

**REPORT OF**  
**THE 2025 O‘AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS CONVENTION RULES COMMITTEE**

Aloha O‘ahu County Convention delegates:

We submit the following Report of the Convention Rules Committee to the 2025 O‘ahu County Democrats Convention.

Your Convention Rules Committee met on April 10, 2025 via Zoom at 6:06 p.m. and adjourned at 7:50 p.m. and on April 19 via Zoom at 1:01 p.m. and adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

On April 10, 2025, members present at the OCD Rules Committee meeting were as listed below. Quorum was met with 12 members present at the beginning of the meeting.

Jimmy Nguyen	Micah Kosasa
Elton Fukumoto	Trish La Chica
Jon Chinen	Amy Monk
Ann Freed	Debbie Shimizu
Michael Golojuch, Jr.	Aileen Wada
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Kevan Wong

Joined later: Myra Jean Arzadon

Guests in attendance: Leimomi Khan, Tina Marie

Members not in attendance: Susan Morishige, Bernalyn Werner

Zoom Administrator: Dave Nagaji

On April 19, 2025, members present at the OCD Convention Rules Committee meeting were as listed as below. Quorum was met with 12 members present at the beginning of the meeting.

Jimmy Nguyen	Amy Monk
Elton Fukumoto	Susan Morishige
Myra Jean Arzadon	Debbie Shimizu
John Chinen	Aileen Wada
Michael Golojuch, Jr.	Bernalyn Werner
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Kevan Wong

Joined later: Ann Freed

Guest in attendance: Aria Juliet Castillo

Members not in attendance: Micah Kosasa, Trish La Chica

Zoom Administrator: Dave Nagaji

## **PART I**

Part I consists of all proposals recommended for adoption by the Committee.

### **Recommended Amendment #1**

#### **[Two ways to fill vacancies for County Convention Delegates] OCD Bylaw 12.4**

Amendments to Bylaw 12.4.D and E

#### **As is:**

(12.4) The delegate body of the Convention shall be comprised as follows.

- A. Each District shall have twenty-five (25) delegates.
  - 1. Members elected to the District Council, whether at the biennial election meeting or at a later meeting as prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, shall automatically become delegates to the O'ahu County Convention.
  - 2. The remaining delegates (called "At-large delegates") shall be elected at the same time by all the district members present at the biennial election meeting. A member who cannot be present, and desires to run for an at-large delegate position, shall submit a nomination request in writing to the District Chair prior to the meeting.
  - 3. Alternate delegates may also be elected by all members present at the biennial election meeting.
- B. Each District shall make every effort to elect delegates composed of equal numbers of men and women.
- C. In addition to elected delegates, the members of the Executive Committee of the O'ahu County Committee shall be delegates to the O'ahu County Convention.
- D. If, following the Biennial Elections, there remain vacant At-Large delegate positions, the District Council shall be empowered to fill the remaining positions, up until ten (10) days prior to the convention, after that the District Chairperson shall be empowered, provided that:
  - 1. Best attempts are made to ensure gender equity is maintained; and
  - 2. District Council meetings to fill vacancies may be conducted by videoconference, phone or email;

3. Appointments shall be in writing.
- E. If an elected delegate cannot attend, they shall notify the District Chairperson in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the convening of the convention. The District Chairperson shall select the first alternate delegate and move down the list of alternates in order when filling any subsequent delegate positions created by withdrawals. If there is no alternate list, the District Chairperson will inform the District Council members and all District members who have an email address on file with the Party of the vacancy or vacancies. Members will let the District Chair know of their desire to become a delegate. The District Chair will fill vacancies on a first come, first served basis, but will make the best effort to select a person of the same gender. F. Each delegate to the O'ahu County Convention is entitled to one (1) vote.
- F. No official delegate shall be prevented from fully participating in the County Convention due to an inability to pay part or all of the established registration fee.

**As amended:**

(12.4) The delegate body of the Convention shall be comprised as follows.

- A. Each District shall have twenty-five (25) delegates.
  1. Members elected to the District Council, whether at the biennial election meeting or at a later meeting as prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, shall automatically become delegates to the O'ahu County Convention.
  2. The remaining delegates (called "At-large delegates") shall be elected at the same time by all the district members present at the biennial election meeting. A member who cannot be present, and desires to run for an at-large delegate position, shall submit a nomination request in writing to the District Chair prior to the meeting.
  3. Alternate delegates may also be elected by all members present at the biennial election meeting.
- B. Each District shall make every effort to elect delegates composed of equal numbers of men and women.
- C. In addition to elected delegates, the members of the Executive Committee of the O'ahu County Committee shall be delegates to the O'ahu County Convention.
- D. If, following the Biennial Elections, there remain vacant At-Large delegate positions, the District Council or District membership shall be empowered to fill the remaining positions, up until ten (10) days prior to the convention, after that the District Chairperson shall be empowered, provided that:
  1. Best attempts are made to ensure gender equity is maintained; and
  2. District Council meetings to fill vacancies may be conducted by videoconference, phone or email;
  3. Appointments shall be in writing.
- E. If an elected delegate cannot attend, they shall notify the District Chairperson in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the convening of the convention.
  1. 1. If there is an alternate delegate list, the District Chairperson shall select the first alternate delegate to fill the vacancy created by the withdrawal.
  2. 2. If there is no alternate delegate list, the vacancy shall be filled in the manner set forth in (12.4.D).

~~The District Chairperson shall select the first alternate delegate and move down the list of alternates in order when filling any subsequent delegate positions created by withdrawals. If there is no alternate list, the District Chairperson will inform the District Council members and all District members who have an email address on file with the Party of the vacancy or vacancies. Members~~

~~will let the District Chair know of their desire to become a delegate. The District Chair will fill vacancies on a first come, first served basis, but will make the best effort to select a person of the same gender.~~

F. Each delegate to the O'ahu County Convention is entitled to one (1) vote.

G. No official delegate shall be prevented from fully participating in the County Convention due to an inability to pay part or all of the established registration fee.

#### **Rationale:**

Rule 12.4 sets out how delegates to the OCD Convention get elected or selected. (Officers of the OCC and elected officials achieve delegate or equivalent status in a different manner.)

The delegates are selected either at the biennial election meeting, a later meeting, or by the District Chair. Most of the delegates are likely to be elected because they were elected to the District Council.

If there are vacancies after the biennial election meeting, these may be filled by the District membership or District Council at later meetings. At the end of this process, the District Chair is empowered to fill last-minute vacancies.

A list of alternate delegates is only generated when all delegate positions available at the biennial election meeting have been filled.

Rule 12.4.E addresses the circumstance in which a vacancy occurs because an elected delegate finds they cannot attend. If so, that position is filled thus: a) if there is a list of alternates, the first alternate is selected or b) if there is no list (because there were vacancies at the time of the biennial election meeting), the vacancy is filled in the regular manner set out in the prior section 12.4.D.

The amendment shortens Paragraph E, which is long and complicated, and makes clear the two situations: the normal situation in which vacancies have occurred due to lack of candidates and the other situation in which there are no vacancies and one occurs only because an elected delegate has withdrawn.

## **Recommended Amendment #2**

### **[Eliminates a duplication] OCD Bylaw 12.5(2)**

#### **Amendment to OCD Bylaw 12.5(2)**

##### **As is:**

(12.5) Elected federal, state and County officials, or officials who may have been appointed to fill a vacant position of an elected official, and who currently serve in office shall have all the rights and privileges of a delegate subject to the following requirements:

1. Be a member of the Democratic Party in good standing; and
2. Have attained their present office in a partisan election as a Democrat or have been appointed to fill a vacant position of an elected official, or have attained their present office in a non-partisan State or County election, provided they are Democratic Party members in good standing and residents of O'ahu.

##### **As amended:**

(12.5) Elected federal, state and County officials, or officials who may have been appointed to fill a vacant position of an elected official, and who currently serve in office shall have all the rights and privileges of a delegate subject to the following requirements:

1. Be a member of the Democratic Party in good standing; and
2. Have attained their present office in a partisan election as a Democrat or have been appointed to fill a vacant position of an elected official, or have attained their present office in a non-partisan State or County election, provided they are ~~Democratic Party members in good standing and~~ residents of O'ahu.

**Rationale:**

Eliminates a duplicative phrase.

**Recommended Amendment #3**

**[OCC Chair designates one committee co-chair as the presiding officer] OCD  
Bylaws 9.1 and 12.7**

**Amendments to 9.1 and 12.7**

**As is:**

(9.1) There shall be standing committees on rules; finance; legislation; membership; affirmative action, inclusion and diversity; elections; and convention planning. At least one of the co-chairs of each committee shall be a member of the OCC and shall be appointed by the Chair with advice and consent of the OCC. Membership of the committees is open to any member of the O'ahu County Democrats.

(12.7) The Co-Chairs and members of the Convention Committees of Rules, Platform, Credentials and Resolutions shall be appointed by the County Chairperson, in keeping with the Party's commitment to gender equity, from among the Convention delegates with the concurrence of the O'ahu County Committee.

**As amended:**

(9.1) There shall be standing committees on rules; finance; legislation; membership; affirmative action, inclusion and diversity; elections; and convention planning. At least one of the co-chairs of each committee shall be a member of the OCC and shall be appointed by the Chair with advice and consent of the OCC. For each committee, the OCC Chair shall designate one co-chair to serve as the presiding officer. Membership of the committees is open to any member of the O'ahu County Democrats.

(12.7) The Co-Chairs and members of the Convention Committees of Rules, Platform, Credentials and Resolutions shall be appointed by the County Chairperson, in keeping with the Party's commitment to gender equity, from among the Convention delegates with the concurrence of the O'ahu County Committee. For each committee, the OCC Chair shall designate one co-chair to serve as the presiding officer and the other to serve as the secretary or scribe.

**Rationale:**

Under Robert's, committees have only one presiding officer. If there are two, that situation could lead to an irresolvable conflict. The amendments add the requirement that the OCC Chair select which committee co-chair will serve as presiding officer.

## **Recommended Amendment #4**

### **[Notification upon removal] OCD Bylaw 4.3**

Proposed Changes to the O'ahu County Bylaws  
Section 4. District Council

(4.3) District Chairpersons shall have the duty to represent their districts by attending or being represented at OCC meetings. If a District Council Chairperson does not fulfill this duty, unexcused, for three (3) OCC meetings per term of office, the District Chairperson shall automatically give up their position as District Chairperson.

The OCC Secretary shall notify the entire district when a District Chairperson is automatically removed from their position, after the time to appeal has elapsed as described below.

Any District Chairperson may request a hearing, in writing, to challenge the automatic removal from their position within fifteen (15) calendar days of the notice of removal. The County Chairperson shall appoint a special committee, within ten (10) calendar days after receiving the request, to conduct a hearing of the circumstances of the removal and submit its recommendation to the County Committee not later than thirty (30) calendar days after being appointed. A copy of the special committee's recommendation shall be given to the District Chairperson who requested the hearing. The County Chairperson shall place the matter of consideration of the special committee's recommendation on the County Committee's next meeting agenda.

#### **Rationale:**

We need to notify the district when a chairperson is removed.

## **PART II**

The Convention Rules Committee considered the following proposals for adoption but decided not to recommend them:

### **Non-recommended Amendment #1**

#### **[Eliminating the slate requirement in the election of OCC Chair and Vice Chair] OCD Bylaw 5.1**

##### **Amendment to OCD Bylaw 5.1**

**As is:**

## Section 5. Eligibility & Election.

(5.1) Eligibility. Any member of the Party residing in the County may be elected an officer of the County Committee including County Chairperson, with the requirement that any member seeking the office of County Chairperson shall have been a member of the Party for at least one (1) year prior to the County Committee Officers election. Election to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair shall be combined as a slate with two different genders, so as to assure diversity in these leadership positions. They will be voted upon

as one slate. Elected officials, individuals appointed to fill an elected office, or candidates for elected office are not eligible to become County Chairperson. If a member has resigned from the Party in the two years prior to re-enrollment, the reenrolled member must be a member in good standing for at least one year prior to the County Committee Officers election prior to being elected an officer of the County Committee.

If any District Councilmember is elected as a County officer, that person shall automatically vacate the lesser office. Any person who wishes to be a candidate for OCC Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer or Regional Chairperson shall file nomination papers at least five (5) days prior to the County Convention. The nomination papers shall be signed by not less than five (5) members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i residing in the O'ahu County or Region being represented. Electronic Signatures are permissible. Candidates for Regional Chairperson shall reside within their Region.

(5.2) Elections. Election(s) shall be decided by a majority of votes cast by roll call at a County Committee meeting if conducted by teleconference or video conference, or by mail balloting if provided for as part of an electronic convention. Elections conducted by ballot may be decided by ranked-choice voting. All ballots must be signed ballots. If there is only one nominee for a particular position that nominee shall be elected by acclamation. Each region shall have separate ballots or electronic voting to elect Regional Chairs where more than one candidate is running for the same position. Unless ballot voting provides for ranked-choice voting, if no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot or roll call vote, then a second ballot or roll call vote between the top two vote-getters shall be conducted. Subsequent ties shall be decided by the flip of a coin.

Nominations and elections for District Chairpersons are open to any member residing in the District and shall occur at the biennial election meetings. Election shall be by Party members within the District in a manner prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

### As amended:

#### Section 5. Eligibility & Elections.

(5.1) Eligibility. Any member of the Party residing in the County may be elected an officer of the County Committee including County Chairperson, with the requirement that any member seeking the office of County Chairperson shall have been a member of the Party for at least one (1) year prior to the County Committee Officers election. ~~Election to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair shall be combined as a slate with two different genders, so as to assure diversity in these leadership positions. They will be voted upon as one slate.~~ Elected officials, individuals appointed to fill an elected office, or candidates for elected office are not eligible to become County Chairperson. If a member has resigned from the Party in the two years prior to re-enrollment, the re-enrolled member must be a member in good standing for at least one year prior to the County Committee Officers election prior to being elected an officer of the County Committee.

If any District Councilmember is elected as a County officer, that person shall automatically vacate the lesser office. Any person who wishes to be a candidate for OCC Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer or Regional Chairperson shall file nomination papers at least five (5) days prior to the County Convention. The nomination papers shall be signed by not less than five (5) members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i residing in the O'ahu County

or Region being represented. Electronic Signatures are permissible. Candidates for Regional Chairperson shall reside within their Region

(5.2)Elections. Election(s) shall be decided by a majority of votes cast by roll call at a County Committee meeting if conducted by teleconference or video conference, or by mail balloting if provided for as part of an electronic convention. Elections conducted by ballot may be decided by ranked-choice voting. All ballots must be signed ballots. If there is only one nominee for a particular position that nominee shall be elected by acclamation. Each region shall have separate ballots or electronic voting to elect Regional Chairs where more than one candidate is running for the same position. Unless ballot voting provides for ranked-choice voting, if no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot or roll call vote, then a second ballot or roll call vote between the top two vote-getters shall be conducted. Subsequent ties shall be decided by the flip of a coin.

Nominations and elections for District Chairpersons are open to any member residing in the District and shall occur at the biennial election meetings. Election shall be by Party members within the District in a manner prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

#### **After amendment:**

#### Section 5. Eligibility & Elections

(5.1) Eligibility. Any member of the Party residing in the County may be elected an officer of the County Committee including County Chairperson, with the requirement that any member seeking the office of County Chairperson shall have been a member of the Party for at least one (1) year prior to the County Committee Officers election. Elected officials, individuals appointed to fill an elected office, or candidates for elected office are not eligible to become County Chairperson. If a member has resigned from the Party in the two years prior to re-enrollment, the re-enrolled member must be a member in good standing for at least one year prior to the County Committee Officers election prior to being elected an officer of the County Committee.

If any District Councilmember is elected as a County officer, that person shall automatically vacate the lesser office. Any person who wishes to be a candidate for OCC Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer or Regional Chairperson shall file nomination papers at least five (5) days prior to the County Convention. The nomination papers shall be signed by not less than five (5) members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i residing in the O'ahu County or Region being represented. Electronic Signatures are permissible. Candidates for Regional Chairperson shall reside within their Region

(5.2)Elections. Election(s) shall be decided by a majority of votes cast by roll call at a County Committee meeting if conducted by teleconference or video conference, or by mail balloting if provided for as part of an electronic convention. Elections conducted by ballot may be decided by ranked-choice voting. All ballots must be signed ballots. If there is only one nominee for a particular position that nominee shall be elected by acclamation. Each region shall have separate ballots or electronic voting to elect Regional Chairs where more than one candidate is running for the same position. Unless ballot voting provides for ranked-choice voting, if no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot or roll call vote, then a second ballot or roll call vote between the top two vote-getters shall be conducted. Subsequent ties shall be decided by the flip of a coin.

Nominations and elections for District Chairpersons are open to any member residing in the District and shall occur at the biennial election meetings. Election shall be by Party members within the District in a manner prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

#### **Rationale:**

For the past two election cycles, the OCC Chair and Vice Chair ran as a slate. While this sounds admirable, it eliminates the possibility of an individual to run for Chair or Vice Chair without being on a



slate. The OCC should allow individuals to run for these positions as an individual. Further, it also talks about diversity but doesn't consider sexual diversity. I believe going back to the previous way of electing OCC officers will allow more individuals to apply for these two positions.

## **Non-recommended Amendment #2**

### **[Eliminating the slate requirement in the election of OCC Chair and Vice Chair, Part II] OCD Bylaw 2.11**

#### **Amendment to OCD Bylaw 2.11**

##### **As is:**

(2.11) Election of Executive Committee. The Chair and Vice Chair will run on a combined slate and shall be elected at the O'ahu County Convention in odd-numbered years by a majority vote cast for the combined slate. The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer shall be elected by a majority of votes cast at the same convention. The Regional Chairpersons shall be elected at the same convention by a majority of votes cast in their respective regions. The O'ahu County State Central Committee Representatives shall be elected at the O'ahu County Convention in even-numbered years..

##### **As amended:**

(2.11) Election of Executive Committee. The Chair, ~~and Vice Chair,~~ Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer ~~will run on a combined slate and~~ shall be elected at the O'ahu County Convention in odd-numbered years by a majority vote cast ~~for the combined slate. The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer shall be elected by a majority of votes cast at the same convention.~~ The Regional Chairpersons shall be elected at the same convention by a majority of votes cast in their respective regions. The O'ahu County State Central Committee Representatives shall be elected at the O'ahu County Convention in even-numbered years.

##### **Rationale:**

If the proposed amendment to Bylaw 5.1 is recommended for approval by this Committee, Bylaw 2.11 must also be changed to be consistent.

## **Non-recommended Amendment #3**

### **[Former Mayors as Convention delegates] OCD Bylaw 12.6**

#### **Amendment to OCD Bylaw 12.6**

##### **As is:**

(12.6) Former Democratic Governors, Lt. Governors, O'ahu Mayors, State Party Chairs, and O'ahu County Committee Chairs, and the current state party chair shall have all the rights and privileges of delegates so long as they are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i in good standing, residents of O'ahu and ran for their elected office as a member of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

**As amended:**

(12.6) Former Democratic Governors, Lt. Governors, O'ahu Mayors, State Party Chairs, and O'ahu County Committee Chairs, and the current state party chair shall have all the rights and privileges of delegates so long as they are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i in good standing, and residents of O'ahu. ~~and ran for their elected office as a member of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.~~

**Rationale:**

Since there is no requirement that current Mayors must have run as Democrats, why do we hold former Mayors to a higher standard to receive the benefits of delegate-like status? Also, the elections were a while back, so evidence is scarce, and the former Mayor is basically on the honor system; we have to take their word that they ran as Democrats.