OʻAHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAIʻI
2018 Platform
Adopted May 5, 2018

PREAMBLE
The Oʻahu 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, Oʻahu, our state, and our nation. This Platform outlines the guiding principles for the Oʻahu Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawaiʻi.

Based upon the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we support as long-term goals of the Oʻahu 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 ahupuaʻa, 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.
We will promote efficiency with feed mills and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry and eggs.

Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life-sustaining resource, we must protect its ecological balance while promoting the cultivation of ocean resources as a step toward greater self-sufficiency.

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

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

**ARTS & CULTURE**

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

**ECONOMICS & COMMERCE**

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

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

**EDUCATION**

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

We support the prioritization of our resources towards providing quality education and library services to every student regardless of learning capacity in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources should be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning, and should provide autonomy of the relevant educational institutions and competitive
compensation for teachers, administrators, and professors. Educational policies should also include cultural learning, the arts and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history.

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

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

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

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

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

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

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

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

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

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

The Navy has 20 underground fuel storage tanks at Red Hill above Pearl Harbor. The tanks sit on an aquifer that supplies a quarter of the water consumed in urban Honolulu. More than 27,000 gallons of jet fuel leaked from one of the tanks in 2014. We support environmentally sound actions by the Navy to resolve the problem by installing double-walled tanks or by moving the fuel out by 2025.
Cesspools throughout the Oʻahu threaten drinking water supplies, coral reefs and the health of people who swim and surf in our island waters. They create a serious public safety issue, environmental problem and economic danger that is exacerbated by the effects of climate change. We support septic tank upgrades and wastewater sewage systems where feasible by 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS & ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

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

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

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

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

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

We support the full implementation of a law that allows members of the transgender community to amend
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.

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

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

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

We applaud the passage of the Our Care, Our Choice Act that gives terminally ill and mentally capable
adult patients the right to make their own end of life choices, which includes medical aid in dying. We
support all efforts to ensure that all terminally ill and mentally capable adult patients can make their own end of life choices, including full access to medical aid in dying.

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

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

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

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

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

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

We support the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in decisions related to county and state affairs.
We support Native Hawaiians in their efforts to secure justice from our Federal and State governments to repair harms endured by the Hawaiian People and the ‘Aina since 1893. We support the right of Native Hawaiians to self-determination, including the formation of their chosen governmental entity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We support our Veterans and our Veterans organizations and efforts to keep our Veteran’s Hospitals fully funded.
We support the efforts of our Congressional Delegation to extend benefits for our Reservists and National Guard who have suffered brain injury and/or PTSD.

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