

O'ahu County Democrats 2023 Convention Platform Committee Report

The O'ahu County Democrats' Platform Committee met on April 15 and 19 online via Zoom.

Eleven (11) submissions proposing amendments to the Platform of the O'ahu County Democrats were received.

Two (2) proposals were merged.

Ten (10) Platform Plank amendments are recommended.

Committee Members:

Presiding Officer: Kathleen Pahinui

Recording Officer: Micah Kosasa

Members: Racquel Achiu, Della Belatti, Croccifixio (Cross) Crabbe, Michele Golojuch, Ed Hasegawa, Juanita Brown Kawamoto, Lei Learmont, Larry Meacham, Dave Nagaji, Dylan Ramos, Debbie Shimizu, Larry Smith, Kevin Wilson, Kevan Wong and Robert Zane

Guests: Melodie Aduja, Martha Randolph

Zoom Administrator: Jimmy Nguyen

Meeting Attendance:

April 15, 2023

Presiding Officer: Kathleen Pahinui

Recording Officer: Micah Kosasa

Members present: Croccifixio (Cross) Crabbe, Lei Learmont, Larry Meacham, Dave Nagaji, Dylan Ramos, Debbie Shimizu, Larry Smith, Kevan Wong and Robert Zane

Guests: Melodie Aduja, Martha Randolph

Zoom Administrator: Jimmy Nguyen

April 19, 2023

Presiding Officer: Kathleen Pahinui

Recording Officer: Micah Kosasa

Members present: Racquel Achiu, Della Belatti, Juanita Brown Kawamoto, Lei Learmont, Dave Nagaji, Dylan Ramos, Debbie Shimizu, Larry Smith, and Kevan Wong

Guests: Melodie Aduja, Martha Randolph

Zoom Administrator: Jimmy Nguyen

The Platform Committee respectfully recommends the following platform amendments for adoption by the delegates to the 2023 convention of O'ahu County Democrats.

PLATFORM AMENDMENTS

- Proposal 1** Amend ARTS AND CULTURE
- Proposal 2** Amend DIVERISTY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
- Proposal 3** Amend DISASTER AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
- Proposal 4** Amend ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY
- Proposal 5** Amend EDUCATION
- Proposal 6** Amend ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY
- Proposal 7** Amend HEALTH
- Proposal 8** Amend LABOR AND WORKERS' RIGHTS
- Proposal 9** Amend TRANSPORTATION
- Proposal 10** Amend U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Proposal 1
ARTS AND CULTURE

Through multicultural and multigenerational participation in the arts, we strengthen our 'ohana, preserve our culture, promote tolerance, and add vitality to that economy through culturally informed, sustainable tourism. Investments in the arts strengthen our communities and contribute to Hawai'i's rich cultural heritage. We support funding for the arts and humanities, individual artists and cultural organizations, and programs providing ~~art and music~~ Native Hawaiian and multicultural education in schools, including but not limited to art, music, history, and cultural practices. Hawai'i prospers when we protect and promote the unique artistic and cultural contributions of the artists who create and preserve Hawai'i's multicultural heritage.

Proposal 2
DIVERISTY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

We embrace O'ahu County Democrats' historical commitment to the principles of full participation, equal opportunity, representation, and rights for the diverse peoples of Hawai'i. We commit to the goal of full representation and participation in O'ahu County Democrats' leadership, programs, and activities regardless of color, race, ethnic origin, sex, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, age, disability, education level, ancestry, religion, arrest and court record, or socioeconomic status.

We celebrate not only the physical aspects of diversity amongst our members and leaders, but also the diverse experiences and worldviews which result from their different socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. We believe that such comprehensive diversity empowers us to remain a party of, by, and for the people.

We benefit greatly from the synergy of new members combined with the wisdom and experience of longtime members. We actively pursue diversity, equity, and inclusion by teaching and mentoring new leaders and creating new leadership opportunities. We respect and build on the work of our kūpuna and the history and values that are our foundation.

We have a responsibility to eliminate significant barriers to full representation and participation as O'ahu County Democrats.

Proposal 3
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We support safety and security in all dimensions as a basic right of all residents of the State of Hawai'i. We believe in prioritizing proactive mitigation measures and recovery support for the people of O'ahu and their property against natural and man-made disasters. We also believe that access to clean water, public restrooms, and dependable hygiene supplies is a basic human right. We recognize and support community-based preparedness groups and mutual aid organizations. 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. We support improving telecommuting and broadband infrastructure, enacting employment policies that allow for a more flexible work- life balance, and ensuring access to economic and social services during natural disasters.

Proposal 4

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Availability of financial support and a skilled, educated workforce are critical to Hawai'i's economic sustainability and diversification. We support strong, locally owned businesses that provide jobs and services to the people of O'ahu. We support the creation of new jobs with an increased emphasis on technology, clean energy, diverse local agriculture, healthcare, and other industries that promote a diversified economy and retain our youth on O'ahu.

Proposal 5

EDUCATION

Education is the foundation for the future of Hawai'i. We support providing quality education ~~and library services~~ to every student at every level, from preschool to higher education, regardless of learning capacity, academic performance, age, incarceration, or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. We also support providing quality library services, not only to every student but to the entire public through O'ahu's school and public libraries, the facilities of which should be well funded and well maintained. We believe that Hawai'i's history and future are best served by teaching Hawaiian values and the ethnic histories of groups that have become part of the greater Hawai'i community.

We believe that early childhood education and universal preschool are essential to lifelong success and should be accessible to all. Hawai'i's education system and academic programs should support the development of critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems.

All students need and deserve access to nutritious foods, whether free of charge or at affordable, low and reduced prices. We support healthy, sustainable food programs at all O'ahu schools, including school gardens and farm-to-school partnerships.

Educational facilities must be maintained, renovated, and built to 21st century standards so that our students learn in well-designed, safe environments. We must ensure that our students are safe in schools and free from violence, bullying, and all forms of discrimination and bias. We support school policies that protect, honor, and address the needs of all our students.

Proposal 6

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Hawai'i O'ahu's natural and cultural resources must be preserved, protected, and sustained for the benefit of present and future generations. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support for public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i on O'ahu.

O'ahu County Democrats advocate policies and projects that prioritize environmental and climate justice, created with the participation and direct input of impacted communities that have too often been marginalized and underrepresented in our institutions and decision-making processes.

We support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester atmospheric carbon, to make O'ahu carbon negative as soon as practicable. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean and alternative modes of transportation recycling, and waste reduction, and support increasing the use of public transit, telecommuting, carpooling and vanpooling, ridesharing, biking, walking, and other forms of transportation that reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. We also support programs that encourage waste reduction and recycling, environmental education, and green infrastructure including clean, sustainable, and equitable energy production. Other climate change adaptation solutions should include such strategies as coastal retreat mitigation, invasive species control, and protections for our coral reefs and sea life from human generated activities which have proven to be harmful.

We encourage the remediation of land that has been exposed to hazardous materials, waste and chemicals, and improvements to aquifers and We support conversions of outdated cesspool systems, the independent monitoring of wells and aquifers by State or County departments, and the closing or relocating of landfills located above aquifers. We advocate strong regulation of institutional and industrial polluters. Climate change adaptation solutions should include coastal retreat mitigation, increased capacity for invasive species control, and infrastructure improvements.

Proposal 7

HEALTH

We believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and support a healthcare system that ensures accessible, affordable, quality services and coverage for all O'ahu residents. We are committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health rights and affirmative choice. We also encourage the establishment of preventive healthcare, early intervention initiatives, and support to provide safety-net systems for vulnerable populations, facing challenges including mental health issues, and drug or alcohol addiction, malnutrition, food insecurity, disability, poverty, and homelessness.

Proposal 8

LABOR AND WORKERS' RIGHTS

We support policies and programs that support families during times of both economic prosperity and distress. We require that all employment positions to guarantee at a minimum: retirement and health benefits, equal pay for equal work, safe working conditions, workplaces free from harassment, paid sick leave, paid vacation leave, paid family leave, workplace accommodations for child nursing, and payment of prevailing wages for public projects. We support a minimum wage that is a livable wage, indexed to inflation. We oppose proposals that outsource Hawai'i's jobs or harm the environment. We must ensure that the unemployment insurance system and safety net services are accessible, reliable, and efficient for O'ahu workers, especially in times of economic emergencies.

We support protecting the right of all employees to form or join a union and bargain collectively with their employer for fair wages, and benefits, and workers' rights. We defend the right to strike. We believe in eliminating all forms of forced and coerced labor, including human trafficking, sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and the exploitation of migrant labor. We support a judicial system that protects the civil rights of labor organizers and those seeking to improve workers' rights.

Proposal 9

TRANSPORTATION

We recognize the necessity of providing safe, sustainable, and efficient transportation infrastructure for all users of our roadways, including users who have impaired mobility. We believe everyone should be safe while traveling by foot, bicycle, vehicle, or transit, and that well-lit and well-developed road conditions for all users helps to uplift community health. We believe in enacting an equitable way to adequately pay for and situate green transportation infrastructure on O'ahu with public support and potential for matching federal funds. We support transportation projects and planning to reduce traffic congestion, promote mass transit, and reduce our reliance on automobiles by employing private and public use of alternative modes of travel. As such, we support energy and fuel-efficient methods of transportation and efforts to provide more efficient, affordable, and convenient methods of public transportation.

Proposal 10

U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

We recognize that the Armed Forces on O'ahu and their families sacrifice to serve and defend our country and help us in times of need. We welcome, honor, and support all Americans who want to serve; our military is strongest when we support and embrace our nation's diversity and we will continue to fight for ~~their~~ equal rights and recognition. We believe people of all races, religions, sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions should be honored for ~~those that choose to~~ their service to our country, ~~and that We support~~ efforts to protect our troops from sexual predators within service branches ~~should be supported~~.

We further recognize that our country has a sacred, moral responsibility to keep faith with all our veterans and wounded warriors. Therefore, we support programs that provide free or affordable, responsive and timely healthcare and ~~mental health services~~, with particular focus on mental health, post-traumatic stress, and substance abuse issues, and health conditions associated with service. Additionally, we support efforts to assist veterans in their reintegration to society through educational benefits and job training, ending chronic homelessness, and combating suicide.

The military controls nearly one quarter of the land on O'ahu; ~~we~~ we have strong concerns regarding the containment and reduction of both active military land holdings and personnel presence. We support the protection of our 'a'āina and encourage the continuation of efforts to coordinate military activities with impacted communities, advocating for the military to restore any damaged 'a'āina and limit destruction by military usage, weapons testing, training and "war games" to prevent long-term degradation and harm to our cultural and community assets, ~~and We~~ encourage state agencies to take these factors into consideration when creating lease agreements.