

List and Bios of Candidates Nominated for O'ahu County Representatives to the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

As provided by Article V the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, O'ahu County convention delegates are entitled to elect two (2) representatives of different genders as the county representatives to the State Central Committee:

The following candidates have been duly nominated:

Female Gender

Melodie Aduja
Daphne Barbee-Wooten

Male Gender

Will Caron
Reyn Kaupiko

Female Gender Nominees:

Melodie Aduja



A person who represents O'ahu County on the State Central Committee (SCC) needs to know the Party well and have a demonstrated background of service. I have been co-chair of the Environmental Caucus and chair of the Health Committee. In these positions, the Caucus and Committee have initiated environmental protection and healthcare bills and resolutions over the past several years and developed a good working relationship with key legislators as a result. Further, I've spent a lot of time advocating to close Red Hill and have authored several Oahu County and State resolutions

calling for its closure.

I've also held leadership roles in other caucuses and committees. I've testified on many bills and resolutions in the Legislature, Honolulu City Council, advisory committees, and in EIS public comments. I've been a member of the Kahaluu Neighborhood Board and continue to attend several Neighborhood Board meetings to seek adoption of our Red Hill Resolution and to keep abreast of events at the community level. I find that communicating with our Congressman and State Legislators during Neighborhood Board meetings on community concerns is the most effective way to gain immediate answers from lawmakers.

I also was co-chair twice of the O'ahu County Platform Committee and O'ahu scribe for the State Platform Committee. I've been on the O'ahu Legislation Committee and the State Legislation Committee. On the SCC, I have been the Senate District 23 Rep. and the Kupuna Caucus Rep. I have also been Region 9 Chair for House Districts 48 (Waiahole) to 51 (Waimanalo).

We must actively pursue our party's principles and goals to make Hawai'i a better place. If elected as your SCC representative, I will continue working hard for these goals. Being a Democrat is and must remain meaningful and valuable for all of us. I am more than happy to serve as your O'ahu County Representative on the SCC. See also melodieaduja.com

Daphne Barbee-Wooten



My name is Daphne Barbee-Wooten, candidate for O‘ahu Representative to the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i State Central Committee.

I have been a life-long Democrat learning the rudiments of democracy and politics from my father, Lloyd Barbee, who served as one of the first African Americans in the Wisconsin Legislature. I moved to Hawai‘i in 1980 and have worked as an attorney for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and served as a Commissioner on the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission. I worked as a Hawai‘i Public Defender for two years and have practiced civil rights law for the past forty years.

I am proud to be the current District 25 Chair serving Democrats in Makiki, Punchbowl, Nuuanu, Dowsett Highlands, Pacific Heights, and Pauoa. Since becoming District 25 Chair, I enjoyed working with my fellow Region 3 Democrats and the District 25 Council. I have hosted O‘ahu Dems countywide “Let’s Talk Story” panel events, which are available on the O‘ahu Dems YouTube channel. These “Let’s Talk Story” events were about the Juneteenth Holiday in Hawai‘i, Women’s Right to Chose in Hawai‘i featuring Majority Leader Della Au Belatti, and Black History in Hawai‘i which featured the late Marsha Joyner. The panel discussions were very robust and informative.

For the Juneteenth 2022 celebration I helped sponsor a successful voter registration table for O‘ahu Democrats at the Manoa Theatre grounds. For the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in January 2022, I was happy to help connect the African American Attorneys Association and Sisters Empowering Hawai‘i to work in partnership with O‘ahu Democrats, the NAACP, and the Honpa Hongwanji in co-sponsoring a very successful food and feminine hygiene product drive for the Hawai‘i Foodbank and the Ma‘i Movement.

As an O‘ahu County Representative to the SCC, I will be open-minded and communicate clearly and transparently between O‘ahu Democrats and the SCC. I pledge to keep the spirit of Aloha alive.

I ask for your support and vote at the O‘ahu County Convention.
Mahalo!

Male Gender Nominees:

Will Caron



Aloha fellow O‘ahu County Democrats! My name is Will Caron and I was born in Honolulu in 1989. I was raised for a short while in Liliha and then mostly in Temple Valley at the border between Kahalu‘u and Kāne ohe. I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and now a resident of beautiful Pālolo Valley.

A lot has happened in Hawai‘i over the past few decades. Some are good things—like the growth of a strong Aloha ‘Āina movement that has changed the conversation at the capitol around resource stewardship, indigenous rights, environmental protection, and racial justice, or the advancement of social equality marked by the establishment of Marriage Equality.

But when we look back over the past 30–40 years, we can see how an

already hard-to-afford life in Hawai‘i has fallen even further out of reach for many residents. I've watched my parents, my sister, and many of my friends make the painful decision to move away because Hawai‘i is simply too expensive. It's too expensive to start a family; and it's too expensive to retire. More than half of Hawai i households now spend at least 30 percent of their income on sky-high housing costs, and more almost 300,000 workers in Hawai‘i work jobs that pay less than a living wage. And our dependence on tourism and the military as economic supports has caused terrible harm to our environment and people.

My desire to make a difference in solving these problems here in Hawai‘i is what led me to switch careers from journalist to advocate and organizer. It's also what led me to join the Democratic Party—because this is the party of change and transformation in Hawai‘i. We are the party that embraced the immigrant and labor movements in the mid 20th century to transform the exploitative plantation economy.

But while that represented real progress, There is still so much that must be done before we realize a truly just, equitable and sustainable society here in Hawai‘i. I want to work within the Democratic Party to help make that happen.

As a Democrat, I've served as the District 20 chairperson since 2018, and have attended just about every O‘ahu County Committee meeting during that time. I've attended every county and state convention since 2017 and have volunteered for and served on a convention committee each time. That includes the 2019 O‘ahu County Convention, when I chaired the Resolutions Committee and guided the passage of 24 different resolutions.

I've worked well with three different state party chairs and two county chairs, and I've always done everything I can to ensure my district is fully represented at all conventions and meetings. If elected to represent O‘ahu County at the SCC, I would put in the same level of attentiveness and dedication to the internal business of the state party.

I am therefore humbly submitting my name as a candidate to represent the OCC as a representative to the State Central Committee.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Reyn Kaupiko



Aloha fellow Democratic Party members and O‘ahu Neighbors,

My name is Reyn Kaupiko. I am a lifelong resident of Hawai‘i and a firm believer of service within our society. I have served our country abroad as a Naval Officer, continued my service to state as a member of the Governor’s Veteran Advisory Committee, and continue to serve my native community as the Native Hawaiian Representative for the Veterans’ Administration Tribal Advisory Committee. I sit on various community boards and participate in many community events. I have authored proposed legislative resolutions and have also followed them through the process. I have witnessed the great work done by the party for programs such as the O‘ahu Democrats Care and Serve’, ‘O‘ahu Democrats – Let’s Talk Story’ and O‘ahu Democrats Getting to Know You’. Observing and witnessing these programs has motivated me to become more engaged within the party.

I am running for this seat because I worry for our Democratic Hawai‘i and the future our children will inherit.

It would be an honor to work alongside you as your 2022 O‘ahu County State Central Committee Nominee. Mahalo.