



HAWAI'I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

KOMIKINA PONO KIWILA O HAWAI'I

AGENDA

January 20, 2026 at 11:30am Meeting to be Held Remotely via Zoom.

Remote Meeting Link for January 20, 2026 Meeting at 11:30am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4349599058?pwd=VlpKZDVmZ3MzYit5cIJQTE1VekhOdz09&omn=84063400392>

Meeting ID: 434 959 9058
Passcode: dER5Xy

Physical Meeting Location:
Princess Ruth Ke'elikōlani Building
830 Punchbowl Street, Room 411
No board members will be present.

Upon request, a testifier can be made visible to Board members and other meeting participants using either the remote meeting link above or at the physical meeting location.

Instructions to attend State of Hawaii Virtual Board meetings via Zoom:

<https://labor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/State-of-Hawaii-Virtual-Board-Attendee-Instructions.pdf>

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of minutes of December 16, 2025 Commission Meeting
3. Chief Counsel's Report on Docketed Cases
 - a. *MARCUS KAWATACHI, as Executive Director of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, on behalf of the Complaint filed by SHANNEL E. DIEDERIKS vs. Ali'i Builders, LLC; Dkt. No. 25-002-E-SH-RET*
 - *Contested case hearing date: January 27, 2026*

- b. *Marcus L. Kawatachi, Executive Director, on behalf of the complaint filed by BRANDIE AND GREGORY PAYNE v. PEARY G. WAGNER*; Dkt. No. 25-001-H-F
 - Contested case hearing set for January 30, 2026
- c. *MARCUS KAWATACHI, as Executive Director of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, on behalf of the Complaint filed by FRANK RESURRECCION vs. K'S DRIVE-IN*; Dkt. No. 25-003-E-D
 - Contested case hearing set for February 12, 2026
- d. MARCUS L. KAWATACHI, Executive Director, on behalf of the complaint filed by FABIOLA DIAS v. EVAN YUTAKA K. MASUNAGA and KRISTIN YURI MASUNAGA, Dkt. No. 25-004-H-S-RET
 - Contested case hearing set for April 20, 2026

4. 2026 Legislative Session Discussion, 2026 Bills relating to civil rights (Senate Bills ("SB") and House Bills ("HB")):

- a. Overview of upcoming session:
 - i. In general, staff recommendations to monitor, support, oppose
 - ii. Anticipation of legislation likely to be debated this session
- b. HCRC's Bill Proposal: To extend the statute of limitations to file a complaint of discrimination from 180-days from the discriminatory act to one year, amending Haw. Rev. Stat. section 368-11
 - i. See board packet for proposed bill
- c. Carryover bills from 2025 session
 - i. **HB22**
Summary: Allows state and county law enforcement agencies to collaborate with the federal government for immigration purposes in only limited, specific circumstances.
 - ii. **HB457 HD1**
Summary: Requires state and local law enforcement agencies to notify an individual of their rights when in law enforcement agency custody before any interview with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement on certain matters regarding immigration violations
 - iii. **HB468 HD1**
Summary: Requires the Civil Rights Commission to receive and investigate complaints related to acts of discrimination committed by transportation network company drivers against riders with service animals and report the results of its investigation to the Department of Transportation, which shall issue penalties to transportation network companies. Relating to transportation
 - iv. **HB615**

Summary: Expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. Clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

v. **HB620 HD1 SD1**
Summary: Establishes state policy to promote braille literacy for eligible blind students. Requires the individualized education programs and section 504 plans of eligible blind students to include the assessment and evaluation of eligible blind students' reading and writing abilities, instruction of braille, and provision of braille instructional materials under certain circumstances. Requires the Department of Education to establish a Braille Literacy Resource Center. Appropriates funds.

vi. **HB728**
Summary: Amends the Hawai'i State Constitution to prohibit the State from denying or interfering with an individual's reproductive freedom, including the right to choose to obtain an abortion and to obtain or use contraceptives.

vii. **HB831**
Summary: Prohibits the use of algorithmic price-setting in Hawai'i's rental market. Requires the Department of the Attorney General to develop and undertake a public education program regarding the prohibition.

viii. **HB1096 HD1**
Summary: Repeals the tenant selection preferences for disabled veterans and the spouses of deceased veterans in the State Low-Income Housing Program.

ix. **HB1496 HD2**
Summary: Establishes the position of Ka Papahana Kaiapuni Program Complex Area Superintendent. Requires that at least one at-large member of the Board of Education be a Hawaiian educator, practitioner, or scholar of Hawaiian studies or the Hawaiian language, to be selected from a list of three nominees submitted by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Clarifies the purpose and objective of the Hawaiian Language Medium Education Program. Appropriates funds.

x. **SB31**
Summary: Property; Discriminatory Restrictive Covenants; Invalidation of Covenants; Immunity

xi. **SB44**
Summary: Authorizes the counties to prohibit discrimination against a renter based on the renter's source of income. Relating to housing discrimination.

xii. **SB55 SD1**
Summary: Beginning 1/1/2027, requires all state agencies to

make the full text of their rules available on the website of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor in a digitally accessible and searchable format that meets or exceeds certain federal standards.

xiii. **SB59**

Summary: Prohibits users of algorithmic decision-making from utilizing algorithmic eligibility determinations in a discriminatory manner. Requires users of algorithmic decision-making to send corresponding notices to individuals whose personal information is used. Requires users of algorithmic decision-making to submit annual reports to the Department of the Attorney General. Provides means of civil enforcement.

xiv. **SB149**

Summary: Requires sellers or providers of emotional support animals to provide written notice to the buyers or recipients that the animal does not have the special training required to qualify as a service animal; the animal is not entitled to the rights and privileges accorded by law to a service animal; and knowingly misrepresenting as a service animal any animal that does not meet the statutory 3 requirements of a service animal is a violation of law. Requires sellers or providers of certificates or identification tags for emotional support animals to provide written notice to the buyers or recipients that the item does not entitle an emotional support animal to the rights and privileges accorded by law to a service animal and knowingly misrepresenting as a service animal any animal that does not meet the statutory requirements of a service animal is a violation of law. Establishes penalties.

xv. **SB1061 SD1**

Summary: Establishes and appropriates funds for a digital navigator pilot program to offer technical assistance with computers and electronic devices to residents.

xvi. **SB1149**

Summary: Attorney General on Hate Crimes, discriminatory reporting; Agencies, training

xvii. **SB1493 SD1**

Summary: Requires sellers or providers of emotional support animals to provide written notice to the buyers or recipients that the animal does not have the special training required to qualify as a service animal; the animal is not entitled to the rights and privileges accorded by law to a service animal; and knowingly misrepresenting as a service animal any animal that does not meet the statutory 3 requirements of a service animal is a violation of law. Requires sellers or providers of certificates or identification tags for emotional support animals to provide written notice to the buyers or recipients that the item does not entitle an emotional support animal to the rights and privileges accorded by law to a service animal and knowingly

misrepresenting as a service animal any animal that does not meet the statutory requirements of a service animal is a violation of law. Establishes penalties.

xviii. **SB1496**

Summary: Discrimination in Public Accommodations; Persons with Disabilities; Accessibility; Information and Communication Technology

xix. **SB1660 SD1**

Summary: Requires employers in the hospitality industry to implement anti-harassment measures, provide training, and equip certain workers with panic buttons. Prohibits retaliation against a hospitality worker who files a complaint, uses the provided panic button, or participates in an investigation or proceeding related to a harassment complaint. Requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to adopt rules, including rules determining penalties and establishing procedures for handling complaints. Requires all hospitality employers to comply no later than 1/1/2026.

5. Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) General Discussion

- a. Structure, Function, and Duties of HCRC
- b. Frequently Asked Questions and Staff Responses
- c. Public responses

6. Announcements

- a. Next Commission Meeting Dates
 - i. January 27, 2026 at 11:30am via zoom
 - ii. February 3, 2026 at 11:30am via zoom
 - iii. February 10, 2206 at 11:30am via zoom

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Constance Yonashiro at (808) 586-8642 or constance.m.yonashiro@hawaii.gov Requests made as early as possible will allow more time to fulfill your request if possible.

Testimony can be submitted via e-mail to DLIR.HCRC.INFOR@hawaii.gov TESTIMONY in the title, or mailed to Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, 830 PunchbowlStreet, Room 411, Honolulu, HI 96813. Oral testimony will also be accepted.

Board packets, if prepared, will be available pursuant to H.R.S. § 92-7.5.

If the remote connection (via Zoom) is lost, the meeting will be recessed for up to

thirty (30) minutes to restore communication. If the connection is lost, we will attempt to restart the meeting again with the same link. If the Commission can reestablish audio communication only, the meeting will be reconvened and continue. If the Commission isunable to reconvene the meeting because neither audiovisual communication nor audio communication can be reestablished within thirty minutes, the meeting will be automatically terminated.

If you have trouble entering the meeting, please contact Sandy at (808) 586-8659