

Democratic Party of Hawai'i Parliamentary Advisory Relating to Convention Resolutions

As delegates prepare for the 2016 State & County Conventions, be advised that any delegate, caucus, County, etc. having the right to submit resolutions for consideration should first carefully review the motions previously adopted.

See DPH website at: www.hawaiiDemocrats.org (2010, 2012 and 2014);
and the O'ahu County website at www.oahudemocrats.org/resolutions.html

Article VIII, Section 7A of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i provides that:
The resolving clauses of resolutions, except for those clauses that refer to a specific date, event, or legislative session, once adopted by delegates at a convention of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall represent the official policies of the Party and shall remain in force and effect until rescinded or amended by the delegates at an annual or special convention.

Likewise Section 14.2 of the Bylaws of the O'ahu County Democrats provides that:
The platform and resolutions adopted by delegates at conventions of the O'ahu County Democrats shall remain in force and effect until rescinded or amended by a two-thirds roll call vote of the full membership of the O'ahu County Committee or by a majority of votes cast by delegates at an annual or special convention, or until they come into conflict with the platform or resolutions of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

Any Resolution submitted that is substantially the same or in conflict with a motion previously adopted as posted online will be ruled out of order unless it is presented either as a resolution to amend a specific, previously adopted resolution or as a resolution to rescind a specific, previously adopted resolution.

Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i further provides that the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall apply to all precinct Club meetings, District Council meetings, County meetings and conventions and State Conventions, where not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (11th ed.) Provides:

1. "Motions to "reaffirm" a position previously taken by adopting a motion or resolution are not in order. Such a motion serves no useful purpose because the original motion is still in effect; also, possible attempts to amend a motion to reaffirm would come into conflict with the rules for the motion to Amend Something Previously Adopted (35); and if such a motion to reaffirm failed, it would create an ambiguous situation." (p. 104, ll. 24-31)
2. "... motions are out of order if they conflict with a motion that has been adopted by the society and has been neither rescinded, nor reconsidered and rejected after adoption. Such conflicting motions, if adopted, are null and void unless adopted by the vote required to rescind or amend the motion previously adopted." (p. 343, ll. 17-20)

Reintroduction of a motion or resolution substantially the same as one previously adopted is either intended to "reaffirm" the previously adopted motion/resolution or is intended to amend it in some way. In either event, such a reintroduction is improper; the respective Chair or presiding officer will be advised to rule such resolutions out of order for reasons explained above.

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William J. Puette, Ph.D.
Professional Registered Parliamentarian (NAP), Certified Parliamentarian (AIP)