:56:47 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allix Hessick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Clarification on what these funds will be used for, specifically, during the fiscal year are needed. I don't support the lack of clarity