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

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