
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EQUAL PAY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature is committed to ensuring that
2 women and men are paid equally for work that is substantially
3 equal with respect to the skill, effort, and responsibility
4 required to perform the work and the conditions under which the
5 work is performed. The legislature recognizes that Act 108,
6 Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, is a significant step toward
7 ensuring that the pay disparity between men and women
8 diminishes. However, more needs to be done.

9 The American Association of University Women reports that
10 in 2017, median annual earnings for women in Hawaii were just
11 eighty-one per cent of men's earnings, which represents an
12 almost twenty per cent gap. Hawaii ranks twenty-third in income
13 equality out of all states and the District of Columbia,
14 according to the most recent census data. Furthermore, native
15 Hawaiian and other Pacific islander women earn only sixty-two
16 per cent of white male earnings nationally, and Hispanic women
17 earn even less.



1 Hawaii has led the way in civil rights. This Act proposes
2 to establish Hawaii as a leader in the area of pay equity and
3 clarifies that Hawaii's law is more protective of pay equity
4 rights than the federal Equal Pay Act of 1963 or Title VII of
5 the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

6 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 7 (1) Amend the list of protected classes under Hawaii's
8 equal pay statute to make the protections afforded by
9 this section consistent with the state statute that
10 prohibits employment discrimination;
- 11 (2) Clarify the factors that can be used by employers to
12 justify differences in compensation based on
13 seniority, merit, or other non-discriminatory
14 purposes;
- 15 (3) Provide pay transparency by requiring employers to
16 make salary range information available to employees
17 and job candidates, which will help employers manage
18 their pay expenses and encourage pay equity; and
- 19 (4) Update the term "equal work" as used in state non-
20 discrimination statutes to "substantially similar



1 work," which is the more accurate term used in many
2 other states.

3 SECTION 2. Section 378-2.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "~~§378-2.3~~ **Equal pay**~~[; sex discrimination]~~. (a) No
6 employer shall discriminate [~~between~~] among employees [~~because~~
7 ~~of sex,~~] by paying [~~wages~~] compensation to employees [~~in an~~
8 ~~establishment~~] at a rate less than the rate at which the
9 employer pays [~~wages~~] compensation to employees of [~~the~~
10 ~~opposite~~] another race, sex [~~in the establishment~~] including
11 gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age,
12 religion, color, ancestry, disability, marital status, arrest
13 and court record, or domestic or sexual violence victim status
14 for [~~equal~~] substantially similar work [~~on jobs the performance~~
15 ~~of which requires equal~~] when viewed as a composite of skill,
16 effort, and responsibility, [~~and that are~~] performed under
17 similar working conditions. [~~Payment~~]

18 (b) Compensation differentials [~~resulting from:~~] do not
19 violate this section if the employer demonstrates that the
20 differential solely results from any of the following factors:



1 (1) A non-discriminatory seniority system; provided that
2 time spent on leave due to a pregnancy-related
3 condition or parental, family, or medical leave, shall
4 not reduce seniority;

5 (2) A non-discriminatory merit system;

6 (3) A system that objectively measures earnings by
7 quantity or quality of production; or

8 ~~[(4) A bona fide occupational qualification; or~~

9 ~~(5) A differential based on any other permissible factor~~
10 ~~other than sex[,]~~

11 ~~do not violate this section.]~~

12 (4) A factor that has neither the purpose nor the effect
13 of discriminating on any basis prohibited by this
14 section.

15 (c) For the purposes of subsection (b) (4), a factor has
16 the purpose of discriminating on a basis prohibited by this
17 section if its general use or application in a particular case
18 is motivated, in whole or in part, by considerations of race,
19 sex including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation,
20 age, religion, color, ancestry, disability, marital status,



1 arrest and court record, or domestic or sexual violence victim
2 status.

3 (d) An employer who pays a wage in violation of this
4 section shall not, in order to comply with the provisions of
5 this section, reduce the wage rate of any employee.

6 (e) The agreement of an employee to work for less than the
7 wage to which the employee is entitled under this section is not
8 a defense to an action under this section.

9 ~~[-(b)-]~~ (f) An employer shall not retaliate or discriminate
10 against an employee for, nor prohibit an employee from,
11 disclosing the employee's wages, discussing and inquiring about
12 the wages of other employees, or aiding or encouraging other
13 employees to exercise their rights under this section."

14 SECTION 3. Section 378-2.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 " ~~[-]~~ §378-2.4 ~~[+]~~ **Employer inquiries into and consideration**
17 **of salary or wage history.** (a) No employer, employment agency,
18 or employee or agent thereof shall:

19 (1) Inquire about the salary history of an applicant for
20 employment; or



1 (2) Rely on the salary history of an applicant in
2 determining the salary, benefits, or other
3 compensation for the applicant during the hiring
4 process, including the negotiation of an employment
5 contract.

6 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), an employer,
7 employment agency, or employee or agent thereof, without
8 inquiring about salary history, may engage in discussions with
9 an applicant for employment about the applicant's expectations
10 with respect to salary, benefits, and other compensation;
11 provided that if an applicant voluntarily and without prompting
12 discloses salary history to an employer, employment agency, or
13 employee or agent thereof, the employer, employment agency, or
14 employee or agent thereof, may consider salary history in
15 determining salary, benefits, and other compensation for the
16 applicant, and may verify the applicant's salary history.

17 (c) This section shall not apply to:

18 (1) Applicants for internal transfer or promotion with
19 their current employer;

20 (2) Any attempt by an employer, employment agency, or
21 employee or agent thereof, to verify an applicant's



1 disclosure of non-salary related information or
2 conduct a background check; provided that if a
3 verification or background check discloses the
4 applicant's salary history, that disclosure shall not
5 be relied upon during the hiring process for purposes
6 of determining the salary, benefits, or other
7 compensation of the applicant, including the
8 negotiation of an employment contract; and

9 (3) Public employee positions for which salary, benefits,
10 or other compensation are determined pursuant to
11 collective bargaining.

12 (d) An employer shall provide the pay scale for a position
13 to an applicant applying for employment and disclose the factors
14 the employer considers in setting salary levels.

15 (e) Upon hire, and thereafter annually and upon request,
16 an employer shall provide an employee the wage range for the
17 employee's job title and for jobs within the employer's business
18 that are substantially similar with respect to the skill,
19 effort, and responsibility required to perform the jobs and the
20 conditions under which the jobs are performed.



1 (f) An employer shall disclose an hourly rate or salary
2 range in all job listings.

3 (g) An unlawful employment practice in violation of this
4 section and section 378-2.3 occurs when:

5 (1) An employer adopts a discriminatory compensation
6 decision or discriminatory practice;

7 (2) An individual becomes subject to the discriminatory
8 compensation decision or practice; or

9 (3) An individual is affected by application of the
10 discriminatory compensation decision or practice,
11 including each time wages, benefits, or other
12 compensation are paid.

13 (h) For purposes of this section and section 378-2.3, the
14 meaning of "compensation" is to be construed broadly and shall
15 include but not be limited to use of or access to employee
16 expense accounts, use of a vehicle, housing, travel budgets,
17 cost reimbursements, paid vacation or sick leave, sabbatical
18 benefits, endowed chairs, insurance, stock options, pension
19 contributions, and other employee benefits.

20 [~~d~~] (i) For purposes of this section:

21 "Inquire" means to:



1 (1) Communicate any question or statement to an applicant
2 for employment, an applicant's current or prior
3 employer, or a current or former employee or agent of
4 the applicant's current or prior employer, in writing,
5 verbally, or otherwise, for the purpose of obtaining
6 an applicant's salary history; or

7 (2) Conduct a search of publicly available records or
8 reports for the purpose of obtaining an applicant's
9 salary history;

10 provided that this shall not include informing an applicant, in
11 writing or otherwise, about the proposed or anticipated salary
12 or salary range for the position.

13 "Salary history" includes an applicant for employment's
14 current or prior wage, benefits, or other compensation, but
15 shall not include any objective measure of the applicant's
16 productivity, such as revenue, sales, or other production
17 reports."

18 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
19 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
20 begun before its effective date.



1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Equal Pay; Salary or Wage History; Employment

Description:

Conforms statutory prohibitions against wage discrimination with other prohibitions on employment discrimination. Clarifies allowable justifications for compensation differentials and remedies for pay disparity. Requires employers to disclose wage ranges to employees and prospective employees. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

