

1 Platform of the O'ahu County Democrats
2 O'ahu County Convention, May 5, 2012, Aloha Stadium

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21

22 PREAMBLE

23 ~~The O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, as the party of the~~
24 ~~people, Democrats~~ reaffirm[s] our core values of liberty, equality and justice. ~~These core~~
25 These values compel us to incorporate ~~these~~ democratic ideals in all aspects of the
26 economic, social, educational, and cultural life in our communities, O'ahu, and our
27 nation.

28

29 AGRICULTURE

30 Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient
31 agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and
32 sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach of agricultural
33 innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible development of ocean
34 resources in order to achieve sustainability in our state.

35 This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian
36 concept of *ahupua'a*, an integrated approach to land management. This could also
37 include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable
38 crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster infrastructure such as
39 coolers and freezers at our harbors, and better inspection to protect against invasive
40 species and speed up time in port holding. We need to ensure food safety, strive
41 towards food security and strive to set the highest standards for food quality and
42 nutrition.

43 We will promote ~~efficient~~ efficiency with feed mills and safe production of livestock, dairy
44 products, poultry and eggs. Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life-
45 sustaining resource, we must protect its ecological balance while promoting the

46 cultivation of ocean resources as a step toward greater self-sufficiency.
47 Fresh water free of pollutants ~~and~~ shall be available to all. To ensure wise use and
48 equitable distribution of precious fresh water, we must stress water conservation and
49 alternative patterns of water treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled
50 water for irrigation, water storage reservoirs, and the use of rain barrels by the public.

51
52 **ARTS & CULTURE**

53 Our community is enriched by the encouragement of diverse arts and cultural activities
54 that communicate both a regional and universal vision. Through multi-cultural and multi-
55 generational participation in the arts, we strengthen our `ohana, promote tolerance, and
56 add vitality to the economy through cultural tourism. To this end, we support adequate
57 funding for the arts, individual artists, arts and cultural organizations, and educational
58 enterprises.

59
60 **ECONOMICS & COMMERCE**

61 Availability of financial support and a capable educated people are critical to our
62 economic expansion and diversification. To encourage our entrepreneurs and prevent
63 them from leaving Hawaii, we must create incentives for small investors of startup
64 businesses, and we need to encourage a private system of venture capital business
65 loans to small businesses and companies so that they can grow to the next level. The
66 management of businesses should be ethical and responsive to the community with
67 transparency for investors and shareholders guaranteeing sound, healthy management.
68 Innovation through the generation of intellectual property should be the goal of our
69 economic diversification.

70 We ~~need to~~ must simplify government processes to encourage beneficial business
71 development. We must give priority to the development of "green" sustainable
72 industries, diversification of our tourism market, and local business ownership. Green
73 commerce includes biodegradable or recycling packaging. We must promote financial
74 literacy and asset building programs to strengthen our `ohana. We ~~need to~~ must pursue
75 relationships with the information technology industry. We must invest in world class
76 higher education to stimulate our economic resources, and we ~~need to~~ must reduce our
77 dependence on tourism, real estate development, and the military. A diversified
78 economy will help to create diversified jobs.

79
80 **EDUCATION**

81 We believe that the future of our State as well as our country depends upon an
82 educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We ~~need to~~ must re-think the structure of our
83 educational system. We ~~need to~~ must reform and upgrade our public schools and
84 create a flexible education system. We support the prioritization of our resources
85 towards providing quality education and library services to every student regardless of
86 learning capacity in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources
87 should be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education,
88 including life-long learning, and should provide autonomy of the relevant educational
89 institutions and competitive compensation for teachers, administrators, and professors.
90 Educational policies should also include cultural learning, the arts and physical
91 education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. We ~~need to~~ must

92 ensure that our students are safe in our schools and free from violence, bullying and
93 discrimination. This includes, gender bias, weight, ethnicity, sexual orientation and/or
94 religion. Effective communication, respect, and language skills could be taught with
95 group projects, cooperative learning, discussion and games.

96 We support the strengthening of our early childhood educational programs and the
97 establishment of life skills education throughout our academic careers.

98 We support ~~independent~~ a dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education.

99 We support the growth of well-managed and innovative schools.

100 Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in
101 education shall be compensated with a competitive wage based on national standards
102 while taking into consideration the state's cost of living

103 We cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the federal government
104 such as the "No Child Left Behind Act".

105

106 ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

107 The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are
108 connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the
109 conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our
110 carbon footprint. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support for public
111 policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i. Specifically, we
112 ~~need to~~ must support policies that foster on O'ahu and between our neighbor islands
113 the development of energy production methods that deemphasize carbon based fuels
114 and promote renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal and OTEC ~~etc.~~
115 It is of paramount importance that we protect our fragile environment from further
116 damage due to residential overdevelopment and the depletion of prime agricultural land.

117 Electricity rates in Hawaii are among the highest in the nation despite the fact we enjoy
118 an abundance of sunshine year round. The electric utility companies must open the grid
119 to alternative power sources including solar panels and geothermal energy.

120 We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or
121 military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To
122 handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of
123 our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

124 We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable
125 coastal ecosystems and reefs from disruption and (ii) beaches for public use and
126 recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A,
127 currently provides for public participation in management of coastal resources.

128

129 FOREIGN POLICY

130 We support a strong foreign policy that promotes peace, human rights, international
131 cooperation and the rule of law. We believe that war should be a last resort but, when
132 deemed necessary, should occur only within the confines of international law and
133 international cooperation.

134

135 GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL REFORM

136 We believe that a government based on the will of the people, but respecting the rights
137 of all is a potential solution to its citizens' needs and should not be denigrated as an
138 option to a completely *laissez-faire* society. Thus, fair and equitable taxation is essential
139 for good government, as providing services to society is worthy of financial support. We
140 believe in a government that this will adequately, efficiently, courteously, openly and
141 fairly administer to the needs of the people. We support the integrity of Hawai'i
142 ~~process~~ the incorporation of ho`oponopono, ethics in government, and ~~with~~ a fair, voter-
143 verifiable, fully transparent and auditable voting system. We support and ethics in
144 government, with a fair, voter-verifiable, fully transparent and auditable voting system.
145 We also support enforcement of sunshine laws and transparency in sessions and
146 meetings that discuss and make policy.

147 This includes the protection of funding for the televising of public hearings at the State
148 and County levels, as well as the funding of the Public Access Room at the legislature.

149 We ~~cannot~~ do not support the ~~recent~~ Supreme Court Ruling opinion that allows
150 corporations unlimited campaign donations under the guise of "free speech". We
151 support legislative all efforts to change this corporate-interest manipulation of the
152 Constitution ~~to suit special interests~~. To that end, we will promote the practice of public
153 financing for all ~~state~~ elections.

154 We ~~need to~~ must ensure the security of our electoral process with regards to electronic
155 infiltration and manipulation.

156 We support the separation of State and Church as set forth in the Constitution of the
157 United States of America in the First Amendment as well as Article VI, and believe this
158 right is meant to support equality and not eroded. We also oppose any legislation that
159 weakens that wall. Separation of State and Church is meant to insure that no single
160 religion can impose its particular beliefs on members of the general population.

161

162 We believe in the constant renewal of both the Democratic Party and electoral reform in
163 Hawai'i state government through the re-institution of multi-member legislative districts.
164 The result would provide opportunities for both experienced as well as new candidates
165 for elective office to serve, thus reflecting the changing demographics of Hawai'i.

166

167 HEALTHCARE

168 Access to quality health care is a basic human right. We support the development of
169 long-term care, better pay and working conditions for all healthcare providers, parity of
170 mental and physical health coverage, and appropriate regulation of healthcare delivery
171 systems. We also support the development of empirically validated prevention programs
172 targeted at major public health issues.

173 We support state and national healthcare reform via single payer universal healthcare
174 as the optimum way to provide health care services. We also support the addition of a
175 public option into the current system.

176 We cannot support the provisions that continue the practice of denying women
177 coverage for abortion services. All women's health care decisions should be made by
178 the patients and their doctors, and not restricted by the government. Contraceptive and
179 preventative cancer screening should be easily available to all women. ~~Women who are~~
180 the most in need of these services will continue to be denied access to these services.

181

182 HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

183 The inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the
184 foundations of freedom, justice, and peace. We are committed to ending
185 institutionalized discrimination in all aspects. We support affirmative action, the Civil
186 Rights Acts of 1964 and 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the rights
187 of senior citizens. We support full equality, benefits and responsibilities regardless of
188 sexual identity, orientation, or expression.

189 We believe in the equality of women and their right to privacy. This includes the rights of
190 women to access birth control, the right to coverage of pregnancy services, the right to
191 shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence and the right of rape victims to
192 emergency contraception in the emergency room to name a few.

193 We support the rights of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, ~~Transsexual~~ and Transgender
194 (GLBT) community to equality before the law, ~~including the right to equal relationship~~
195 ~~recognition~~ including equal marriage rights both at the State and Federal level.

196 We support restorative justice which repairs the harms caused by criminal behaviors as
197 well as reintegrates the offenders as contributing members of society.

198 We deplore human trafficking and support legislative and judicial efforts to stamp it out.

199

200 HOUSING

201 Housing is a basic human right. Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to individual
202 income is the basis of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy. Recent
203 and past real estate bubbles have fueled disproportionate rent increases, a key
204 contributor to homelessness. Therefore, we support efforts to promote truly affordable
205 housing for all citizens who rent. We need economically affordable housing and
206 encourage increased support that leads to this end. To this end, we support policies
207 which re-think the current formula to determine "affordability" as this formula puts both
208 rentals and sales out of the reach of most working families in Hawai'i.

209

210 IMMIGRATION

211 We believe that our nation should have a fair immigration policy that recognizes the
212 diversity of our country and the contribution that immigrants make and have made to the
213 sciences, arts and culture. We support an immigration policy that provides a reasonable
214 path to citizenship for immigrants who follow the rule of law. We encourage polices that
215 avoid the militarization of our borders. We abhor policies that would deny education and
216 health and human services to immigrant children. We ~~need to~~ must ensure that
217 immigrant children are treated with fairness and respect in our schools and in our
218 healthcare system. Immigration laws should not discriminate based on sexual
219 orientation or gender identity.

220

221 LABOR

222 As the party of working men and women in Hawai'i, we work to protect labor rights and
223 social security; to institute fair labor practices, fair pay and fair taxation; to protect
224 employees' rights to organize and bargain collectively with their employers; to oppose
225 the outsourcing of Hawai'i's jobs; to promote employment opportunities and sustainable
226 growth; to assist the economically disadvantaged; to advocate for sound trade and

227 economic policies; to train our workforce in green industries, in renovation and green
228 construction so that their jobs are not dependent on ever-expanding real estate
229 development. In order to rapidly move returning veterans, students, and the
230 unemployed into jobs, we urge the creation of paid internship programs for students.

231
232 **NATIVE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE**

233 The Native Hawaiian people are the indigenous people of the state of Hawai'i and
234 deserve a just relationship with the state and federal governments. We support Native
235 Hawaiian self-determination, consistent with federal policy for native self-determination
236 extended to other indigenous peoples of the United States. We support the growth of
237 Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing practices. We value and wish to foster
238 the preservation of our host culture. We deplore any attempt to exploit or export
239 Hawaiian bio products without the consent of the Native Hawaiian community.

240
241 **SAFETY & SECURITY**

242 We support safety and security in all dimensions as a basic right of all residents of the
243 state of Hawai'i. We support just law enforcement and enhancement of crime
244 prevention, without compromising civil liberties. This includes the full protection of the
245 law against domestic violence and hate crimes.

246
247 **TECHNOLOGY**

248 We recognize that the responsible use and development of technology in all its
249 manifestations offer unlimited potential for our community. We encourage research,
250 development and educational programs to promote technological proficiency and
251 innovation. In particular, we support Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
252 (STEM) initiatives in our public, private and charter schools as these prepare the next
253 generation to address the needs of our state.

254 We maintain that state and local government databases should be integrated to
255 promote efficiency in government.

256
257 **TRANSPORTATION**

258 We support county, state and federal efforts to provide more efficient and ~~punctual~~
259 convenient methods of public transportation. We endorse efforts to promote less
260 reliance on the automobile by employing private and public use of alternative modes of
261 travel. We encourage efforts to provide better vehicle and pedestrian safety. In
262 particular, we support ~~these~~ initiatives that will provide our state with more fuel-efficient
263 vehicles, better affordable mass transit and well-developed identified safe bike paths
264 lanes. In order to be best served by mass transit, we must recognize the importance of
265 the integration in an urban setting of any new modes of mass transportation with
266 existing and future public streets and highways, bike lanes, retail establishments and
267 services, and truly-affordable housing — while maintaining a high degree of open space
268 at ground level in current and all future high-density developments.

269
270
271

272 U.S. MILITARY

273 The Armed Forces in Hawai'i and their families sacrifice to serve and defend our
274 country, ~~to~~ and help us in time of need. We encourage the continuation of efforts to
275 coordinate military activities with affected communities. Hawai'i should honor their
276 service by strongly supporting the best possible care of wounded and disabled
277 veterans.

278 We oppose war profiteering and the privatization of combat through employment of
279 paramilitary contractors.

280 We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by military usage.

281 We support our Veterans and our Veterans organizations and efforts to keep our
282 Veteran's Hospitals fully funded.

283 We support the efforts of our Congressional Delegation to extend benefits for our
284 Reservists and National Guard who have suffered brain injury and/or PTSD.

285 We support efforts to protect our troops from sexual predators within their service
286 branches and support specialized treatment for victims of such crimes.

**ADDENDUM TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI‘I
O‘AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS PLATFORM
(A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES)**

THE FUTURE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI‘I

By Ernest “Juggie” Heen

The modern Democratic Party of Hawai‘i (post 1945) may be rightfully heralded as the end of the tyrannical practices of Hawaii’s commercialized sugar and pineapple industries. Since the “Political Revolution of 1954” and the election of Democrat Governor John A. Burns, the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i (DPH) has become the dominant political force in our island state, ostensibly in a continuing effort to rectify the tragic and shameful inequities of the past and to create a more-just and fair society for all – regardless of culture, race, color, creed or sexual orientation.

Today, Democrats believe that the considerable energies and resources of the DPH must be as much focused upon passing progressive legislation that benefits the entire community as they are upon electing Democrats to office. This was the original covenant between the DPH and anyone wishing to run for office under the DPH banner.

Because the DPH Resolutions and Platform are crafted, debated and passed through the four separate DPH County Conventions and finally combined, debated and passed through the State conventions -- requiring the time and energy of hundreds of active, dedicated Democrats at great personal sacrifice – the Platform and Resolutions are a concise guide to all elected Democrats as they deliberate the many complicated issues confronting Hawai‘i nei. In fact, the DPH Resolutions and Platform are the very reason Hawai‘i Democrats meet in convention.

Therefore, the DPH Resolutions and Platform express the will of the DPH and its over 50,000 members and shall not be ignored or disregarded. Today, Democrats expect issues supported by the DPH Platform and Resolutions -- such as universal single-payer healthcare, publicly funded political campaigns, and Death With Dignity/Aid In Dying -- to be openly debated and passed into law by the elected Democrats in the State Legislature. Otherwise, the DPH will pay a terrible political price, as the public grows increasingly disenchanted with the current Democratic status quo.

Today's Democrats also strongly believe that nepotism and favoritism produce a shameful mediocrity in government, education and public services – especially for the growing ranks of seniors, the poor and underserved, and the homeless. When “the best and the brightest” with new and innovative ideas cannot fairly obtain government jobs or contracts, the entire state suffers and Hawaii's legendary “brain drain” continues. Democrats believe that we can do better and that we must do better, especially in such turbulent and perilous times.