

Democratic Party of Hawai'i Parliamentary Advisory Relating to eConvention Resolutions

As delegates prepare for the 2021 O'ahu County eConvention, be advised that before submitting a resolution for consideration the maker should first carefully review the state and county resolutions previously adopted and still in effect.

See DPH website at: www.hawaiidemocrats.org (State party resolutions since 2010); and the O'ahu County website at www.oahudemocrats.org/resolutions.html

from Section 12.1.1 of the Bylaws of the O'ahu County Democrats provides that

The business and purposes of the County's Annual Convention in odd-numbered years shall be limited to and dedicated to the following work relating to O'ahu County:

... (c) ... Consider and vote on resolutions that relate specifically and exclusively to O'ahu County issues and the work of O'ahu County Committee and its committees.

Section 13.2 of the Bylaws of the O'ahu County Democrats provides that:

The platform and resolutions adopted by delegates at conventions of the O'ahu County Democrats shall remain in force and effect until rescinded or amended by a two-thirds roll call vote of the full membership of the O'ahu County Committee or by a majority of votes cast by delegates at an annual or special convention, or until they come into conflict with the platform or resolutions of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

Any Resolution submitted that is substantially the same or in conflict with a motion previously adopted as posted online will be ruled out of order unless it is presented either as a resolution to amend a specific, previously adopted resolution or as a resolution to rescind a specific, previously adopted resolution.

Section 15 of the O'ahu County Democrats further provides that The rules of parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, shall guide the O'ahu County Committee and govern all proceedings not provided for in these bylaws, so long as the rules of parliamentary procedure are reasonably applicable and not inconsistent or in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th ed.) Provides:

1. "Motions to "reaffirm" a position previously taken by adopting a motion or resolution are not in order. Such a motion serves no useful purpose because the original motion is still in effect; also, possible attempts to amend a motion to reaffirm would come into conflict with the rules for the motion to Amend Something Previously Adopted (35); and if such a motion to reaffirm failed, it would create an ambiguous situation." RONR (12th ed.) 10:10

2. "... motions are not in order if they conflict with one or more motions previously adopted at any time and still in force. Such conflicting motions, if adopted, are null and void unless adopted by the vote required to rescind or amend the motion previously adopted." RONR (12th ed.) 39:3

Reintroduction of a motion or resolution substantially the same as one previously adopted by the state or county conventions is either intended to "reaffirm" the previously adopted motion/resolution or is intended to amend it in some way. In either event, such a reintroduction is improper & will be ruled out of order for reasons explained above.

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SAMPLE DPH O‘AHU COUNTY 2021 CONVENTION PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

Title: Urging The Honolulu City Council to increase zoning capacity ¹

Whereas, According to the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the state of Hawai‘i needs about 50,000 more units by 2025, of which 17,000 units need to be housing for working class individuals; and

Whereas, Honolulu City and County has the most overcrowded population in the state and needs an increase of over 25 percent, or 90,000 units, to provide enough homes for the projected local population; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urge the Honolulu City Council to increase the residential zoning capacity to a level that allows for a sufficient housing stock for the local population; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i State Legislators for the island of O‘ahu who are members of the Democratic Party, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and all members of the Honolulu City Council.⁴

Submitted by: ⁵

Maker: _____

Second: _____

Grammatically, a resolution is a single sentence with only one period at the end. The clauses should all be separate independent clauses ending in a semicolon and the connecting conjunction (“and”) or appropriate phrase (“be it”), separated from the following clause by a blank line.

A preamble, consisting of “Whereas” clauses, is non-binding and not necessary or required. When used, the preamble clauses should be factual in nature and avoid opinions or unsupported assertions. Only the “*Resolved*,” and “*Ordered*” clause(s) contain the binding and operative substance of the resolution.

Unless stated in the resolution itself, a resolution does not sunset. It is effective indefinitely until rescinded or amended.

¹ The Title briefly describes the intent of the resolution. Do not use all caps for the title or the words, *Whereas*, *Resolved*, or *Ordered*.

² Use the Hawaiian ‘*okina* and *kahakō* in Hawaiian words & names as appropriate (e.g. Hawai‘i, O‘ahu Kaua‘i). The ‘*okina* is not an apostrophe. It should resemble a miniature “6” in superscript. It can be made by the left single quotation mark.

³ The first words after the word “*Resolved*,” should be “That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i” - not “by the Oahu County Democratic Party ...” or ‘that some other entity’ not under the control of the convention take a action or a position.

⁴ Instead of “*Resolved*”, transmission directions to staff should use “*Ordered*”. Do not stipulate that the copies be “certified” and, in a non State Convention year, O‘ahu County Resolutions will not be referred to the future State Convention resolutions committee (see O‘ahu County Bylaws Sec 12.3).

⁵ Refer to the county bylaws and/or convention rules for submission requirements; otherwise, the maker and the second need to be county convention delegates.