

GM-659

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 8:56:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Belting	Testifying for Kailua United Methodist Church	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

My name is Pastor Brian Belting. On behalf of Kailua United Methodist Church and the broader district of the United Methodist Church that we are testifying in **support** of Kathleen O'Dell to serve on the LGBTQ+ Commission to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Dr. O'Dell has served in various leadership roles within the United Methodist Church and has a passion for connecting our faith community to the needs of the community. Dr. O'Dell helped lead our congregation through a time of discernment over our welcome and inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons. When some in our denomination were leaving due to our inclusive stance, Dr. O'Dell was willing to share her story and the critical role the church could play in supporting vulnerable persons within the LGBTQ+ community. On top of her leadership and advocacy, Dr. O'Dell is an organized leader with a long track record of hard work and achievement.

Kailua United Methodist Church and the broader district and region wholeheartedly support Dr. O'Dell's service on the LGBTQ+ commission. Undoubtedly, she will be a valuable contributor and help guide our community and State in providing services and support for the LGBTQ+ community.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Rev. Brian Belting

Senior Pastor at Kailua United Methodist Church

PastorBrian@kailuaumc.org

808-825-341

GM-659

Submitted on: 4/6/2024 8:39:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala McKenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

My name is Keala McKenzie. I am testifying in **support** of Kathleen O'Dell to serve on the LGBTQ+ Commission, to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Dr. O'Dell is highly qualified for this appointment. I have seen first hand how Dr. O'Dell has advocated for and supported the LGBTQ+ community in the work we did together during her time at the Department of Education. I can't think of anyone more passionate or dedicated to the well being and equal rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community.

Mahalo,

Keala McKenzie, DOE School Social Worker

GM-659

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 10:14:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esmeralda Carini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Esmeralda Carini and I am testifying in **support** of Kathleen O'Dell to serve on the LGBTQ+ Commission, to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short-and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Dr. O'Dell brings the experience and commitment to working with community groups that are often underrepresented and unserved here in Hawaii. As a former colleague in the Hawaii Department of Education, I had witnessed firsthand her ability to create opportunities for marginalized populations in our school communities to connect to resources and have a voice in the outcomes of policies (e.g., creating Family Resource Centers, platforms for community groups to meet and learn together, etc.). The meaningful work that Dr. O'Dell has led in the HDOE continues with her support even after she has left her position to work for the University of Hawaii. Hawaii needs dedicated, educated, and resourceful people like Dr. O'Dell to help support and represent our LGBTQ community. Her impact will benefit this community and our local community as a whole for generations to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony!

GM-659

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 11:57:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candice Frontiera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

My name is Candice Frontiera. I am testifying in **support** of Dr. Kathleen O'Dell to serve on this newly established commission because she is a skilled researcher, advocate, innovator, and leader who grounds her work in an equity lens.

Dr. O'Dell has years of professional expertise that ranges from early learning, to K-12 systemic improvement, to establishing new programs of study at the university level. With each unique endeavor, Dr. O'Dell fosters strong connections with community members and partnership organizations. She elevates the voices of those who feel marginalized, vulnerable, and disempowered.

Her dedication to diversity and inclusion, willingness to continuously learn, strong organizational skills, and effective communication will make her a true asset to any collaborative effort.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony!

With appreciation,

Candice Frontiera

GM-659

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 6:35:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Serratos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

My name is Kimberly Serratos. I am testifying in **support** of Kathleen O'Dell to serve on the LGBTQ+ Commission to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Dr. O'Dell is qualified because she is one of the most caring and competent human beings I have ever met. She is dedicated to serving and representing the LGBTQ+ community and has the skills to do so effectively. Beyond the necessary researching, planning, and advocacy skills Dr. O'Dell has -- she has a Ph.D. and published research -- she also has a deep connection and understanding of the LGBTQ+ community. As an LGBTQ+ community member, it is of personal importance to me that the State has someone I trust to listen to. Dr. O'Dell is one of a kind, and she has all my support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony!

GM-659

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 3:42:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
francoise Bell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

My name is francoise Bell (she/her/elle). I am testifying in **support** of Kathleen O'Dell to serve on the LGBTQ+ Commission, to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Dr. O'Dell is qualified because she is committed and passionate about creating LGBTQIA+ inclusive environments in all organizations in Hawai'i. She is an expert in diversity, equity and inclusion especially in the area in creating non-discriminatory environments for LGBTQIA+ youth and adults. She is a great listener, eloquent speaker and dedicated to justice for LGBTQIA+ youth and adults. I highly recommend Dr. O'Dell for this service position and am grateful to know her and learn from her mana'o.

Sincerely,

francoise Bell (she/her/elle)

GM-659

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 5:46:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Baldwin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

My name is Diana Baldwin. I am testifying in support of Kathleen O'Dell to serve on the LGBTQ+ Commission, to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Dr. O'Dell is qualified because she is passionate about everyone having a voice and being treated equally. She would be a champion making sure their voices are heard and that equity is in the forefront.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony!

Diana Baldwin

April 12, 2024

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 659 -Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission for Kathleen O'Dell

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I **support** of the nomination of Kathleen O'Dell, PhD to serve on the LGBTQ+ Commission, to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

I've worked with Dr. O'Dell for the past four years and found her to be of high integrity, committed, and responsive to helping all Hawaii children and families to thrive through education, mentoring, coaching, and collaborating widely with individuals and organizations. It's a delight to work with her. She's always pleasant and mindful of ALOHA in all her relationships and interactions with others.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Korenaga". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katherine Korenaga

April 9, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Mimari Hall

SUBJECT: GM659 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, KATHLEEN O'DELL, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Hearing: April 12, 2024, 9:30AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference State Capitol

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in **support** of Kathleen O'Dell, PhD, to serve on the LGBTQ+ Commission to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Dr. O'Dell is qualified as she is an effective and compassionate leader who works well with the community members from all walks of life with equity and equality in mind. She a collaborator and community connector to be the voice of those people who are marginalized to make positive impacts on their lives. Her passion, knowledge, and experience to make movements in the area of diversity, equity, and inclusion will greatly contribute to the LGBTQ+ commission.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify.
Mimari A. Hall

GM-659

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 10:25:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Timmerman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Victoria Timmerman. I am testifying in support of Dr. Kathleen O'Dell to serve on the LGBTQ+ Commission, to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Dr. O'Dell is highly qualified for this role as she has been a strong advocate for the LGBTQ+ community in Hawai'i for the past several years. In her work establishing Family Resource Centers as the Network Coordinator for the Hawai'i Ohana Support Network, she consistently promotes the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in education, as well as respecting and valuing all family and student backgrounds and cultures. Dr. O'Dell would make invaluable contributions as a member of the LGBTQ+ Commission, and Hawai'i's families and keiki would highly benefit from her work in this important capacity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Dr. O'Dell.

Sincerely,

Dr. Victoria Timmerman

GM-659

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 9:46:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thao Le	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 9, 2024

Re: Hawai'i LGBTQ+ Commission

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

My name is Thao Le. I am testifying in **support** of Kathleen O'Dell to serve on the LGBTQ+ Commission, to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Dr. O'Dell is qualified she is an outstanding, committed, and engaged instructor in the area of Human Development & Family Studies at Windward Community College and at the University of Hawai'i Manoa. As an expert instructor in human development and family studies, she understands how vitally important one's feeling of being accepted, included, appreciated, and respected contributes to resilience and thriving not only for the individual, but to families and the community. Her experiences in the educational sector and leading development of Family Resource Engagement Centers, as well as her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion attests to her competence to serve on this Commission

I hope you look favorably on Dr. O'Dell's expertise and experiences, and appoint her to serve on this important commission.

Sincerely,

Thao Le, PhD, MPH

GM-659

Submitted on: 4/11/2024 9:01:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ernestine L Belaski-Epstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

My name is Ernestine Belaski-Epstein. I am testifying in **support** of Kathleen O'Dell to serve on the LGBTQ+ Commission, to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Dr. O'Dell is qualified because of her continued support in the LGBTQ+ community and her love for all people. She has been a mentor to many and gives her best in everything she does. She is by far the best for this position.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony!

Ernestine Belaski-Epstein

