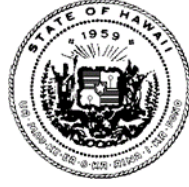


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**DEPT. COMM. NO. 108**

CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWE LAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

Dir 22.044

November 30, 2022

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker  
and Members of the House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

Enclosed is the following report submitted per section 367-3(8), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), relating to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, the report is available to review electronically at the Department's website, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

Cathy Betts  
Director

Enclosure

- c: Governor's Office
- Lieutenant Governor's Office
- Department of Budget & Finance
- Legislative Auditor
- Legislative Reference Bureau Library (1 hard copy)
- Hawaii State Public Library, System State Publications Distribution Center (2 hard copies, 1 electronic copy)
- Hamilton Library, Serials Department, University of Hawaii (1 hard copy)

REPORT TO THE THIRTY-SECOND HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE  
2023

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
SECTION 367-3, HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES,  
ON THE HAWAI'I STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF  
WOMEN

HAWAI'I STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DECEMBER 2022



## **Annual Report**

### **Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women**

Prepared by  
Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director

Submitted to  
Hawai'i State Legislature, 2023 Regular Session  
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

In 1964, Governor John A. Burns created the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women (CSW or Commission) by Executive Order. The work of the CSW is codified in sections 367-1, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), and sections 367-3 (1) through (8), HRS. This report details the CSW's events, programs, conferences, and activities during State fiscal year (SFY) 2021-2022 in the radical new territory called the "post-COVID" period. Note that in this year's events and programs section, items are not disaggregated by island due to the hybrid and mostly virtual nature of the majority of events. However, specific neighbor island programs are described.

#### **I. Events and Programs**

The following are educational events where Executive Director Khara Jabola-Carolus served as either a co-organizer, speaker, or trainer:

- How to Win Sex Trade Abolition Webinar, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women;
- The Future is Wahine: Making Media with a Purpose, La Pietra School;
- Homelessness is Gender Based Violence Webinar, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women;
- Annual Conference, National Association of Commissions on Women;
- Gender and COVID-19 Report, Hawai'i Women's Fund;
- Feminist Recovery Webinar, Northern Ireland Women's Policy Group;
- Kahuiki Village Anti-Eviction Canvassing Day, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women;
- Sovereign Bodies Institute Gathering, Annita Luchesi;
- Feminist Recovery Webinar, Northern Ireland Women's Policy Group;
- MMIWG Taskforce Inaugural Meeting, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women;

- Eviction Moratorium Direct Action at Governor Mansion, Honolulu Tenants' Union;
- Home x Huliha Project, Honolulu Museum of Art;
- Legislative Process and Advocacy Training, Hawai'i Women's Coalition;
- Period Poverty in Hawai'i Research Report, Ma'i Movement;
- Bodies Back Webinar, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women;
- Women and Leadership Panel, University of Hawai'i;
- How to Write an Op-ed Training, SGM Work Group and Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women;
- A Woman of Her Own Words: A Public Talk and Exhibit on Patsy T. Mink, Title IX, William S. Richardson School of Law;
- Community Over Cops Vigil, ACLU Hawai'i and AF3IRM;
- Building Connections: Women's Bureau and Women's Commissions Webinar, U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau;
- First Ever Feminist Foreign Policy Summit, Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy;
- First Annual State of Women in Hawai'i Conference, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women ;
- Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women: What We Do Briefing, KJEC Institute;
- 99 Zueins Podcast;
- Uppity Women Keynote Speaker, East-West Center;
- World Without Exploitation Webinar, WWE-Youth;
- Media Training on Abortion, Hawai'i Abortion Collective;
- YWCA Abortion Panel;
- The Official Hawai'i Abortion Guide;
- Title IX Presentation, Essential Access; and
- Salzburg Global Seminar Fellowship.

A notable achievement of CSW during this period was raising \$150,000 from Papa Ola Lokahi and the Urban Indian Health Institute to pay for the legislatively mandated and unfunded Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Taskforce (taskforce). The taskforce would not have been possible without these funds, which covered a full-time principal researcher, technological support, and qualitative research components, including compensation for a survivor who has expertise in the sex trade and sex trafficking specifically. In addition, CSW created a start-up coalition—the Hawai'i Abortion Collective—to better advance abortion access in Hawai'i to correct a decade of racist harm. Within one month of founding the new coalition, the group published the first centralized source of information on abortion legal rights, resources, and services for all islands in Hawai'i.

Please note that this list of resources is not exhaustive; there are additional community events, workshops, and touchpoints. These events have aimed to shift the culture to create fertile ground for women's issues to gain prominence and for feminist policy victories to be durable. In addition, they continued to cement Hawai'i as a global and national leader in gender justice and women's rights. These events have also enabled CSW to fulfill its mandate to coordinate with the key actors in women's rights at the international, national, and state levels as required by our statute.

## Forthcoming projects and programs for FY2022-2023:

- Replicating and scaling the Hawai'i Abortion Collective into a national model;
- Realizing a feminist recovery through legislation in 2023 with a first-in-the-nation abortion access coordinator office modeled after a statewide coordinator to address the housing crisis;
- Publishing the first report on missing and murdered Indigenous women in Hawai'i in partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- Managing deliverables for \$150,000 in grant funds for the principal researcher for the Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Taskforce
- Creating ex ante evaluation equity tool for all state departments and agencies to ensure gender-responsive crisis and disaster management, programs, and policies to be available on the Department of Human Resources Development training portal January 2023;
- Securing funding to fulfill the Filipino Domestic Violence Taskforce proposed by the State Legislature;
- Leading coordination and consultancy for women's policy during the 2023 legislative session; and
- Advising in the creation of a gender mainstreaming program.

## II. Current Committees and Taskforces

- Chair, Missing Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls' Task Force;
- Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition;
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Taskforce;
- Justice Reinvestment Initiative-Victim Services Group;
- Paid Family Leave Working Group;
- Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) Advisory Board;
- Working Families Coalition;
- Micronesian Women's Task Force;
- Hawai'i Human Trafficking Coalition under the Attorney General; and
- Stanford University Global Center for Gender Equality.

## III. Earned Media

Earned media is coverage by the press that was not paid for or created by the Commission. The Commission and Executive Director received local, national, and international media recognition for the Commission's work in 2022. Communications were critical to our advocacy efforts and led to greater community pressure to tackle systemic sexism in Hawai'i.

- **International and National News**
  - ABC
    - [Girls in Hawaii were once jailed for offenses like fleeing unsafe homes. Now they're not.](#)

- o The New Republic
  - [Who's Looking for Hawaii's Missing Girls](#)
- o Spectrum News NY1
  - [Hirono presses FBI Director on sex trafficking, impact on Native Hawaiians](#)
- o State of Reform
  - [Hawaii releases first comprehensive guide to abortion care](#)
- o Asian American News
  - [Former Navy officer sentenced to 40 years for sex trafficking Native Hawaiians](#)
- o The Washington Post
  - [Hawaii has no girls in juvenile detention. Here's how it got there.](#)
- o ABS-CBN
  - [Fil-Am shares abortion experience after US-SC overturns Roe v. Wade](#)
- o World Israel News
  - [Is abortion illegal in America now? Depends where you live.](#)
- **Local News**
  - o Hawaii Business Magazine
    - [The Reality of Abortion in Hawaii](#)
  - o Honolulu Star Advertiser
    - [Khara Jabola-Carolus, head of state panel on women, and Dr. Reni Soon join Spotlight Hawaii](#)
    - [Protect access to abortion care](#)
  - o Hawai'i News Now
    - [Hawaii abortion guide created in hopes of bridging gap in resources](#)
    - [After end of Roe v. Wade, broad coalition seeks to expand abortion access in Hawaii](#)
    - [Dozens of red dresses splayed across Waikiki to highlight issue of sex trafficking](#)
    - End of eviction moratorium puts formerly homeless Oahu families at risk again
    - Panel tackles issue of missing, murdered Native Hawaiian women
  - o KITV
    - [Activists and religious leaders come together to create state's first abortion guide](#)
    - [National spotlight brought to issue of missing and murdered Native Hawaiian women](#)
    - [Advocates seek to call attention to sex tourism in Hawaii, missing and murdered indigenous women](#)
    - Philippines-based church leader with Oahu ties indicted on sex trafficking charges
    - New study on menstruation found an alarming number of people in Hawaii struggle with period poverty
  - o KHON
    - [How overturning Roe v. Wade impacts Hawaii](#)

- o Honolulu Civil Beat
  - [A New Hawaii Abortion Guide Seeks to Address Gaps in Care](#)
  - [Kauai Voters Rarely Elect Women to County Council. Will That Change This Election?](#)
- o University of Hawaii System
  - [UH Law School Alumni Co-Author 1<sup>st</sup> Hawaii Abortion Guide](#)
- o Hawai'i Public Radio
  - [New website provides centralized information on abortion access in Hawai'i](#)
- o Kaua'i Now
  - [State of Women in Hawai'i Conference Tackles Abortion Rights in Inaugural Meeting](#)
- o Hawai'i Tribune-Herald
  - [Group releases guide on abortion rights, services in Hawaii](#)

#### IV. Community Advocacy and Provision of Testimony-Legislation

In leadership and support of the Hawai'i Women's Coalition and the broader community of women, the Commission assisted in drafting, revising, advising, and advocating for the legislation listed below. The following were priority measures and do not include all bills proposed during the 2022 Legislative Session that related to women's equality:

1. HB 1775 – Title IX
2. SB 2821 – Menstrual Equity in DOE and Charter Schools
3. SB 2700 – Early Care and Learning Workforce
4. SB 2482 – Office of Wellness and Resilience
5. HB1891 – Uniform Recognition and Enforcement of Canadian DV Protection Orders
6. SB2637 – Women in Incarceration Work Furlough Program
7. SCR216 – Erin's Law
8. SB206 – Rental Discrimination Source of Income
9. HB2510 – Minimum Wage Increase
10. SCR 133 – Tackling Filipino Domestic Violence
11. HB2405 – Health Insurance Coverage for Transgender Women
12. SB2701 – Retaining and Recruiting Early Childhood Educators
13. SB2634 – Extend Postpartum Coverage for Medicaid Mothers
14. SCR206 – Urging Passage of the Women's Health Protection Act of 2021 to Protect the Right to Access and Provide Abortion Services
15. HCR 58 – Right to Exit Patriarchy Guaranteed Income Pilot Program
16. SB 2424 – Girl Marriage Ban
17. SB 2300 – Campaign Spending for Childcare and Eldercare
18. SB 2560 – Equal Employment for Transgender People
19. SB 3364 – Stay Hawaii Property Stewardship
20. SB 2282 – Strengthening Statutory Protections for Abortion Care
21. SB 3171 – TANF Pass-Through

22. HB 249 – Insurance Coverage for Abortion
23. SB 2635 – Mammography Coverage
24. SB 2397 – Domestic Violence Training for Child Custody Evaluators
25. HB 1777 – Annual Report on CSEC from AG
26. SR 49 – Instituting Remote Testimony for TROs
27. HB 2208 – Extending Civil statute of Limitations for Child Sexual Abuse

V. National Advocacy and Legislation

Male domination was globalized through the Age of Exploration and intensified the spread of connective networks in modern times. Section 367, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, recognizes the globalization of systemic sexism by requiring an active engagement by the Commission at the county, national, and global levels. To fulfill this mission, HSCSW:

1. Participated in a global convening of feminist leaders in government and private sector in Salzburg, Austria;
2. Provided consultancy to various U.S. states, national non-profit organizations, universities, and grassroots organizations on women's rights;
3. Provided public training on women's political organizing, women's leadership development, and gender based violence prevention to various U.S. states, national non-profit organizations, universities, and grassroots organizations on women's rights.

VI. Recommendations

A. Invest in Gender Equality Infrastructure

CSW is under-resourced and has been critically endangered by budget cuts during the pandemic that amounted to 20% of our annual budget. The new Governor and new Legislature should correct course and invest in gender equality infrastructure—the policies, services, and programs that women need to live without violence. This infrastructure should not be limited to or siloed within CSW. Instead, each department should have a gender focal point officer to coordinate with CSW to develop measurements, training, and implementation. The shortage of staff leaves CSW unable to understand or adapt national and international tools to advance gender mainstreaming and feminist leadership in government.