

A Bill for an Act Establishing a State Commission and County Committees on the Status of Women.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“CHAPTER

STATUS OF WOMEN

Section -1. Findings and purpose. The legislature finds that the work of the governor’s commission on the status of women, established by the governor by executive order on May 15, 1964, demonstrates the need for a continuing body 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 in (1) education, (2) homemaking, (3) civil and legal rights, (4) labor and employment, and (5) expanded community horizons. 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.

Section -2. State commission on status of women: membership, organization, etc. There is created a State commission on the status of women, within the department of budget and finance for administrative purposes, which shall consist of not fewer than fifteen nor more than twenty-one members. The membership shall include, ex-officio, a representative of the attorney general, the chairman of the commission on children and youth, the superintendent of education, the president of the university of Hawaii, the director of labor and industrial relations, the director of personnel services, and the director of social services. The remaining members shall be appointed by the governor in accordance with section 26-34. One-third of the appointed members shall be appointed initially for the term of four years, one-third for the term of three years, and one-third for the term of two years, and thereafter the terms of office of each member shall be four years. Of the appointed members there shall be at least one member from each of the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai. The members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their necessary expenses in attending meetings of the commission and in the discharge of their duties. The members shall be selected on the basis of their interests and knowledge in, and their ability to make contributions to, the solution of problems relating to the status of women. The chairman shall be elected annually from the non-governmental members of the commission. There shall be no less than four meetings of the commission each year to be held at times and places agreed upon by the commission.

Section -3. Duties of commission. The commission shall: (1) Act as a central clearing house and coordinating body for governmental and non-governmental activities and information relating to the status of women;

- (2) Accumulate, compile, and publish information concerning instances of actual discrimination, and discrimination in the law, against women;
- (3) Cooperate with the department of labor and industrial relations and appropriate federal offices and agencies in correcting unlawful employment practices involving discrimination because of sex;
- (4) Create public awareness and understanding of the responsibilities, needs, potentials, and contributions of women as homemakers, workers, and active participants in community life and of the importance of each of these roles in the changing society;
- (5) Recommend legislative and administrative action on equal treatment and opportunities for women;
- (6) Seek improvements in educational and counseling programs and policies to meet the needs of girls and women in order better to prepare them for their roles in the home and community;

ACT 190

- (7) Encourage a long-range program of education of women in their political rights and responsibilities, particularly with respect to their voting duties;
- (8) Maintain contacts with appropriate federal, State, local and international agencies concerned with the status of women;
- (9) Cooperate with national groups on the status of women and arrange for participation by representatives of the State in White House conferences and other national conferences from time to time;
- (10) Administer funds allocated for its work; be authorized to accept, disburse, and allocate funds which may become available from other governmental and private sources; provided that all such funds shall be disbursed or allocated in compliance with any specific designation stated by the donor and in the absence of such specific designation, such funds shall be disbursed or allocated on projects related to any of the purposes of this chapter; and
- (11) Submit an annual report with recommendations to the governor and the legislature.

Section -4. County committees on status of women, membership, organization, etc. The mayor of each county shall appoint a county committee on the status of women charged with the duty and responsibility of developing such information as the State commission on the status of women requires or as such committee deems advisable concerning the status of women within the respective counties. The committees shall submit to the State commission, plans and proposals affecting the status of women in the several counties. Each county committee shall endeavor to secure the widest possible citizen participation in its efforts and for this purpose may utilize existing public or private organizations. The membership of each county committee shall include, ex-officio, the county attorney or corporation counsel; the senior county representative of the commission on children and youth; and the county representative of the commission on the status of women. The other members shall be selected on the basis of their interest and knowledge in, and their ability to make contributions to, the solution of problems relating to the status of women within the county and their knowledge of local conditions. The chairman shall be elected annually from the non-governmental members of the committee. One-third of the non-governmental members of the county committees shall be appointed initially for the term of four years, one-third for the term of three years, and one-third for the term of two years, and thereafter the terms of office of each member shall be four years. Each county committee shall meet at least four times a year. The members of the county committees shall receive no compensation for their services. The respective county legislative bodies are authorized to make appropriations to meet the necessary expenses of such committees.

SECTION 2. There is hereby appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$40,000, or so much thereof as may be neces-

sary, to the department of budget and finance to be used for contractual services for the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
(Approved July 2, 1970.)