

O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PLATFORM 2016 O'ahu County Convention Aloha Stadium Hospitality Suite April 23, 2016

Aloha O'ahu County Delegates:

Your Convention Committee on Platform met on April 9, 2016 at the King David Kalakaua Middle School to deliberate and discuss proposed changes to the O'ahu County Democrat's Platform. Although the Committee did not receive proposed amendments in advance of this meeting, the Committee reviewed sections of importance to the members present.

In accordance with the General Laws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, we propose adoption of this report and the O'ahu County Democrat's Platform for 2016 as printed and circulated, and that the adopted report and platform be referred to the Permanent Convention Platform Committees of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

Your Committee on Platform proposes changes to the following sections of the O'ahu County Platform: Preamble, Agriculture, Economics & Commerce, Education, Environment & Energy, Healthcare, Human Rights and Civil Rights & Economic Justice, Housing, Immigration, and Native Hawaiian People.

The Committee further proposes the O'ahu County Convention authorize the Platform Committee to make any technical, non-substantive and stylistic revisions deemed necessary after adoptions. The proposed language to be deleted is bracketed and stricken. New language is underscored.

Respectfully Submitted

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1 PREAMBLE

2 The O'ahu County Democrats reaffirm our core values of liberty, equality and justice. These values
3 compel us to integrate democratic ideals in all aspects of economic, social, educational, health and
4 cultural life in our communities, O'ahu, our state, and our nation. This platform outlines the guiding
5 principles for the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

6
7 AGRICULTURE

8 Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient agricultural lands
9 must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe
10 in an integrated approach of agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the
11 responsible development of ocean resources and aquaculture in order to achieve sustainability in
12 our state.

13
14 This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of
15 *ahupua'a*, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of
16 economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and
17 for export, policies to foster infrastructure such as coolers and freezers at our harbors, and better
18 inspection to protect against invasive species and speed up time in port holding. We need to ensure
19 food safety, strive towards food security and strive to set the highest standards for food quality and
20 nutrition.

21
22 We will promote efficiency with feed mills and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry
23 and eggs. Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life- sustaining resource, we must protect
24 its ecological balance while promoting the cultivation of ocean resources as a step toward greater
25 self-sufficiency.

26
27 Fresh water free of pollutants shall be available to all. To ensure wise use and equitable distribution
28 of precious fresh water, we must stress water conservation and alternative patterns of water
29 treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation, water storage
30 reservoirs, and the use of rain barrels by the public.

31 ARTS & CULTURE

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

37
38 ECONOMICS & COMMERCE

39 Availability of financial support and a capable educated people are critical to our economic
40 expansion and diversification. To encourage our entrepreneurs and prevent them from leaving
41 Hawai'i, we must create incentives for small investors of startup businesses, and we need to
42 encourage a private system of venture capital business loans to small businesses and companies
43 so that they can grow to the next level. The management of businesses should be ethical and
44 responsive to the community with transparency for investors and shareholders guaranteeing sound,
45 healthy management. Innovation through the generation of intellectual property should be the goal
46 of our economic diversification.

47
48 We must simplify government processes to encourage beneficial business development. We must
49 give priority to the development of "green" sustainable industries, diversification of our tourism
50 market, and local business ownership. Green commerce includes but is not limited to
51 biodegradable and recycled packaging. We must promote financial literacy and asset building

52 programs to strengthen our 'ohana. We must pursue relationships with the information technology
53 industry. We must invest in world class higher education to stimulate our economic resources, and
54 we must reduce our dependence on tourism, real estate development, and the military. A truly
55 diversified economy will help to create a diversified jobs market.

56 57 EDUCATION

58 We believe that the future of our State as well as our country depends upon an educated and
59 knowledgeable citizenry. We must rethink the structure of our educational system. We must reform
60 and upgrade our public schools and create a flexible education system. We support increased
61 public investment in higher education, so that students do not have to suffer lifelong tuition debts
62 without shortchanging quality public education. We support the prioritization of our resources
63 towards providing quality education and library services to every student regardless of learning
64 capacity in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources should be made
65 available at every level, from preschool through higher education, including life-long learning, and
66 should provide autonomy of the relevant educational institutions and competitive compensation for
67 teachers, administrators, and professors. Educational policies should also include cultural learning,
68 the arts and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. We
69 must ensure that our students are safe in our schools and free from violence, bullying and
70 discrimination. This includes, gender bias, weight, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual
71 orientation, gender identity, gender expression and/or religion. Effective communication, respect,
72 and language skills could be taught with group projects, cooperative learning, discussion and
73 games.

74
75 We support the strengthening of our early childhood educational programs and the establishment of
76 life skills education throughout our academic careers.

77
78 We support a dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education.

79
80 We support the growth of well-managed and innovative schools.

81
82 Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in education
83 shall be compensated with a competitive wage based on national standards while taking into
84 consideration the state's cost of living.

85
86 We cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the federal government such as the
87 "No Child Left Behind Act" as repealed December 2015.

88 89 ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

90 The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to the
91 health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our
92 natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint. We believe in integrated
93 approaches, practices, and support for public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of
94 life in Hawai'i. Specifically, we must support policies that foster on O'ahu and between our neighbor
95 islands the development of energy production methods that de-emphasize carbon based fuels and
96 promote renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal and OTEC. It is of paramount
97 importance that we protect our fragile environment from further damage due to residential over-
98 development and the depletion of prime agricultural land.

99
100 Electricity rates in Hawai'i are among the highest in the nation despite the fact we enjoy an
101 abundance of sunshine year round. The electric utility companies must open the grid to alternative
102 power sources including solar panels and geothermal energy.

103
104 We support the protection of our 'āina against destruction by corporate, government, or military

105 usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and
106 future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take
107 appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

108
109 We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal
110 ecosystems and reefs from disruption and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i
111 Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public
112 participation in management of coastal resources.

113
114 The Hawaii State General Plan must be proactive in helping to identify the carrying capacity of our
115 islands to ensure a balance between urban growth and sustainability.

116 117 FOREIGN POLICY

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

121 122 GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL REFORM

123 We believe that a government based on the will of the people, but respecting the rights of all is a
124 potential solution to its citizens' needs and should not be denigrated as an option to a completely
125 *laissez-faire* society. Thus, fair and equitable taxation is essential for good government, as
126 providing services to society is worthy of financial support. We believe that this will adequately,
127 efficiently, courteously, openly and fairly administer to the needs of the people. We support the
128 incorporation of *ho'oponopono*, ethics in government, and a fair, voter-verifiable, fully transparent
129 and auditable voting system. We support and expect ethics in government, with a fair, voter-
130 verifiable, fully transparent and auditable voting system. We also support enforcement of all
131 sunshine laws and transparency in sessions and meetings that discuss and make policy.

132
133 This includes the protection of funding for the televising of public hearings at the State and County
134 levels, as well as the funding of the Public Access Room at the legislature.

135
136 We support limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations,
137 corporations, and individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all
138 elections, to ensure that the power to bring positive change to our county and State lies in the
139 hands of individual voters. We do not believe that money equals "free speech".

140
141 We must ensure the security of our electoral process with regards to electronic infiltration and
142 manipulation.

143
144 We support the separation of State and Church as set forth in the Constitution of the United States
145 of America in the First Amendment as well as Article VI, which is vital to guarantee freedom of
146 religion and conscience. We also oppose any legislation that weakens that wall. Separation of State
147 and Church is meant to insure that no single religion can impose its particular beliefs on members
148 of the general population.

149
150 We believe in the constant renewal of both the Democratic Party and electoral reform in Hawai'i
151 state government through the re-institution of multi-member legislative districts. The result would
152 provide opportunities for both experienced as well as new candidates for elective office to serve,
153 thus reflecting the changing demographics of Hawai'i.

154
155 Notwithstanding claims of national security, the policy of the O'ahu County Democratic Party is to
156 demand that the President and Congress of the United States, in order to uphold the prescribed
157 due process provision and its application to any place "subject to [United States'] jurisdiction",

158 remove all prisoners at Guantanamo to the mainland United States, provide them with a fair civilian
159 trial, and forthwith close the facilities at Guantanamo that offer such unconstitutionally cruel and
160 unusual incarceration.

161

162 HEALTHCARE

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

167

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

171

172 We cannot support the provisions that continue the practice of denying women coverage for
173 abortion services. All women's health care decisions should be made by the patients and their
174 doctors, and not restricted by the government. Contraceptive and preventative cancer screening
175 should be easily available to all women.

176

177 We support the passage and enforcement of laws banning both medical and therapeutic treatments
178 for the purpose of forcing sexual orientation ~~[and]~~ , gender identity, ~~and/or gender expression~~
179 conversion, such as ~~[reparative]~~ conversion therapy (aka ~~reparative~~ ~~[conversion]~~ therapy), for
180 minors or adults at the State and Federal level. We believe that everyone should have the
181 opportunity to live a true and authentic self.

182

183 HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

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

189

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

194

195 We support the rights of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community to full
196 equality before the law, including, but not limited to, Marriage Equality both at the State and Federal
197 level. We oppose discriminatory federal and state constitutional amendments and other attempts to
198 deny equal protection of the laws to committed same-sex couples who seek the same respect and
199 responsibilities as other married couples. We ~~[support]~~ celebrate the full repeal of the so-called
200 Defense of Marriage Act and the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act.

201

202 We support the full implementation of a law that allows members of the transgender community to
203 amend their birth certificate to accurately reflect their identified gender.

204

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

207

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

209

210 We support initiatives that enhance access and equity to education, employment, and business

211 opportunities intended to lift families out of poverty and remove existing barriers to equal
212 opportunity in our communities.

213

214 We oppose the practice or policy of scapegoating of any kind, including and not limited to faith
215 traditions and ethnicity, while maintaining our principle of separation of church and state.

216

217 We support the individual's choice of dying with dignity, including Doctor assisted death.

218

219 HOUSING

220 Housing is a basic human right. Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to individual income is
221 the basis of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy. Recent and past real estate
222 bubbles have fueled disproportionate rent increases, a key contributor to homelessness. Therefore,
223 we support efforts to promote truly affordable housing for all citizens who rent. We need
224 economically affordable housing and encourage increased support that leads to this end. To this
225 end, we support policies which re-think the current formula to determine "affordability" as this
226 formula puts both rentals and sales out of the reach of most working families in Hawai'i. We
227 strongly urge that the definition of "affordable" be amended to 25%-30% of monthly income for all
228 income brackets.

229

230 We support dedicated social services for Hawai'i's homeless youth population, to get them off the
231 streets and reintegrated into society, with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups
232 including but not limited to the Hawaiian community and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender
233 homeless youth population.

234

235 IMMIGRATION

236 We believe that our nation should have a fair immigration policy that recognizes the diversity of our
237 country and the contribution that immigrants make and have made to the sciences, arts and culture.
238 We support an immigration policy that provides a reasonable path to citizenship for immigrants who
239 follow the rule of law. We encourage policies that avoid the militarization of our borders. We abhor
240 policies that would deny education and health and human services to immigrant children. We must
241 ensure that immigrant children are treated with fairness and respect in our schools and in our
242 healthcare system. Immigration laws should not discriminate based on sexual orientation, ~~or~~
243 gender identity and/or gender expression.

244

245 LABOR

246 As the party of working men and women in Hawai'i, we work to protect labor rights and social
247 security; to institute fair labor practices, a living wage for all workers, and fair taxation; to protect
248 employees' rights to organize and bargain collectively with their employers; to oppose the
249 outsourcing of Hawai'i's jobs; to promote employment opportunities and sustainable growth; to
250 assist the economically disadvantaged; to advocate for sound trade and economic policies; to train
251 our workforce in green industries, in renovation and green construction so that their jobs are not
252 dependent on ever-expanding real estate development. In order to rapidly move returning veterans,
253 students, and the unemployed into jobs, we urge the creation of paid internship programs for
254 students.

255

256 NATIVE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE

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

264 We support the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in
265 decisions related to county and state affairs.

266
267 We support Native Hawaiians in their efforts to secure justice from Federal and State Government
268 to repair harms endured by the Hawaiian People and the 'Aina since 1893.
269

270 SAFETY & SECURITY

271 We support safety and security in all dimensions as a basic right of all residents of the state of
272 Hawai'i. We support just law enforcement and enhancement of crime prevention, without
273 compromising civil liberties. This includes the full protection of the law against domestic violence
274 and appropriate training for all law enforcement officers-agencies as well as full enforcement of the
275 State of Hawai'i's hate crimes statute.

278 279 TECHNOLOGY

280 We recognize that the responsible use and development of technology in all its manifestations offer
281 unlimited potential for our community. We encourage research, development and educational
282 programs to promote technological proficiency and innovation. In particular, we support Science,
283 Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives in our schools as these prepare the
284 next generation to address the needs of our state.

285
286 We maintain that state and local government databases should be integrated to promote efficiency
287 in government.

288 289 TRANSPORTATION

290 We support county, state and federal efforts to provide more efficient and punctual convenient
291 methods of public transportation. We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on the automobile by
292 employing private and public use of alternative modes of travel. We encourage efforts to provide
293 better vehicle and pedestrian safety. In particular, we support initiatives that will provide our state
294 with more fuel-efficient vehicles, affordable mass transit and well-identified bike lanes. In order to
295 be best served by mass transit, we must recognize the importance of the integration in an urban
296 setting of any new modes of mass transportation with existing and future public streets and
297 highways, bike lanes, retail establishments and services, and truly-affordable housing — while
298 maintaining a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all future high-density
299 developments.

300 301 U.S. MILITARY

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

306
307 We oppose war profiteering and the privatization of combat through employment of paramilitary
308 contractors.

309
310 We support the protection of our 'āina against destruction by military usage.

311
312 We support our Veterans and our Veterans organizations and efforts to keep our Veteran's
313 Hospitals fully funded.

314
315 We support the efforts of our Congressional Delegation to extend benefits for our Reservists and
316 National Guard who have suffered brain injury and/or PTSD.

317
318 We support efforts to protect our troops from sexual predators within their service branches and

319 support specialized treatment for victims of such crimes.