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**O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I  
2018 Platform  
Adopted May 5, 2018**

**PREAMBLE**

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

Based upon the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we support as long-term goals of the O'ahu County Democrats:

- (1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- (2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;
- (3) Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- (4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- (5) Achieve gender diversity and equality, and empower all women and girls and those that do not adhere to the gender binary;
- (6) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- (7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- (8) Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and living wage for all;
- (9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
- (10) Reduce inequality among our people and communities;
- (11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
- (12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- (13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
- (14) Conserve and wisely use the oceans, seas and marine resources in a sustainable manner;
- (15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss,
- (16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and
- (17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

**AGRICULTURE**

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

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

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

54  
55 Fresh water free of pollutants shall be available to all. To ensure wise use and equitable distribution of  
56 precious fresh water, we must stress water conservation and alternative patterns of water treatment and  
57 consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation, water storage reservoirs, and the use of rain  
58 barrels by the public.

59  
60 As food and drinking water exposures to chlorpyrifos exceed safe levels, we support the ban of chlorpyrifos  
61 in agricultural pesticides. It is acutely toxic and associated with neurodevelopmental damage, i.e.,  
62 intelligence deficits and attention, memory, and motor problems, in children. We support the enforcement  
63 of the establishment of buffer zones where pesticides are being used in communities, and the mandatory  
64 disclosure of all public use of restricted-use pesticides (“RUPs”).

## 65 **ARTS & CULTURE**

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

71  
72 **ECONOMICS & COMMERCE**  
73 Availability of financial support and a capable educated people are critical to our economic expansion and  
74 diversification. To encourage our entrepreneurs and prevent them from leaving Hawai‘i, we must create  
75 incentives for small investors of startup businesses, and we need to encourage a system of venture capital  
76 business loans to small businesses and companies so that they can grow to the next level. The  
77 management of businesses should be ethical and responsive to the community with transparency for  
78 investors and shareholders guaranteeing sound, healthy management. Innovation through the generation  
79 of intellectual property should be the goal of our economic diversification.

80  
81 We must simplify government processes to encourage beneficial business development. We must give  
82 priority to the development of “green” sustainable industries, diversification of our tourism market, and local  
83 business ownership. Green commerce includes, but is not limited to, biodegradable and recycled  
84 packaging. We must promote financial literacy and asset building programs to strengthen our ‘ohana. We  
85 must pursue relationships with the information technology industry. We must invest in world class higher  
86 education to stimulate our economic resources, and we must reduce our dependence on tourism, real  
87 estate development, and the military. A truly diversified economy will help to create a diversified jobs  
88 market.

89  
90 **EDUCATION**  
91 We believe that the future of our State as well as our country depends upon an educated and  
92 knowledgeable citizenry. We must re-think the structure of our educational system. We must reform and  
93 upgrade our public schools and create a flexible education system. We support increased public investment  
94 in higher education, so that students do not have to suffer lifelong tuition debts without shortchanging quality  
95 public education.

96  
97 We support the prioritization of our resources towards providing quality education and library services to  
98 every student regardless of learning capacity in an environment conducive to the learning process. These  
99 resources should be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-  
100 long learning, and should provide autonomy of the relevant educational institutions and competitive

101 compensation for teachers, administrators, and professors. Educational policies should also include cultural  
102 learning, the arts and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history.

103  
104 We must ensure that our students are safe in our schools and free from violence, bullying and  
105 discrimination. This includes, gender bias, body image, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual  
106 orientation, gender identity, gender expression and/or religion. Effective communication, respect, and  
107 language skills could be taught with group projects, cooperative learning, discussion and games.

108  
109 We support the strengthening of our early childhood educational programs and the establishment of life  
110 skills education throughout our academic careers.

111  
112 We support a dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education. We support the growth of well-  
113 managed and innovative schools.

114  
115 Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in education shall be  
116 compensated with a competitive wage based on national standards while taking into consideration the  
117 state's cost of living.

118  
119 We cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the federal government such as the "No Child  
120 Left Behind Act" as repealed December 2015.

121  
122 **ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY**

123 The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to the health  
124 and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment,  
125 which includes reducing our carbon footprint. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support  
126 for public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i. With about 90% of O'ahu's  
127 electrical and transportation needs powered by fossil fuels, increasing energy self-sufficiency is a major  
128 stride toward sustainability. Specifically, we must support policies that foster the development of energy  
129 production methods on O'ahu and our neighbor islands which de-emphasize carbon-based fuels and  
130 promote renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal and ocean thermal energy conversion  
131 (OTEC). It is of paramount importance that we protect our fragile environment from further damage due to  
132 residential over-development and the depletion of prime agricultural land.

133  
134 Electricity rates in Hawai'i are among the highest in the nation despite the fact that we enjoy an abundance  
135 of sunshine year-round. The electric utility companies must open the grid to alternative renewable power  
136 sources including, but not limited to, wind, solar, wave, geothermal and ocean thermal energy conversion  
137 (OTEC). To reduce the cost of energy to consumers. We support the practice and use of net metering to  
138 foster development production of alternative renewable energy.

139  
140 We support the protection of our 'āina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and  
141 expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for  
142 water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh  
143 water resources.

144  
145 We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems  
146 and reefs from disruption and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone  
147 Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of  
148 coastal resources.

149  
150 The Navy has 20 underground fuel storage tanks at Red Hill above Pearl Harbor. The tanks sit on an  
151 aquifer that supplies a quarter of the water consumed in urban Honolulu. More than 27,000 gallons of jet  
152 fuel leaked from one of the tanks in 2014. We support environmentally sound actions by the Navy to resolve  
153 the problem by installing double-walled tanks or by moving the fuel out by 2025.

154 Cesspools throughout the O’ahu threaten drinking water supplies, coral reefs and the health of people who  
155 swim and surf in our island waters. They create a serious public safety issue, environmental problem and  
156 economic danger that is exacerbated by the effects of climate change. We support septic tank upgrades  
157 and wastewater sewage systems where feasible by 2025.

158 The proposed O’ahu General Plan, as revised, December 2017, must be proactive in helping to identify the  
159 carrying capacity of the island of O’ahu to ensure a balance between urban growth and sustainability.

160  
161 **FOREIGN POLICY**

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

165  
166 **GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL REFORM**

167 We believe that a government based on the will of the people but respecting the rights of all is a potential  
168 solution to its citizens’ needs and should not be denigrated as an option to a completely laissez-faire society.  
169 Thus, fair and equitable taxation is essential for good government, as providing services to society is worthy  
170 of financial support. We believe that this will adequately, efficiently, courteously, openly and fairly  
171 administer to the needs of the people. We support the incorporation of ho’oponopono, ethics in  
172 government, and a fair, voter-verifiable, fully transparent and auditable voting system. We also support  
173 enforcement of all sunshine laws and transparency in sessions and meetings that discuss and make policy.

174  
175 This includes the protection of funding for the televising of public hearings at the State and County levels,  
176 as well as the funding of the Public Access Room at the legislature.

177  
178 We support limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations, corporations, and  
179 individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all elections, to ensure that the power  
180 to bring positive change to our county and State lies in the hands of individual voters. We do not believe  
181 that money equals “free speech.”

182  
183 We must ensure the security of our electoral process with regards to electronic infiltration and manipulation.

184  
185 We support the separation of state and church as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of  
186 America in the first Amendment as well as Article VI, which is vital to guarantee freedom of religion and  
187 conscience. We also oppose any legislation that weakens that wall. Separation of State and Church is  
188 meant to ensure that no single religion can impose its particular beliefs on members of the general  
189 population.

190  
191 We believe in the constant renewal of both the Democratic Party and electoral reform in Hawai’i state  
192 government through the re-institution of multi-member legislative districts. The result would provide  
193 opportunities for both experienced as well as new candidates for elective office to serve, thus reflecting the  
194 changing demographics of Hawai’i.

195  
196 Notwithstanding claims of national security, the policy of the O’ahu County Democratic Party is to demand  
197 that the President and Congress of the United States, in order to uphold the prescribed due process  
198 provision and its application to any place “subject to [United States] jurisdiction,” remove all prisoners at  
199 Guantanamo to the mainland United States, provide them with a fair civilian trial, and forthwith close the  
200 facilities at Guantanamo that offer such unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment.

201  
202 We support reforms to our criminal justice system that encourage the reintegration of formally incarcerated  
203 individuals into greater society and reduces their rate of recidivism.

204  
205 **HEALTHCARE**

206 Access to quality health care is a basic human right. We support the development of long-term care, better  
207 pay and working conditions for all healthcare providers, parity of mental and physical health coverage, and

208 appropriate regulation of healthcare delivery systems. We also support the development of empirically  
209 validated prevention programs targeted at major public health issues.

210  
211 We support state and national healthcare reform via single payer universal healthcare as the optimum way  
212 to provide health care services. We also support the addition of a public option into the current system.

213  
214 We cannot support the provisions that continue the practice of denying women coverage for abortion series.  
215 All women's health care decisions should be made by the patients and their doctors, and not restricted by  
216 the government. Contraceptive and preventative cancer screening should be easily available to all women.

217  
218 We support the passage and enforcement of laws banning both medical and therapeutic treatments for the  
219 purpose of forcing sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression conversion, such as  
220 conversion therapy (aka reparative therapy), for minors or adults at the State and Federal level. We believe  
221 that everyone should have the opportunity to live a true and authentic self.

### 222 223 **HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS & ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

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

229  
230 We believe in the equality of women and their right to privacy. We believe in equality and justice for  
231 individuals who do not adhere to the gender binary, and their right to privacy. We will work towards a world  
232 that embraces gender diversity and equality. This includes the rights of women to access birth control, the  
233 right to coverage of pregnancy services, the right to shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence  
234 and the right of rape victims to emergency contraception in the emergency room to name a few.

235  
236 We support the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and  
237 Asexual (LGBTQIA) community to full equality under the law. We support and celebrate the passage of  
238 Marriage Equality at the State and Federal level. We oppose any efforts to repeal Marriage Equality. We  
239 call upon all to work towards a society where members of the LGBTQIA community are accepted and  
240 honored for who they are.

241  
242 We support custody and rights for children born through in-vitro fertilization (IVF) and adoptive rights of  
243 transgender and gender non-binary people.

244  
245 We support removing or expanding the choices for gender markers on birth certificates, state identification  
cards (IDs) and driver licenses.

246  
247 We support the full implementation of a law that allows members of the transgender community to amend  
248 their birth certificate to accurately reflect their identified gender. We support changes in the law that ensures  
the right to self-determination for gender identification.

249  
250 We support restorative justice that repairs the harms caused by criminal behaviors as well as reintegrates  
251 the offenders as contributing members of society.

252  
253 We deplore human trafficking and support legislative and judicial efforts to stamp it out.

254  
255 We support initiatives that enhance access and equity to education, employment, and business  
256 opportunities intended to lift families out of poverty and remove existing barriers to equal opportunity in our  
257 communities.

258  
259 We applaud the passage of the Our Care, Our Choice Act that gives terminally ill and mentally capable  
260 adult patients the right to make their own end of life choices, which includes medical aid in dying. We

261 support all efforts to ensure that all terminally ill and mentally capable adult patients can make their own  
262 end of life choices, including full access to medical aid in dying.

263

## 264 **HOUSING**

265 Housing is a basic human right. Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to individual income is the basis  
266 of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy. Recent and past real estate bubbles have fueled  
267 disproportionate rent increases, a key contributor to homelessness. Therefore, we support efforts to  
268 promote truly affordable housing for all citizens who rent. We need economically affordable housing and  
269 encourage increased support that leads to this end. To this end, we support policies which re-think the  
270 current formula to determine “affordability” as this formula puts both rentals and sales out of the reach of  
271 most working families in Hawai‘i. We strongly urge that the definition of “affordable” be amended to 25%-  
272 30% of monthly income for all income brackets.

273

274 We support dedicated social services for Hawai‘i’s homeless youth population to get them off the streets  
275 and reintegrated into society with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups including, but not  
276 limited to, the Hawaiian community and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex  
277 and asexual (LGBTQIA) homeless youth population. We support Housing First policies and programs like  
278 Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD).

279

## 280 **IMMIGRATION**

281 We believe that our nation should have a fair immigration policy that recognizes the diversity of our county  
282 and the contribution that immigrants make and have made to the sciences, arts and culture. We support  
283 an immigration policy that provides a reasonable path to citizenship for immigrants who follow the rule of  
284 law. We encourage polices that avoid the militarization of our borders. We abhor policies that would deny  
285 education and health and human services to immigrant children. We must ensure that immigrant children  
286 are treated with fairness and respect in our schools and in our healthcare system. Immigration laws should  
287 not discriminate based on sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression.

288

## 289 **LABOR**

290 As the party of working people in Hawai‘i, we work to protect labor rights and social security; to institute fair  
291 labor practices, a living wage for all workers, and fair taxation; to protect employee’s rights to organize and  
292 bargain collectively with their employers; to oppose the outsourcing of Hawai‘i’s jobs; to promote  
293 employment opportunities and sustainable growth; to assist the economically disadvantaged; to advocate  
294 for sound trade and economic policies; to train our local workforce in diversified and environmentally  
295 responsible industries. In order to rapidly move returning veterans, students, and the unemployed into jobs,  
296 we urge the creation of paid internship programs for students.

297

## 298 **NATIVE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE**

299 The Native Hawaiian people are the indigenous people of the State of Hawai‘i and deserve a just  
300 relationship with the State and Federal governments. We support Native Hawaiian self-determination,  
301 consistent with Federal policy for native self-determination extended to other indigenous peoples of the  
302 United States. We support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing practices. We  
303 value and wish to foster the preservation of our host culture. We deplore any attempt to exploit or export  
304 Hawaiian bio products without the consent of the Native Hawaiian community.

305

306 We support the construction and use of micro housing units on Hawaiian home lands approved by the  
307 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and leased to native Hawaiian beneficiaries who meet the minimum  
308 Hawaiian blood quantum requirement, notwithstanding county zoning laws. We support multi-level housing  
309 in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and agribusinesses for Native Hawaiians by creating ag-tech zones  
310 within the City and County of Honolulu to promote agricultural innovation and diversify the State’s  
311 agricultural systems for domestic consumption and export.

312

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

315

316 We support Native Hawaiians in their efforts to secure justice from our Federal and State governments to  
317 repair harms endured by the Hawaiian People and the 'Aina since 1893. We support the right of Native  
318 Hawaiians to self-determination, including the formation of their chosen governmental entity.

319  
320 **SAFETY, SECURITY, NATURAL DISASTERS & OTHER EMERGENCIES**  
321 We support safety and security in all dimensions as a basic right of all residents of the State of Hawai'i. We  
322 support just law enforcement and enhancement of crime prevention, without comprising civil liberties. This  
323 encompasses the full protection of the law, including enforcement of victim's rights, restitution, counseling,  
324 therapy, Orders of Protection, and shelters for victims and survivors of domestic violence and other criminal  
325 wrongs, as applicable. We support appropriate training for all law enforcement officers and agency  
326 personnel. We support full enforcement of the State of Hawai'i's hate crimes statute.

327  
328 We demand the protection of the people of O'ahu and their property against natural and man-made  
329 disasters. We believe in the science of climate change, affirm human activity as its primary cause and main  
330 driver, and support emergency preparedness and planning efforts to mitigate its impacts. This includes  
331 investment in early warning systems, emergency management and response systems, and adequate  
332 emergency sheltering.

333  
334 **TECHNOLOGY**  
335 We recognize that the reasonable use and development of technology in all its manifestations offer  
336 unlimited potential for our community. We encourage research, development and educational programs to  
337 promote technological proficiency and innovation. We support Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and  
338 Mathematics (STEAM) initiatives in our schools as these prepare the next generation to address the needs  
339 of our state.

340  
341 We maintain that state and local government databases should be integrated to promote efficiency in  
342 government.

343  
344 We support both net neutrality to ensure free and open access to the internet, and the protection of personal  
345 data as a personal right.

346  
347 **TRANSPORTATION**  
348 We support county, state and federal efforts to provide more efficient and punctual convenient methods of  
349 public transportation. We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on the automobile by employing private  
350 and public use of alternative modes of travel. We encourage efforts to provide better vehicle and pedestrian  
351 safety. We support initiatives that will provide our state with more fuel-efficient vehicles, affordable mass  
352 transit and well-identified bike lanes. In order to be best served by mass transit, we must recognize the  
353 importance of the integration in an urban setting of any new modes of mass transportation with existing and  
354 future public streets and highways, bike lanes, retail establishments and services, and truly-affordable  
355 housing – while maintain a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all future high-density  
356 developments.

357  
358 **U.S. MILITARY**  
359 The Armed Forces in Hawai'i and their families sacrifice to serve and defend our country and help us in  
360 time of need. We encourage the continuation of efforts to coordinate military activities with affected  
361 communities. Hawai'i should honor their service by strongly supporting the best possible care of wounded  
362 and disabled veterans.

363  
364 We oppose war profiteering and the privatization of combat through employment of paramilitary contractors.

365  
366 We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by military usage.

367  
368 We support our Veterans and our Veterans organizations and efforts to keep our Veteran's Hospitals fully  
369 funded.

370

371 We support the efforts of our Congressional Delegation to extend benefits for our Reservists and National  
372 Guard who have suffered brain injury and/or PTSD.  
373  
374 We support efforts to protect our troops from sexual predators within their service branches and support  
375 specialized treatment for victims of such crimes.