

O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PLATFORM
2017 O'ahu County Convention
Aloha Stadium Hospitality Suite
April 22, 2017

Aloha O'ahu County Delegates:

Your Platform Convention Committee met at 9:15 am, Saturday, April 15, 2017 at Farrington High School to deliberate and discuss one proposed change to the education section of the O'ahu County Democrat's Platform. During our Saturday morning meeting, the Committee considered various amendments to the language and we subsequently agreed on the proposed amended form.

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.

The Committee further proposes that 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,

Daniel K. Jacob
Co-Chair

Cindy Aban
Co-Chair

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE ON APRIL 15, 2017:

**Cora Yamamoto
Bill South
Semico Miller
Suzanne Young**

**Ross Villiger
Carolyn Golojuch
Russ Hardy**

MEMEBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE ON APRIL 15, 2017

**Abraham Hanul
Young Schlack
Bill Sager
Patrice Walker
Stuart Feinberg
Rickie Banning**

**Nathan Hutchinson
Peter Enrhorn
Amy Perruso
Sandy Ma
Gail Ishikawa
Russ Hardy**

**Ernest Carvalho
Celeste Nip
Paul Holcomb
Kris Derecho-Coffield
Susie Chun Oakland**

**O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I
201[6]7 Platform
Adopted April [23, 2016] 22, 2017**

1 **PREAMBLE**

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

7 **AGRICULTURE**

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

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

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

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

28 **ARTS & CULTURE**

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

34 **ECONOMICS & COMMERCE**

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

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1 We must simplify government processes to encourage beneficial business development. We
2 must give priority to the development of "green" sustainable industries, diversification of our
3 tourism market, and local business ownership. Green commerce includes but is not limited to
4 biodegradable and recycled packaging. We must promote financial literacy and asset building
5 programs to strengthen our *'ohana*. We must pursue relationships with the information
6 technology industry. We must invest in world class higher education to stimulate our economic
7 resources, and we must reduce our dependence on tourism, real estate development, and the
8 military. A truly diversified economy will help to create a diversified jobs market.

9 **EDUCATION**

10 We believe that the future of our State as well as our country depends upon an educated and
11 knowledgeable citizenry. We must re-think the structure of our educational system. We must
12 reform and upgrade our public schools and create a flexible education system.

13 We support increased public investment in higher education, so that students do not have to
14 suffer lifelong tuition debts without shortchanging quality public education.

15 We support the prioritization of our resources towards providing quality education and library
16 services to every student regardless of learning capacity in an environment conducive to the
17 learning process. These resources should be made available at every level, from pre-school
18 through higher education, including life-long learning, and should provide autonomy of the
19 relevant educational institutions and competitive compensation for teachers, administrators, and
20 professors. Educational policies should also include cultural learning, the arts and physical
21 education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. We must ensure that our
22 students are safe in our schools and free from violence, bullying and discrimination. This
23 includes, gender bias, weight, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender
24 identity, gender expression and/or religion. Effective communication, respect, and language
25 skills could be taught with group projects, cooperative learning, discussion and games.

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

28 We support a dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education. We support the
29 growth of well-managed and innovative schools.

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

33 We cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the federal government such as the
34 "No Child Left Behind Act" as repealed December 2015

35 We support school impact fees and the creation of new school impact fee districts, the
36 enforcement of regulations pertaining to the collection of school impact fees, and accountability
37 by the Hawai'i Department of Education and the Hawai'i Board of Education in the proper use
38 and collection of the fees.
39

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1 ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

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

11 Electricity rates in Hawai'i are among the highest in the nation despite the fact we enjoy an
12 abundance of sunshine year round. The electric utility companies must open the grid to
13 alternative power sources including solar panels and geothermal energy.
14 We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military
15 usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current
16 and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take
17 appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

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

22 The Hawai'i State General Plan must be proactive in helping to identify the carrying capacity of
23 our islands to ensure a balance between urban growth and sustainability.

24 FOREIGN POLICY

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

28 GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL REFORM

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

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

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

5 We must ensure the security of our electoral process with regards to electronic infiltration and
6 manipulation.

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

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

16 Notwithstanding claims of national security, the policy of the O'ahu County Democratic Party is
17 to demand that the President and Congress of the United States, in order to uphold the
18 prescribed due process provision and its application to any place "subject to [United States']
19 jurisdiction", remove all prisoners at Guantanamo to the mainland United States, provide them
20 with a fair civilian trial, and forthwith close the facilities at Guantanamo that offer such
21 unconstitutionally cruel and unusual incarceration

22 **HEALTHCARE**

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

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

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

35 We support the passage and enforcement of laws banning both medical and therapeutic
36 treatments for the purpose of forcing sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender
37 expression conversion, such as conversion therapy (aka reparative therapy), for minors or
38 adults at the State and Federal level. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to
39 live a true and authentic self.

40

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1 HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

2 The inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the
3 foundations of freedom, justice, and peace. We are committed to ending institutionalized
4 discrimination in all aspects. We support affirmative action, the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and
5 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the rights of senior citizens. We support
6 full equality, benefits and responsibilities regardless of sexual identity, orientation, or
7 expression.

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

12 We support the rights of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community to full
13 equality before the law, including, but not limited to, Marriage Equality both at the State and
14 Federal level. We oppose discriminatory federal and state constitutional amendments and other
15 attempts to deny equal protection of the laws to committed same-sex couples who seek the
16 same respect and responsibilities as other married couples. We celebrate the full repeal of the
17 so-called Defense of Marriage Act and the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act.

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

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

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

23 We support initiatives that enhance access and equity to education, employment, and business
24 opportunities intended to lift families out of poverty and remove existing barriers to equal
25 opportunity in our communities.

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

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

29 HOUSING

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

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

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1 **IMMIGRATION**

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

10 **LABOR**

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

20 **NATIVE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE**

21 The Native Hawaiian people are the indigenous people of the state of Hawai‘i and deserve a
22 just relationship with the state and federal governments. We support Native Hawaiian self-
23 determination, consistent with federal policy for native self-determination extended to other
24 indigenous peoples of the United States. We support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming,
25 agricultural and healing practices. We value and wish to foster the preservation of our host
26 culture. We deplore any attempt to exploit or export Hawaiian bio products without the consent
27 of the Native Hawaiian community.

28
29 We support the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in
30 decisions related to county and state affairs.

31
32 We support Native Hawaiians in their efforts to secure justice from Federal and State
33 Government to repair harms endured by the Hawaiian People and the ‘Aina since 1893.

34 **SAFETY & SECURITY**

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

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1 TECHNOLOGY

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

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

9 TRANSPORTATION

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

20 U.S. MILITARY

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

25 We oppose war profiteering and the privatization of combat through employment of paramilitary
26 contractors.

27 We support the protection of our ‘aina against destruction by military usage.

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

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

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