

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SCR225 & SR218**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO DEVELOP**  
**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS SPECIFIC**  
**TRAINING GUIDELINES FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGENCIES**  
**THAT SERVE AND ASSIST LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER,**  
**PLUS SURVIVORS.**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: March 31, 2022

Room Number: 225 & Videoconference

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) PROVIDES COMMENTS  
2 supporting the intent of SCR225 and SR218. These measures would require the Department of  
3 Human Services to issue guidance on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+)  
4 specific training for Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) agencies.

5 **Department Testimony:** LGBTQ+ people are more vulnerable to IPV than non-LGBTQ+  
6 people due to social stigma that comes with being a sexual and gender minority. According to  
7 the “Hawai‘i Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report” (2017), Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and  
8 Questioning youth were about twice as likely to have experienced dating violence in the previous  
9 year as their heterosexual peers and the “Hawai‘i Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report”  
10 (2018) presented data showing that 50% of Transgender youth in Hawai‘i had reported “being  
11 raped or assaulted by a romantic partner” in the prior year.

12 There are different means by which LGBTQ+ people are victimized by IPV than non-LGBTQ+  
13 members of the community. LGBTQ+ may have fewer resources to escape the IPV due to  
14 families and communities who reject them. LGBTQ+ people are less likely to seek help for IPV  
15 due to uninformed providers who provide services in heterosexist, harmful ways. The lack of

1 supportive services for LGBTQ+ victims of IPV exacerbates mental health issues such as  
2 depression, anxiety, and suicidality, which disproportionately affect LGBTQ+ youth and adults.

3 Specific LGBTQ+ training of service providers such as those providing services to victims of  
4 IPV is a critical component of providing appropriate services to meet the needs of this population  
5 and thereby reducing the negative physical and mental health effects of IPV. These trainings are  
6 readily available and free through many sources such as The National LGBTQIA+ Health Center  
7 (<https://www.lgbtqihealtheducation.org/courses/intimate-partner-violence-in-lgbtq->  
8 [communities/](https://www.lgbtqihealtheducation.org/courses/intimate-partner-violence-in-lgbtq-communities/)) and locally through the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
9 (<https://www.hscadv.org/>).

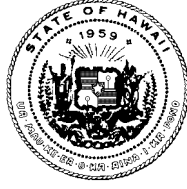
10 The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division Safe Spaces Committee and the Department  
11 of Health Sexual and Gender Minority Workgroup offer the Department of Human Services  
12 support in researching and crafting appropriate guidelines on LGBTQ+ training for Intimate  
13 Partner Violence agencies if the Department of Human Services needs assistance with such  
14 guidelines.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None.

16 **Fiscal Implications:** None for the Department of Health (DOH).

17 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 29, 2022

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

**SUBJECT: SCR 225/ SR 218 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO DEVELOP LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS SPECIFIC TRAINING GUIDELINES FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGENCIES THAT SERVE AND ASSIST LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS SURVIVORS.**

**HEARING:** March 31, 2022, 3:00 pm  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of these resolutions and provides comments.

**PURPOSE:** These resolutions request the Department of Human Services to develop LGBTQ+ specific training guidelines for intimate partner violence agencies that serve and assist LGBTQ+ survivors, to obtain input for the training guidelines from relevant advocates and professionals; and that the intimate partner violence agencies that serve and assist LGBTQ+ survivors are requested to receive the training guidelines developed by the Department of Human Services to address the needs of LGBTQ+ survivors.

For the Legislature's information, several local and national organizations provide training to serve and assist LGBTQ+ survivors. For example, the Hawaii State Coalition Against

Domestic Violence recently completed a series entitled "Exercising Cultural Humility with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities." The series included the following learning objectives: create safety plans that cater to survivors of LGBTQ+ abusive relationships with sexual violence components, describe how organizations can be trauma-informed, provide better environments to LGB&T survivors, and analyze resources and skills to help LGB&T survivors navigate social and judicial systems. Other local and national organizations sponsor and support training events and resources.

Additionally, the Department's ShakaTown.Org website for former foster youth has a resource page to support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Youth (LGBTQ) Children, Youth, And Families, see <https://shakatown.com/lgbtq/resources>.

The Department will work with organizations interested in developing or compiling the relevant curriculum.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these resolutions.

**SCR-225**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 4:10:25 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports SCR225. The training requested in this resolution is needed. Please pass this resolution. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808

**SCR-225**

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 10:56:10 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
L Basha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The development of these training guidelines will be of great service to our community and save tax payer dollars in the long run by giving survivors early assistance and possibly solving problems before they become more intense and expensive. Providing attention and care for this often overlooked part of our community is the right thing to do.

Lawrence Basha

Kailua

**SCR-225**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:19:20 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jen Jenkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this measure.

**SCR-225**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 10:40:52 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
K E	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This will be good for the community



**LATE**

**SCR-225**

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 8:36:24 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/31/2022 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Come on. We aren't in Texas.