



Democratic Party of Hawai'i Announces Summer of Resistance and Renewal

For Immediate Release

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This week, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH) is launching their “Summer of Resistance and Renewal,” a nationwide organizing program geared toward engaging and activating party members and activists in the grassroots.

“The goal of the program will be to reconnect Hawai'i Democrats with one another and with voters, rebuild a sense of political unity, and afford our residents an opportunity to identify mutual areas of concern and address their issues through the vehicle of party activism” said Tim Vandever, State Party Chair. “With these efforts, we seek to recruit new members, train new leaders, and increase voter turnout in Hawai'i by 10% in the 2018 elections.”

Through a fellowship program made possible by the Democratic National Committee (DNC), the DPH selected five local organizers, each of whom bring a unique perspective to the program and diverse background in electoral politics, labor organizing, or community activism. DPH leadership engaged traditional allies such as labor organizations, as well as newer grassroots “resistance” groups to apprise them of the project and invite them to participate in the program.

The Hawai'i organizers recently spent a full week at a training camp in Washington D.C. where they met with DNC leadership and learned about national issues from prominent Democratic elected officials. They also participated in Congressional town halls, Resistance events, and a Healthcare vigil on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

Though much of the focus of the national program has focused on converting the energy generated in resistance to the Trump administration into political power during next year's midterms, Vandever feels that this is only part of the goal.

"We cannot focus on resistance alone," Vandever said. "Saying 'no' to the cruel and draconian policies of this administration is important, but we must also demand bold action and do the hard work of organizing for social change. We need to renew our historical role as the party of ideas and solutions that benefit working people. This means building upon our proud local history as a party of diversity and inclusion."

"The 'Summer of Resistance and Renewal' begins this month with plans to knock on doors, engage Democratic Party members, host events, and make a difference in our communities. Make sure you're a part of the movement and find an event near you at resistsummer.com."

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