

HAWAI'I | WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS 2020 CAUCUS PACKAGE



STATE OF HAWAI‘I WOMEN’S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS OVERVIEW

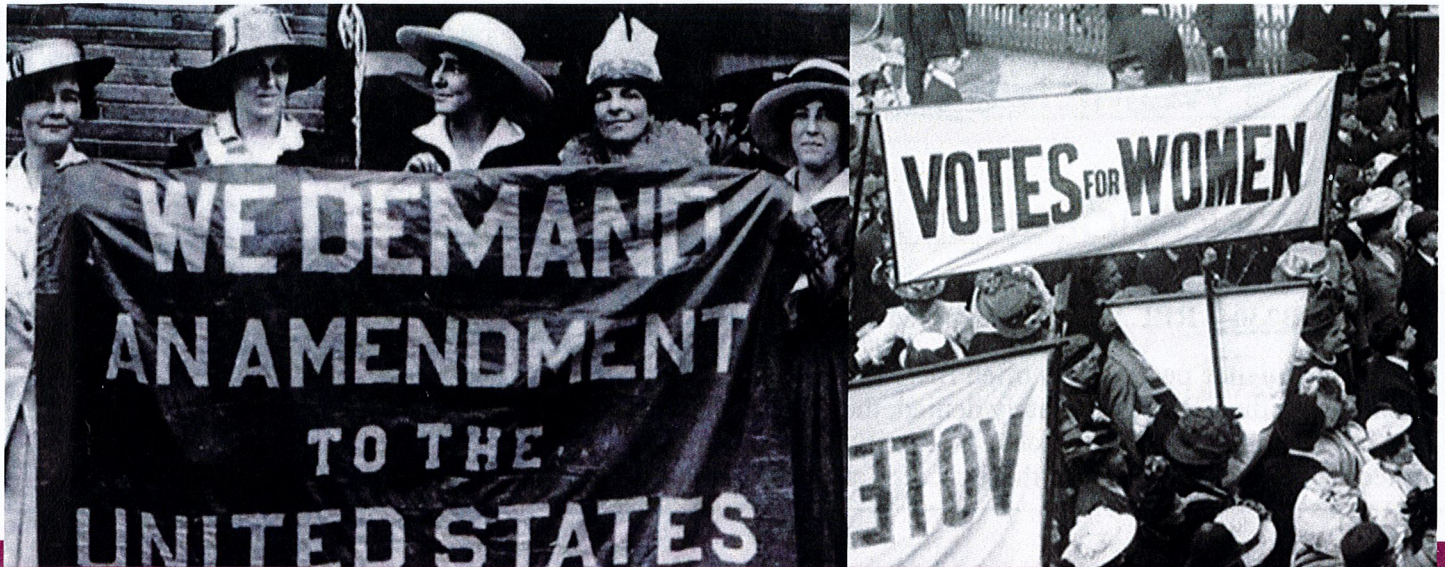
For over 30 years, the Hawai‘i Women’s Legislative Caucus has advocated for the diverse interests of women, children and families throughout the Aloha State. The bi-partisan organization is comprised of women legislators in the Senate and House of Representatives, consisting of seventeen members from the House and seven from the Senate.

Each year, the Women’s Legislative Caucus introduces an official package of bills and resolutions in both the Senate and House of Representatives. Measures included in the package are based upon approval by seventy five percent of the Caucus members, aimed to improve the lives of women and girls in Hawai‘i. The caucus focuses on legislation promoting women and girls’ health, gender equality, eliminating violence against women and providing safe work spaces, successfully passing many bills into law over the past three decades that have significantly improved lives of women and children.



Members of the 2019 WLC at the signing of three bills from the 2019 Legislative session

Row 1 (L to R): Rep. Amy Perruso, Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Sen. Laura Thielen, U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono, Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Gov. David Ige, Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Rep. Tina Wildberger, Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Rep. Cynthia Thielen, Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Rep. Della Au Belatti, Sen. Sharon Moriwaki.



2020 CAUCUS PACKAGE DEDICATION

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

In 1848 the first Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, marked the beginning of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. Over the next 50 years, women like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other women's rights pioneers began working tirelessly, circulating petitions and lobbying with Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to enfranchise women. After 50 years of arrests, public beatings, and ridicule by men, and even some women, the 19th amendment was enacted on August 18, 1920, granting women the right to vote in the United States.

While celebrating the 19th amendment we cannot forget that many women of color went through additional obstacles to practice their right to vote. Including: having to wait in line for hours to register to vote; and taking tests requiring them to read and interpret the constitution before being deemed eligible to vote; until the Voting Rights Act passed in the 1960s. Furthermore, Native Hawaiian women suffered the added indignity of losing the right to vote in the 1893 overthrow, as women in the Hawai'i kingdom had the right to vote and were active participants in politics. Following the overthrow, women like Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann Dowsett worked tirelessly to return their right to vote- for native women.

Women have played a vital role in shaping public policy and the world. We must continue to make strides to achieve pay equity, gender parity and the elimination of violence against women. The Women's Legislative Caucus is encouraging authorities to make a conscious effort to reach these goals by appointing more qualified women to our governing judiciary, boards and commissions.

The best way we can honor suffragettes is by more women stepping forward to run for office, applying to be judges and members of state policy-making boards and commissions. We should be inspired by these fearless pioneers, committing ourselves to work for all women and girls in Hawai'i, for a brighter future that will lift all families in our state.

2020 WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS PACKAGE

REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HB2060/SB2304: RELATING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE; TRO; FAMILY COURTS

Domestic violence perpetrators often file TROs against a victim as a method of retaliation or intimidation. Even though the TRO is ultimately denied, the victim still has it on her record, making it difficult to apply for jobs or housing. This bill provides that family courts may seal any record of a denied TRO or denied protective order; provided that these records shall remain accessible to law enforcement without a court order.

HB2058/SB2305: RELATING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE; ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE HEARING

Seeking a TRO can be emotionally and financially taxing for victims. Abusers often “game” the system by asking for delays of court hearings. This bill provides that a court may not grant more than two (2) continuances of an order to show cause hearing in domestic abuse cases, absent a finding of exigent circumstances.

HB2057/SB2306: RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; SEXUAL VIOLENCE VICTIM STATUS

Hawai‘i laws contain various protections for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual violence who are trying to leave an abusive relationship (for example, early termination of rental agreements or cell phone contracts), but each law has a different standard for proof of victim status. This bill makes consistent the types of documents accepted as proof of domestic or sexual violence victim status.

HB2055/SB2307: RELATING TO STATE PROCUREMENT OF WIFI AND INTERNET SERVICES

Requires that all states and state funded facilities, which provide public Wi-Fi access to the internet, shall have filters to block access to pornography sites. Currently members of the public can watch porn at our airports on free state-funded Wi-Fi.

HB2062/SB2308: RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Creates a statewide steering committee on child sex trafficking and a statewide coordinator position. Requires detailed reporting to the Legislature on a state plan to address child sex trafficking, recommendations for best practices and future legislation. Establishes a multidisciplinary team in each county to provide crisis response and planning for cases of child sex trafficking. Appropriate funds and positions to Department of Human Services.

2020 WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS PACKAGE

WOMEN AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

HB2056/SB2309: RELATING TO TAXATION

Makes the state earned income tax credit refundable and permanent. Applies to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2020.

HB2061/SB2310: RELATING TO CHILD SUPPORT

Requires certain amounts of child support moneys collected by the Department of Human Services (DHS) for public assistance of a child to pass through to the family receiving public assistance. Requires DHS to disregard passed through child support payments when calculating the income of an applicant for or recipient of public assistance. Increases the maximum fine for an employer who discharges from employment, refuses to employ, or takes disciplinary action against any noncustodial parent subject to income withholding or who fails to comply with an order of assignment of future income to pay child support. Appropriates funds.

EDUCATION

HB2059/SB2311: RELATING TO CAMPUS SAFETY

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, 11.2 percent of all college students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence or incapacitation. Among undergraduate students, 23.1 percent of females experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence or incapacitation. Sexual violence is pervasive on college campuses in Hawai'i, too. More than 2.2 percent of female students at the University of Hawai'i have experienced dating or domestic violence and about 12 percent have been sexually harassed or stalked during their time at the university, according to a survey released by UH in 2018. This bill would expand protections for victims of sexual violence at Hawai'i's colleges by guaranteeing access to confidential support services, ensuring that students receive information about sexual violence prevention and disclosure protocols, and requiring trauma informed response training for university employees responsible for handling sexual misconduct cases.

WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

HB2053/SB2312: RELATING TO CIVIL RIGHTS

Gives interns and people in training programs the same protection from harassment that employees currently have.

HB2054/SB2313: RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

Prohibits an employers from requiring an employee to enter into a nondisclosure agreement pertaining to sexual harassment or sexual assault.. Prohibits an employer from retaliating against an employee for disclosing or discussing sexual harassment or sexual assault.

2020 WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS PACKAGE

RESOLUTIONS

HCR15/SCR6: TITLE IX TASK FORCE

Create a Task Force to address the implementation of Hawai'i's version of Title IX, in anticipation of changes to federal regulations. The Task Force will review potential conflicts between Hawai'i's law and the federal government's anticipated changes to the Title IX regulations and recommend an enforcement framework for Hawai'i's Title IX statute.

HCR13/SCR7: DOE REPORT REGARDING BULLYING

In 2019 the Department of Education adopted new administrative rules regarding bullying, harassment and discrimination based on sex, gender, ethnicity and disability. Request the DOE submit a report to the Legislature on the implementation of the amended Chapter 19 and the new Chapter 89 of Title 8, Hawaii Administrative Rules, including any recommendations and proposed legislation.

HCR17/SCR8: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN TASK FORCE

Violence against women is a significant public health issue. There is a need for a comprehensive report in order to ensure all information is considered when determining how to best address public health issues relating to violence against women. Hawai'i lacks any such comprehensive report and instead addresses the following issues largely in isolation: domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment as well as sex trafficking. The goal is to create a Task Force to create a format for a comprehensive annual report to identify the best policy approach to protect women.

HCR14/SCR9: GENDER PARITY ON STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND COURTS

August 2020 is the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote in the United States. Since that time women have made great strides in and contributions to our society. Despite this progress, women in Hawai'i today are woefully underrepresented on Hawai'i's major State Boards and Commissions and as Judges, with over 63% of those seats held by men. The resolution encourages the various appointing authorities to dedicate themselves in 2020 to achieve gender parity on our State Boards, Commissions and Circuit Court.

HCR16/SCR10: HEALTH COVERAGE POST-PARTUM

Request the Department of Human Services to provide an estimate on the budget appropriation and legislative action necessary to fund expanding Med-QUEST coverage to all post-partum women for twelve months following delivery.

2020 WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

IMPORTANT BILLS TO NOTE

In every legislative session, all Caucus packages are limited to only 10 bills. Therefore, the following are bills that did not make the WLC package due to the limit, but had 66% or more support from the Caucus. We encourage the public to continue to support and follow the following bills:

HB2063/SB2314 – RELATING TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Makes unenforceable confidentiality clauses in employment contracts when an act of sexual harassment, which includes sexual assault, is claimed by an employee. Allows employees to request confidentiality of a settlement to protect their privacy. Civil penalty if employer makes any request from employee to pressure them in any way for a confidentiality agreement. Bans mandatory arbitration agreements as to sexual harassment claims beginning July 1, 2020. Makes mandatory confidentiality clauses in an arbitration agreement unenforceable as to sexual harassment claims.

HB2064 - RELATING TO TAX CREDIT FOR ON-SITE EARLY CHILDHOOD FACILITIES

Establishes an income tax credit for employers who create on-site early childhood facilities. Establishes and appropriates funds for 1.0 FTE on-site early childhood facility coordinator position. Applies to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2020.

SB2316 - RELATING TO CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE

Amends statutory limitations on the time period in which a survivor of childhood sexual abuse may file a civil suit. Provides that the monetary relief under this section shall not include punitive damages. Permits the court to order restorative justice measures, if deemed appropriate.

HB2067 - RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Amends the offense of abuse of family or household members to provide for misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor penalties. Allows a deferred acceptance of guilty or no contest plea in cases involving misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor abuse penalties. Requires the Judiciary to submit annual reports to the Legislature on the number and outcome of abuse of family or household members cases.

SB2429 - RELATING TO HEALTH

Provides medical assistance for pregnant women in certain circumstances.

RELATING TO TAX EXEMPTION FOR FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Currently, menstrual products are subject to sales or excise taxes in 35 states, including Hawaii. Yet, in 2019, 22 states considered eliminating the “tampon tax” to advance menstrual equity. This bill would exempt feminine hygiene products from the general excise tax and provide funding to the Hawaii Department of Education to make menstrual products available to students for free on public school campuses.

To learn more about these bills and track their progress through the legislative session, visit www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
WOMEN’S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
SENATE



Rosalyn H. Baker
Co-convener
 District 6

- Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
- Committees: CPH, GVO, PSM



Lorraine R. Inouye
 District 4

- Senate Majority Whip
- Chair, Committee on Transportation
- Vice Chair, Committee on Government Operations
- Committees: TRS, GVO, EET, WAM



Michelle N. Kidani
 District 18

- Senate Vice President
- Chair, Committee on Education
- Vice Chair Committee on Higher Education
- Committees: EDU, HRE, WAM



Donna Mercado Kim
 District 14

- Chair, Committee on Higher Education
- Vice Chair, Committee on Education
- Committees: HRE, EDU, JDC



Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
 District 21

- Chair, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
- Committees: HWN, TRS, WAM



Laura H. Thielen
Co-convener
 District 25

- Chair, Committee on Government Operations
- Committees: GVO, AEN, CPH, HOU



Sharon Y. Moriwaki
 District 12

- Committees: HOU, TEC, WAM

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
WOMEN’S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Della Au Belatti
 House District 24

- House Majority Leader
- Committees: CPC, HLT, HSH, LMG



Rida Cabanilla Arakawa
 House District 41

- Committees: AGR, CPC, TIA



Lynn DeCoite
 House District 13

- Vice Chair, House Committee on Agriculture
- Committees: AGR, LHE, TIA



Stacelynn K.M. Eli
 House District 43

- Vice Chair, Committee on Labor & Public Employment
- Committees: LAB, EDB, FIN



Sharon E. Har
 House District 42

- Committees: CPC, EEP, WLH



Linda Ichiyama
Co-convener
 House District 32

- Vice Chair, House committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
- Committees: CPC, EDB, LAB



Val Okimoto
 House District 36

- House Minority Whip
- Committees: LHE, TIA, TRN



Amy A. Perruso
 House District 46

- Committees: AGR, JUD, TIA

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
WOMEN’S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Lisa Kitagawa
 House District 48

- Vice Chair, House Committee on Economic Development & Business
- Committees: EDB, FIN, LAB



Nicole E. Lowen
 House District 6

- House Majority Whip
- Chair, House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
- Committees: EEP, JUD, WLH



Sylvia Luke
 House District 25

- Chair, House Committee on Finance
- Committees: FIN



Lauren Matsumoto
Co-convener
 House District 45

- House Minority Floor Leader
- Committees: CPC, EDB, LAB



Dee Morikawa
 House District 16

- House Majority Floor Leader
- Committees: LMG, LHE



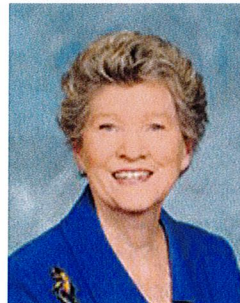
Nadine K. Nakamura
 House District 14

- House Majority Whip
- Vice Chair, House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
- Committees: HSH, FIN, HLT



Joy A. San Buenaventura
 House District 4

- House Majority Whip
- Chair, House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
- Vice Chair, House Committee on Judiciary
- Committees: HSH, JUD, HLT



Cynthia Thielen
 House District 50

- House Assistant Minority Floor Leader
- Committees: AGR, EEP, JUD



Tina Wildberger
 House District 11

- Vice Chair, House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
- Committees: EEP, FIN, WLH

Women Are Underrepresented on Hawaii's State Boards and Judiciary

MAJOR STATE BOARDS	TOTAL MEMBERS	MALE		FEMALE	
		#	%	#	%
Board of Land and Natural Resources	7	6	86%	1	14%
Commission on Water Resource Management	7	6	86%	1	14%
Hawaii Paroling Authority	5	4	80%	1	20%
Correctional Systems Oversight Commission	5	4	80%	1	20%
Land Use Commission	9	7	78%	2	22%
UH Board of Regents	12	9	75%	3	25%
Department of Hawaiian Homelands	7	5	71%	2	29%
Board of Agriculture	10	7	70%	3	30%
Public Utilities Commission	3	2	67%	1	33%
Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Cooperation	9	6	67%	3	33%
Hawaii Tourism Authority	12	8	67%	4	33%
Public Housing Authority	11	7	64%	4	36%
Judicial Selection Commission	9	5	56%	4	44%
Board of Education	11	6	55%	5	45%
Hawaii Community Development Authority	28	14	50%	14	50%
Civil Rights Commission	4	2	50%	2	50%
Agribusiness Development Corporation	11	5	45%	6	55%
Ethics Commission	5	2	40%	3	60%
TOTAL/AVERAGE:	165	105	66%	60	34%

JUDICIARY	TOTAL MEMBERS	MALE		FEMALE	
		#	%	#	%
District Court	34	18	53%	16	47%
Circuit Court	33	23	70%	10	30%
Appellate Court	6	3	50%	3	50%
Supreme Court	5	3	60%	2	40%
TOTAL/AVERAGE:	78	47	58%	31	42%

There are at least 42 openings in 2020 and 40 openings in 2021 in total boards, commissions and judiciary combined. Appointing authorities therefore have ample opportunity this year and next to dramatically improve gender parity in Hawaii's public boards, commissions and judiciary.