

OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Board/Commission		Committee on the Status of Women	Meeting Date	July 16, 2025
Location	Piikoi Building, Boards and Commissions Conference Room 4444 Rice Street, Suite 300, Līhu'e, HI 96766 Remote Access VIDEO by Microsoft Teams Click on the URL below or type the URL into your computer or smartphone http://bit.ly/46oDUA3 Meeting ID: 272 038 309 039 3 Passcode: wx96At3c		Start of Meeting: 5:00p.m.	End of Meeting: 5:47p.m.
Present	Chair Lori Barret; Treasurer Sara Miura; Member Monica Kawakami; Ex- Officio Edith Ignacio Neumiller; Also Present: Office of Boards and Commissions Staff: Administrator Ellen Ching; Support Clerk Kodie Kaina; and Deputy County Attorney Charles Foster.			
Excused	Vice Chair Emma White; Members Darcie Yukimura and Yunah Joseph			
Absent	Secretary Jennifer Hill			

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Meeting Called To Order/Roll Call to ascertain quorum	Commission Support Clerk Called the Roll. Chair Lori Barret replied present. Vice Chair Emma White was excused. Treasurer Sara Miura replied present. Secretary Jennifer Hill was absent. Member Monica Kawakami replied present. Member Darcie Yukimura was excused. Member Yunah Joseph was excused. Ex-Officio Edith-Ignacio Neumiller replied present.	A quorum could not be established, 3:4. No action was taken during this meeting.

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Approval of Agenda	The agenda could not be approved during this meeting.	
Public Testimony	There was no one present from the public in-person or via Microsoft Teams wishing to provide testimony on any of the agenda items.	
Approval of Minutes	a. Open Session Minutes of May 21, 2025 This agenda item could not be approved during this meeting.	
Treasurer's Report	<u>TREASURERS REPORT</u> A. Treasurer Miura's report on the following. 1. 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Report ▪ 4th quarter 2024-2025 Operating Fiscal Budget. ▪ 4th quarter State Grant Budget. ▪ 4th Quarter Logo Inventory balance. Treasurer Miura Summarized the following report. 2024-2025 4th QUARTER OPERATING FISCAL BUDGET Activity for this quarter included additional expenses for the following: Lei for Denim Day (\$50.20), Human Trafficking Help Signs (\$1,183.25), New Members Shirts (\$98.83), Name Tags (43.89), Swag Items (\$1,851.96), Period Products (\$1,194.92). This combined with the previous quarter's expenses totaled \$9,305.29 in expenses leaving a balance of \$16.75. STATE GRANT BUDGET: The State Grant started with a carry-over balance of \$382.04 as of July 1, 2024. A total of \$175.65 for Breast cancer awareness activities (\$94.21. for	

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	balloons and \$81.44 for flyers and posters). The remaining \$206.39 was spent on purchasing period products for distribution leaving a balance of \$0.00. LOGO INVENTORY BALANCE • Rise of the Wahine DVD – 12, 12 distributed 03/08, 0 remaining. • Pink Tote Bags – 150, 40 distributed 03/08, 110 remaining. • Pens – 88, 28 distributed 03/08, 60 remaining. • Key Chain with Flashlight – 358, 40 distributed 03/08, 318 remaining. • Webcam Covers – 178, 100 distributed 03/08, 78 remaining • 624 pride items (pins, buttons, bracelets, stickers, flags, fans) • Tablecloth – 1 New Logo Items: • Tyvek Zipper Storage Bags – 100 • Tyvek Lunch Bags – 100 • Eco- Journals – 100 • Emergency Whistles - 100	
CSW 2025-10	Presentation by Khara Jabola Carlous a) Former Executive Director Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Khara Jabola Carlous, to share Lahaina Fires Impact on Gender Equality. Administrator Ching introduced Cheryl Alcantra who gave Khara Jabola’s presentation due to a family emergency. Ms. Alcantra gave a PowerPoint presentation titled “Comprehensive Report on the Needs and Recovery of Filipino Survivors of the Lahaina	

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	Fires.” This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the needs and recovery experiences of Filipino survivors of the August 2023 Lahaina fires. It is the result of 16 months of dedicated research by Tagnawa, a grassroots organization formed in response to the early lack of recognition and representation of Lahaina’s Filipino community, and the Hawai’i Workers Center. The term Tagnawa - an Ilokano word meaning reciprocity and community care - reflects our mission to address the unique challenges faced by Filipinos, who make up a significant portion of Lahaina’s population. The data presented is drawn from multiple surveys and interviews conducted from one month after the fire to December 2024. Crucially, data collectors were members of the Filipino community, including fire survivors themselves, who engaged participants not as researchers, but as members of the community speaking their own languages. This approach fostered connection and trust, allowing survivors to share their stories, without which this research would not exist. Our findings highlight the critical need for culturally informed recovery strategies. To ensure equitable resource distribution, it is essential that policymakers recognize and address the specific cultural practices, strengths, and needs of the Filipino community. This report outlines actionable steps for lawmakers to build upon the resilience, tenacity, and adaptability of Filipino survivors. These recommendations are not only vital for ensuring a just recovery but also offer a model for inclusive, community-centered disaster response that uplifts marginalized voices. Key Findings: • A total of 757 Filipino fire survivors were surveyed and interviewed.	

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	• 54% of Tagnawa needs assessment survey and respondents chose the Ilokano surveys and 15% took the Tagalog surveys, with a total of 69% respondents choosing non-English surveys. • There was significant representation of women (68%) in the initial survey, and a majority of families reported elderly (68%) and child (58%) household members. • Ilokano families reported significantly higher rates of having elders living with them (84%) Vs. English (56%) and Tagalog (58%) • 47% of Filipino fire survivors opposed the reopening of • West Maui to tourism and 22% had mixed or torn feelings, expressing conditional support or reservations. Only 31% indicated support for the reopening outright, however often citing economic need. Purpose of the research: This research aims to deliver a comprehensive analysis of the evolving recovery needs of Filipino survivors immediately after the Lahaina fires and one year later. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected to gather rich stories from Filipino Lahaina residents to determine support for and gaps in their recovery. By centering the experiences of Filipino Survivors, this research was conducted to inform stakeholders - including local, state and federal government agencies, nonprofit organizations, community leaders and policymakers - about the specific, culturally relevant interventions necessary to support a holistic, inclusive, and sustainable recovery process for Filipinos who comprise 40% of the population of Lahaina. The findings provide actionable insights into recovery efforts that will accommodate the Filipino community's unique cultural, economic, and social dynamics in Lahaina.	

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	This report is generated from community-based research to encourage intimacy, candor, and depth. The Tagnawa needs assessment survey had a total of 757 respondents, the reopening interviews had 63 respondents, the housing survey had 10 respondents, and the 1-year post-fire interviews had 76 respondents. Origin Story: Tagnawa was born out of the urgent need to support the Filipino community in the aftermath of the devastating Lahaina fires. We are a grassroots organization led by Filipino mothers, immigrants, and descendants of immigrants, who have lived through displacement and who came together in the wake of this tragedy. When our families and friends struggled to navigate the complexities of aid and resources, we were asked to step in and help. This was the moment that ignited Tagnawa—a community driven, feminist response to address the unmet needs of Filipinos, who were often left out of the mainstream recovery efforts, yet who represented approximately 40% of Lahaina’s population. Filipinos also comprise the majority of undocumented immigrants on Maui and in Hawai’i. In the early days following the fires, we mobilized a network of dedicated volunteers from O’ahu and Maui. Our volunteers were the first on-the-ground to provide Filipino language translations and interpretation services, connect Filipino survivors with much needed resources, and ensure that no one was left behind. We implemented the first Filipino-specific needs assessment survey, which allowed us to fully understand the unique challenges that Filipinos were facing during the immediate recovery. Tagnawa is a feminist organization rooted in the Filipino values of communal care, reciprocity, shared responsibility, and kapwa (kindred). Our team is led by Filipino mothers who are community organizers,	

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	students, educators, researchers, and mental health professionals who are deeply invested in the wellbeing and recovery of our people. We are immigrants and descendants of immigrants who have experienced the result of land loss and who honor aloha ‘āina. Each member of our team shares a commitment to empowering our community as we rebuild our lives in unity with Native Hawaiians. Top 5 Resource Services needed to help in recovery: Financial Aid – 94.7% Food – 56.8% Housing – 49.7% Household Goods – 40.7% Water – 38.2% Key Issues and Concerns Amongst Survivors: - Economics need job security, and mixed feelings - Concerns about housing and displacement - Trauma and emotional readiness - Health and environmental concerns - Chronic Stress and Mental Health Challenges - Economic instability and job loss - Housing Crisis and challenges rebuilding - Effects on Family: Childcare, schooling, and elder care - Systemic issues with aid accessibility - Lack of cultural understanding and multigenerational household structure of Filipino families - Needs Assessment Interviews 1-year Post Fires: Key Findings and Data	

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	Highlights: On September 21, 2024, Tagnawa along with the Hawai'i Workers Center, and the Hawai'i Public Health Institute with support from Ola Hawai'i conducted a Community Report Back event to provide the preliminary results of the findings of the data gathered from the past surveys and interviews Tagnawa and the Hawai'i Workers Center conducted. The Hawai'i Public Health Institute assisted with the analysis of the data and Dr. May Rose Dela Cruz presented the preliminary findings. After the presentation, Tagnawa and the Hawai'i Workers Center conducted a re-needs assessment to gather data on the current needs and experiences of the Filipino community one year after the fires. There were about 10 focus groups of about 4-10 participants per group facilitated by volunteers from Tagnawa, Hawai'i Workers Center, and the Filipino Law Students Association. We also conducted additional interviews on the phone and in person at Maui WES Wellness Fest on September 28, 2024. The interviews were conducted in English, Ilokano, and Tagalog. Some were audio recorded with permission from the participants. Some were not audio recorded but extensive note taking was done during the interviews. These interviews provide valuable comparative insights from different time periods during the recovery period, documenting ongoing challenges and the lack of adequate, long-term resources. This data offers a unique perspective on how Filipino survivors' needs have evolved since the fires and the persistent gaps in recovery support. Conclusion of Findings: The Filipino community in Lahaina remains deeply rooted and committed to rebuilding their lives, yet they continue to face significant barriers to stability. Addressing the challenges of FEMA's rent requirements, streamlining application processes, and ensuring that affordable housing	

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	developments are truly accessible to the workforce community are essential steps in supporting this vital population. These efforts will not only honor their resilience but also strengthen the future of Lahaina as a whole. Recommendations and Actionable Steps: - Enhance Community Representation - Improve communication strategies - Address Housing Needs - Expand Culturally competent mental health services - Streamline aid processes - Foster Cultural connections - Allocate resources effectively - Conduct regular community assessments - Targeted financial assistance initiatives - Educational Support Programs - Transportation Solutions - Economic Stability and Job Training Programs - Subsidies and Support for Childcare, Eldercare, and Maternal Health - Increased Awareness and Outreach - Partner with Different Filipino Serving Organizations - Partner with Different Filipino Serving Organizations - Establish Safe and Cultural Gathering Spaces - Space to Grow Food After acknowledgements to partnering organizations, Ms. Alcantra thanked the commission for listening to her report.	

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
CSW 2025-16	NACW Conference Attendee a) Discussion and Possible action on reassignment of NACW delegate Administrator Ching spoke to this agenda and reminded the commissioners that Chair Barrett is no longer available to attend the NACW Conference so the Kauai Committee will not be sending a delegate this year. All reservations that were made have been cancelled.	
CSW 2025-18	Legislative Action Report from Chair Lori Barrett a) Chair Barrett to share Report on October 20, 2024, Legislative Workshop. Chair Barrett shared the following report. The Legislative Workshop held on October 20, 2024, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The workshop was free and open to the public. Member Barrett worked with the County’s Public Information Office to announce the workshop. Workshop: Your Voice: Participating at the Hawaii State Legislature An overview of the Hawaii State Legislature and discovering the public’s power in the legislative process. Discussed how the public can use their voice: finding and communicating with your legislator, sharing ideas, and using your voice to try and keep a bill moving forward. How to search for current bills and check their status and provide time for questions. Presenter: Andrea “Andy” Langhurst, the Public Access Coordinator for PAR (Public Access Room) With over 15 years of experience in corporate and academic libraries,	

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	Langhurst is an expert in facilitating access to public resources and legislative information. She brings a wealth of experience, extensive knowledge and a commitment to helping anyone interested in understanding and engaging in the legislative process. PAR is located at the Hawai'i State Capitol and is a statutorily established office of the Legislative Reference Bureau. It offers non-partisan support to residents looking to get involved in legislative activities. In total there were 24 individuals registered, with 16 attending by zoom and 5 attending in-person including Member Barrett, Administrator Ching and Support Clerk, Omo. The Workshop has also been posted on YouTube using the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0TLBg80n2A. All individuals that registered were sent the link. We were informed that many people who cannot attend on the day of the workshop, watch it via the link.	
CSW 2025-19	Annual Report July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 a) Discussion and possible action on the Annual Report. <u>Administrator Ching Summarized the following CSW 2025 Annual Report provided in the meeting packet.</u> Summary of Activities July 2024 – Annual NACW Conference The Committee sent the acting Chair Emma White to attend the NACW Conference in Boston from July 24-28. July 2024 – Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign	

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	The Committee led by member Kawakami launched a Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign, unveiling a new signage that will be placed at county park restroom facilities. County Press Release: KCSW launches Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign - Kauai County, HI October 2024- Distribution of Period Products At the County Rotunda, the Committee led by member Kawakami distributed 300 Menstrual All-In-One Kits, 600 individual tampons, and 636 individual pads to Catholic Charities, Kauai Economic Opportunity & Housing Programs, and the YWCA. County Press Release: KCSW donates period products to outreach programs - Kauai County, HI October 2024 – Breast Cancer Awareness Month The Committee led by member Carvalho initiated a county press release, posted banners, initiated a sign-waving in front of Kaua’I Community College, lit up the Historic County Building, and organized community outreach with an informational pop-up tent at by the American Cancer Society. County Press Release: KCSW recognizes Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October - Kauai County, HI October 2024 – Hawaii State Legislative Workshop Chari Lori Barrett attended a free workshop at the Hawai’I State Capitol where they discussed how the public can use their voice: finding and communicating with your legislator, sharing ideas, and using your voice to try and keep a bill moving forward. How to search for current bills and check their status and provide time for questions. County Press Releases: 1. Announcing the Legislative Workshop:	

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	https://www.kauai.gov/Press-Releases/KCSW-Public-Access-Room-holds-virtual-workshop-onlegislative-participation 2. Reminder: https://www.kauai.gov/Press-Releases/Reminder-KCSW-Public-Access-Room-to-hold-virtualworkshop-on-legislative-participation The Workshop Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0TLBg80n2A. March 2025 - Women’s History Month The Committee led by Ex-Officio and Hawaii State Commission member Edie Ignacio Neumiller, executed a successful screening of the documentary film “Rise of the Wahine” via press releases, radio spots and interviews (Pacific Media Group), and physical flyers. County Press Release: REMINDER: NR 03-03-25 (‘Rise of the Wahine’ screening set for March 8, 2025) The Garden Island Newspaper Press Release: ‘Rise of the Wahine’ screening set for March 8 - The Garden Island Kauai Now News Press Release: Witness the ‘Rise of the Wahine’ : Kauai Now April 2024 - Denim Day The Committee led members Ignacio-Neumiller and Barrett partnered with the Zonta Club of Kaua’i and the YWCA at the County Rotunda to initiate a Denim Day Awareness proclamation presentation and gathering at the County Rotunda. County Press Release: https://www.kauai.gov/Government/Boards-and-Commissions/KCCSW/Photos/Denim-Day June 2025 – Human Trafficking	

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	The Committee led by member Kawakami initiated the design and printing of Human Trafficking Signs that will replace all damaged posters that have already been posted in all County bathrooms/facilities. June 2025 – Period Products The Committee led by member Kawakami initiated the purchase of period products that will be distributed to local organizations. The Status of County Leadership Of the 38 leadership positions in the County, 9 or 23.62% of the positions are held by women. While this is less than a majority, it should be noted that some of the most influential positions are held by women. This includes the positions of the managing director, chief of staff, director and deputy of finance, and the county clerk which are the top leadership positions in the executive and legislative branches of the County. Of the 96 current positions filled on Boards and Commissions, 49 positions are held by women. This is a majority of 51.9% representation. It should be noted if members of the Committee on the Status of Women are not counted; the remaining membership would constitute less than a majority of 39.36%. Hawaii State Commission o the Status of women Executive Director asked for permission to use the presented report in her annual report for the government and legislature, Administrator Ching approved.	
CSW 2025-17	2025-2026 Operating Fiscal Budget a) Committee to discuss fiscal year 2024-2025 events. b) Discussion and possible action on allocating funds for each event. c) Discussion and possible action on selecting a leader(s) for each	

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	event. The commission deferred this agenda item to the next meeting.	
State Commission Report	Update from the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women Commissioner Ignacio Neumiller. <u>Mrs. Ignacio-Neumiller shared her report.</u> • Hawaii State Commission Meeting – July 7, 2025, 11 am – 1 pm • Visit website: humanservices.hawaii.gov/hscsw/ State Commission Reports: • Kauai Comm. – • Maui Comm. – • Hilo Comm. – • Oahu Comm. – NACW Communications Committee Highlights (June 23, 2025) • June newsletter published • September next newsletter • Shared with Kauai Committee and Hawaii Commissioners: 1. NACW Conference details, speakers 2. NACW Info Sessions on Zoom July 9, 2025 3. Pending plans to collaborate with AAUW on Equal Pay Day 4. NACW 2025 Conference Social Media (invite like-minded organizations) *Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – July 30 – August 2, 2025 *Registration/Room reservations: www.nacw.org	

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	• NACW Board Meeting Highlights (June 23, 2025) Conference topics and Conference updates on nacw.org 1. Human Trafficking Panel 2. Partner Collaboration Panel: Nat'l Women Veterans, Girl Scouts, Zonta Club of Kauai, YWCA. Panel will share organization info, legislative issues, and how to connect with NACW to make a difference on women's issues 3. Building and Sustaining NACW 4. Commission Exchange 5. Capitol Tour 6. Achievement Awards 7. Any commission/committee promotional items can be mailed to Kitt Ashberry, VP to 617 NW 118th Street, Oklahoma, OK 73114; Cell (405) 401-6770)	
Announcements	Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 5:00p.m., B&C Conference Room	
Adjournment	Chari Barrett adjourned the meeting at 5:47p.m.	

Submitted by: _____
Kodie Kaina, Staff Support Clerk

Reviewed and Approved by: _____
Lori Barrett , Chair

() Approved as circulated on

() Approved as amended. See minutes of _____ meeting.