

**COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)
SUMMARY MINUTES
January 20, 2026**

The regular meeting of the CSW was held at the Planning Conference Room and online via Teams interactive conference technology. Video recordings of previous meetings are available at <https://www.akaku.org/boards-commissions/>

1. Call to Order, Roll Call Quorum (12:11 PM)

Member	Present	Absent	Excused	Time Out During Meeting (if applicable)
Malia Davidson (Chair)	√			
Sonya Niess (Vice-Chair)	√			
Whitney Herrelson	√			
Heidi-Ann Allencastre	√			
Courtney Dumlao			√	
Alayna Davies-Smith			√	
TOTAL PRESENT	4		2	

Ex-officio:

Stacey Moniz, State Commission on the Status of Women

Staff Present:

Yukari Murakami, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Lindsey Isaacson, Board Secretary

2. Public Testimony on All Items (12:13 PM)

Chair asked for public testimony on all items, and no testimony was received.

3. Approval of Minutes: November 18, 2025 (12:07 PM)

Chair asked for public testimony on this item and no testimony was received.

Member	AYE	NO	Excused	Time/Item #	12:14 PM/Item #3
Malia Davidson (Chair)	√			Motion	Approve minutes for November 18, 2025 meeting
Sonya Niess (Vice-Chair)	√			Maker	Davidson-Faleafine
Whitney Herrelson			√	Secunder	Herrelson
Heidi Drahn Balthazar	√			Discussion Time	12:08 PM
Heidi-Ann Allencastre			√	Vote Taken	12:08 PM
Courtney Dumlao	√				
Alayna Davies-Smith					
TOTAL VOTES	4	0	2	OUTCOME	Motion Passed

4. Report on State Commission on Status on Women (12:14 PM)

State Commission is holding its next public meeting on February 2, 2026 in person and virtually.

Ex-officio Moniz’s term ends in June 2026, and a replacement is being actively recruited.

a. Introduce and discuss new logos from the most recent State Commission meeting.

The State Commission drafted logos for each county’s Committee on the Status of Women to create a consistent state-wide brand to foster collaboration. The Committee may vote to recommend one of these logos for use to the Executive Director or to send other feedback.

Member	AYE	NO	Excused	Time/Item #	12:25 PM/Item #4a
Malia Davidson (Chair)	√			Motion	To adopt the logo recommended from the State Commission with a blue graphic to the left of the pink lettering.
Sonya Niess (Vice-Chair)	√			Maker	Herrelson
Whitney Herrelson	√			Secunder	Allencastre
Heidi-Ann Allencastre	√			Vote Taken	12:25 PM
Courtney Dumlao			√		
Alayna Davies-Smith			√		
TOTAL VOTES	4	0	2	OUTCOME	Motion Passed

5. Review the purpose of this Committee. (12:26 PM)

Deputy Murakami presented HRS code 367-4, which created this Committee. The Committee is required to have two ex-officio members, the County’s representative on the State Commission and a representative from Corporation Counsel. The Committee is responsible for compiling data and reporting to the Mayor and/or the State Commission.

The Committee can vote for a representative(s) to meet with the Mayor regarding specific topics and reports to present any findings and recommendations. The Committee secretary can schedule a meeting. The Committee can also submit written reports to the Mayor for consideration.

Vice Chair asked for public testimony on this item and no testimony was received.

6. New Business (12:33 PM)

Chair asked for public testimony on this item and no testimony was received.

- a. Discuss and establish time limits for testimony per Office of Information Practices guidelines. (12:33 PM)**
 - i. News from OIP: time limits on testimony (12:34 PM)**
 - ii. News from OIP: Testimony Guidance for Boards Subject to the Sunshine Law (12:34 PM)**

The Office of Information Practices recommends each board, committee, or commission adopt time limits for testimony through a change to administrative rules or a motion documented in meeting minutes. Time limits can be changed later if needed. However, without written documentation, a body may not be able to enforce the testimony time limits.

Vice Chair asked for public testimony on this item and no testimony was received.

Member	AYE	NO	Excused	Time/Item #	12:38 PM/Item #6a
Malia Davidson (Chair)	√			Motion	To adopt OIP recommended guidelines for testimony time limits of three (3) minutes.
Sonya Niess (Vice-Chair)	√			Maker	Herrelson
Whitney Herrelson	√			Secunder	Dumlao
Heidi-Ann Allencastre	√			Discussion Time	12:38 PM
Courtney Dumlao			√	Vote Taken	12:39 PM
Alayna Davies-Smith			√		
TOTAL VOTES	4	0	2	OUTCOME	Motion Passed

- b. Discuss and establish goal and/or topics of focus for the Committee this year. (12:40 PM)**

Vice Chair asked for public testimony on this item.

Faith Chase testified and recommended the topic of women farmers, particularly relative to mental health support and the space for women in a traditionally male profession. Opportunities may be available to explore this further at the Ag Fest and/or the Taro Fest.

Public testimony was closed. Discussion was opened for the members.

The Committee suggested the following topics: food sovereignty, birth centers, mental health support, human trafficking and the increase

relative to natural disasters and economic crises, trauma-informed care advocacy, reproductive health, food security, eating disorders.

The Committee suggested leading a trauma-informed care workshop.

The Committee also discussed the following goals:

- Continuing to host roundtables with the ability to change topics periodically.
- Tangible, actionable deliverables to the community for trauma-informed care and medical transfers.

c. Discuss and recommend edits to the Committee’s survey. (12:59 PM)

Committee decided to defer this item to the next meeting.

Vice Chair asked for public testimony on this item and no testimony was received.

d. Discuss Chair and up to two members attending the 2026 Women’s Legislative Caucus Breakfast (1:02 PM)

This event is open to the public and will include several representatives from Maui, including Senator DeCoite.

Member	AYE	NO	Excused	Time/Item #	1:05 PM/Item #6d
Malia Davidson (Chair)	√			Motion	To approve Chair and Vice Chair to attend the 2026 Legislative Caucus Breakfast in Honolulu on 01/28/26.
Sonya Niess (Vice-Chair)	√			Maker	Herrelson
Whitney Herrelson	√			Second	Allencastre
Heidi-Ann Allencastre	√			Discussion Time	1:05 PM
Courtney Dumlao			√	Vote Taken	1:06 PM
Alayna Davies-Smith			√		
TOTAL VOTES	4	0	2	OUTCOME	Motion Passed

Vice Chair asked for public testimony on this item and no testimony was received.

- e. Same item as 6e.**
- f. Discuss topics and issues impacting women within the County of Maui that the CSW members may deem necessary for consideration and/or support during 2025-2026. (Midwifery Advocacy, immigration issues that impact women and children, food security as funding cuts are passed, financial education for women, trauma informed interaction and the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative.) (1:07 PM)**

Vice Chair asked for public testimony on this item and no testimony was received.

7. Old Business (1:08 PM)

- a. 2025 Women of Excellence (“WOE”) community event and awards 2025. (1:08 PM)
 - i. Report on final event and discuss lessons learned. (1:08 PM)

The event was well attended and well received with a total attendance of approximately 150 people. In the future, clearer communication is needed to establish committee members’ roles at the event.

Some categories did not have many nominees, and Chair would like to see increased outreach during the nomination period. Chair also recommends switching to a two-tier voting system to determine award recipients. Historically, twelve awards were given and the 2025 awards totaled ten.

Mayor’s Communications team was an underutilized resource available to this committee. In the future, that team is able to provide more support when information is received much earlier.

The big win was moving the ceremony from a private space in the Mayor’s Office to an open public forum.

Vice Chair asked for public testimony on this item and no testimony was received.

- b. Women’s Health Conference Updates (1:16 PM)

The conference will be held on March 6 and 7. There will be group programming and mini-break outs.

- c. Updates on additional Roundtables for medical professionals. (1:22 PM)

Vice Chair and former Member Balthazar hosted a roundtable for medical professionals at Malama I Ke Ola. Vice Chair hosted two more roundtables with the Queens providers and the Kaiser OBGYN team. The topics were trauma-informed care and transfers.

Providers seemed generally receptive to trauma-informed care; however, training and implementation is not standardized. Providers spoke about opportunities to further promote this within their respective organizations. Continuing to educate providers will be important to raise awareness. Vice Chair suggested the Committee partner with other organizations to facilitate workshops or other types or trainings for

providers. An additional challenge to address triggering issues for patients is a lack of behavioral health specialists on island.

Providers shared there is no contact with providers on O’ahu once a patient is transferred. Providers rely on patients to provide them with medical records and updates regarding any care received on O’ahu even though all major providers are using the same Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system.

Families, particularly on Moloka’I and Lana’I, need family navigation services to support the logistics involved in off island transfers. Patients often struggle to find out what is covered by insurance, how to arrange travel, to pay costs upfront to be reimbursed later.

Obstetrics providers mentioned approximately 50% of transfers to O’ahu could be avoided if Maui had a Level 2 nursery. Providers are already working on expanding VBAC access to Maui. All providers mentioned expanding options through birthing centers as well.

Vice Chair plans to share these findings with the community at the Health Conference.

Vice Chair would also like to submit abstracts regarding trauma-informed care and transfers to O’ahu to the Hawaii Public Health Institute for consideration at their conference in June 2026.

Member	AYE	NO	Excused	Time/Item #	1:33 PM/Item #7c
Malia Davidson (Chair)	√			Motion	To approve Vice Chair to submit abstracts on behalf of the Committee to the Hawaii Public Health Institute for consideration at their conference in June 2026.
Sonya Niess (Vice-Chair)	√			Maker	Davidson-Faleafine
Whitney Herrelson	√			Secunder	Herrelson
Heidi-Ann Allencastre	√			Discussion Time	1:33 PM
Courtney Dumlao			√	Vote Taken	1:34 PM
Alayna Davies-Smith			√		
TOTAL VOTES	4	0	2	OUTCOME	Motion Passed

Vice Chair asked for public testimony on this item and no testimony was received.

- d. Moloka’I Events/Ideas/Updates on correspondence with Molokai contacts. (1:34 PM)
 - i. Discuss proposed Roundtable and mini-Health Conference on Moloka’i. (1:34 PM)

Vice Chair is planning to host a roundtable on Moloka'i. One of the Women of Excellence award recipients would like to help with the roundtable.

The mini-Health Conference item was deferred to the next meeting.

Vice Chair asked for public testimony on this item and no testimony was received.

8. Announcements (1:36 PM)

Ho'o Pono Pono Conference will be held on Thursday and Friday. It is free and open to the public.

Vice Chair asked for public testimony on this item and no testimony was received.

9. Correspondence (1:37 PM)

- e. Written testimony – none received (1:37 PM)
- f. Correspondence – none received (1:37 PM)

10. Agenda setting for next meetings (1:37 PM)

- a. Member Suggestions (1:37 PM)

There were no member suggestions.

10. ADJOURNMENT (1:38 PM)