



**A REPORT TO THE OCC
FROM LORNA TAKEHARA STRAND, CHAIR
MAY 1, 2020**

Our last meeting held at the crowded DPH HQ annex on March 7 feels like decades ago. We had just completed the March 4 Precinct Meetings and launched a new two-year period with 35 freshly elected District Chairs at the helm. Since that meeting and in spite of the tremendous physical and emotional challenges everyone has faced due to COVID-19, I have been so impressed with and grateful for the fortitude O'ahu Democrats have demonstrated to keep it together and make things happen for the benefit of the Party and our communities.

THE COUNTY CONVENTION:

The OCC's savvy decision on May 7th to allow the Executive Committee to convene in the case of a COVID-19 emergency in order to cancel the county convention enabled us to act quickly. As a result:

- The Executive Committee convened on March 18th to cancel the 2020 county convention and pre-convention meetings. The election of the OCC representatives to the SCC was postponed until further notice from the SCC as to the date of the state convention.
- The deposit from the convention site was fully returned to OCC.
- Assistant Treasurer Joe Francher was able to return convention sponsorship donations and payment to all who had already registered for the convention.
- The reservation with Moanalua High School for the pre-convention meetings was easily canceled since the school was about to close its doors to all rental applications for the rest of the school year.

THE PARTY-RUN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ON-SITE VOTING LOCATIONS:

O'ahu was granted 10 sites for same-day registration and voting on PPP election day, April 4, 2020. Team Leaders were asked to organize and supervise the sites with 10 volunteers and Merriman River Group staff working from 6 AM - 4 PM at each site. As the virus situation became more severe, Team Leaders began to advise me of the challenges of protecting everyone, including the voters, from exposure to the virus. It became apparent from their warnings and analysis, that same-day registration and voting needed to be canceled. On March 19 DPH canceled on-site registration and voting. **Hawai'i avoided becoming a Wisconsin!**

A big **MAHALO** to these wonderful O'ahu Dems who stepped up to serve as Team Leaders & Co-Leaders:

Tim Riley, Jo Jordan, Liz Holmes, Eric Schrager, Trish La Chica, Melissa Vomvoris, Richard Oshiro, Ian Ross, Dan Curran, Cora Yamamoto, Emmanuel Zibakalam, Daniel Jacob, Will Caron, Betty Vega, Kory Rosette.

REPORT ON THE PPP:

Total number of ballots mailed: 79,150
of ballots returned as of May 1: 32,400
The Voter Hotline (888) 317-1906 is still operational.

A third round of ballots have been mailed to members who enrolled by April 4. They are arriving in mail boxes this weekend!

All ballots must be mailed back by May 22.

The vote count and delegate allotments will be announced on May 23.

Mahalo to the individuals and Kukui Hui who gave so generously to PPP.

THE STATE CONVENTION:

The following decisions have been made regarding the various responsibilities of the State Convention:

Vote for National Delegates representing Congressional Districts: June 5-8.

- State Convention Delegates representing precincts will vote for national delegates pledged to presidential candidates who receive 15% or more of the total vote count.

- Delegates have until March 27 to pledge support for a presidential candidate and if they wish, to self-nominate to run for national delegate. E-forms are available on the DPH website.

The Senate District Members of the State Central Committee (SCC) vote for these additional national delegates: Party Leaders/Elected Officials (PLEO), At Large Delegates, At Large Alternates: June 13

Announcement of Delegation Chair, Standing Committee Members, and Convention Pages: June 13

Vote for National Committeeman, National Committeewoman, Presidential Electors:

- To be held before August 17
- To be held in an online convention format.

Vote for State Party Chair & Senate District Members of the SCC: To be determined.

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION: AUGUST 17-20, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

The details of this convention, whether it will be in-person or online, have not been announced.

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETINGS:

District Chairs are using HiDems to send out mass emails, signing on to teleconference systems to hold online meetings, posting notices on the O'ahu Democrats website, and working with District Councils to fill open slots. Basically, District Chairs are getting the work done under pretty difficult circumstances. **CONGRATULATIONS! MAHALO** to the Region Chairs for helping the District Chairs in this effort.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS:

District Chair Richard Kamoe initiated a mask project that taught folks how to make their own masks using among other things, Kauai Mayor Derek Kawakami's video. Cotton masks were also sewn by members *Carrie Yoshida, Wendy Sueno, Charlotte Carter* and distributed by members *Jean Fujinaga* and *Gail Breakey* to kupuna and homeless communities. This will be an on-going effort, so those who would like to help, please let us know.

District Chairs Nathaniel Char and Kathleen Pahinui advised the development of singing “Hawai‘i Aloha” at 7 PM on Shutdown Sundays. See the flyer attached in the agenda. Please spread the word and participate.

Affirmative Action Co-Chair Betty Vega, Region Chair Tim Riley, District Council Rep Jo Jordan, and District Chair Cora Yamamoto have re-invigorated their work with *Census Partnership Specialist Sharlette Poe* to support the work of Census 2020 during this COVID-19 pandemic.

OCC Region Chairs are working with District Chairs to produce candidates fairs/forums/discussions prior to Hawai‘i’s August Primary.

Legislative Committee Chairs Trish La Chica and Kendra Oishi are building plans for an online survey process and online district and regional meetings to build legislative priorities for the 2021 legislative session.

Communications Committee Chairs Cindy Aban and Ian Ross are designing a social media and communications process/plan for the pandemic and post-pandemic era.

THE NEXT 12 MONTHS:

Given what we have experienced together during the past 12 months and given the tremendous work we collectively have been able to accomplish, I would like to present three priorities for the upcoming year for us to consider.

I. DUMP TRUMP, ELECTIONS, & GET OUT THE VOTE:

The 2020 presidential election is the most important election of our lifetime. The Blue Wave Committee will collaborate with our congressional delegation to flip congressional districts and elect Democrats to the Senate and the White House. With the vigorous Primary Election scheduled for August 8, O‘ahu Dems will take an active part in educating voters about Democratic candidates so as to promote informed choice. Hopefully, O‘ahu Dems will build Get Out the Vote efforts in every district to build community response to voting.

II. COMMUNITY ACTION: The Regional Meetings and Standing Committee work have moved O‘ahu Dems in positive directions. With the pandemic, we are witnessing tremendous initiative to develop creative and effective community action projects. O‘ahu Dems can and will support Regions and Districts as they initiate projects that serve the Party and communities.

III. BUILD THE DISTRICTS: I am impressed with the strength, will, and gumption of Region and District Chairs who have worked hard to keep things going during the hardest of times. As the nation has taken a break from large groups and large events, it is appropriate that we consider supporting the smaller units - our district chairs, district councils, and precinct members. Let’s listen to them, learn their concerns, build interchanges and projects that reflect those interests and concerns, and in the process, build a stronger, healthier Party.

I look forward to working with you on these goals and priorities as we move ahead.

Mahalo,

Lorna Takehara Strand
Chair