



**STANDING RULES OF THE 2026 O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS  
CONVENTION TO BE HELD ON APRIL 25, 2026**  
Approved by the O'ahu County Committee  
March 21, 2026

The 2026 O'ahu County Convention will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026, and will be conducted in person at the Ke'ehi Lagoon Memorial Park. The Platform, Rules, and Resolutions Committee meetings will be held during the period of April 1 and April 15, 2026, with specific dates, times, and URL information posted on the O'ahu County Democrats website no later than March 25, 2026.

**Rule 1. Registration Required.**

All Delegates to the O'ahu County Convention must register online on the O'ahu County Democrats website [oahudemocrats.org](http://oahudemocrats.org) or by mail to be sent to the O'ahu County Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i, P.O. Box 1793, Honolulu, HI 96806-1793. Paper registration will be used as a last resort. Registration and payment deadlines are listed in the table below.

**Rule 2. Delegate Eligibility.**

- A. Delegates, as defined in Sections 12.4, 2.5, and 12.6 of the O'ahu County Bylaws, are eligible to be Delegates to the O'ahu County Convention after payment of the registration fee according to the payment schedule.
- B. Should a Delegate not meet the requirements in 2A, the Delegate will be given the opportunity to update their membership information or provide proof of voter registration for the delegate slot they hold prior to the close of Convention registration on Monday, April 20, 2026.
- C. The names and representative constituencies of all Convention delegates as described in Section 12.4 of the OCD Bylaws shall be submitted to the Credentials Committee as soon as possible, but no later than 11:59 PM, April 20, 2026. No alternate delegates will be credentialed after this date.
- D. Payment schedule is as described in the table below.

Early Bird Rate	\$40.00	Prior to 11:59 PM, Wednesday, March 25
Regular Rate	\$50.00	Prior to 11:59 PM, Wednesday, April 15
Late Rate	\$60.00	Prior to 11:59 PM, Monday, April 20. No registrations will be accepted after this date and time. <i>Paper Registration must be postmarked no later than April 17, 2026</i>

**Rule 4. Convention Committees.**

Pursuant to O`ahu County Democrats Bylaws Section 12.1.2, the business and purposes of the County's Annual Convention in even-numbered years shall be limited to and dedicated to the following work relating to the State Party, but County work as listed in 12.1.1 b & c may also be considered as time permits:

- a. Elect the County Representatives to the SCC;
- b. Consider and vote on proposals for the State Biennial Convention to amend the DPH Constitution, Bylaws, and Platform; and
- c. Consider and vote on resolutions addressing State- wide, National, or International policies that can be proposed to the delegates of the DPH Biennial Convention on behalf of O`ahu County Democrats.

B. Each Pre-Convention Committee shall convene at least once between April 1 and April 15, 2026 to consider submissions, to reformat, combine, and/or revise submissions, and to adopt a committee report containing its recommendations that will be presented by the appointed chairperson or co-chairpersons of that committee. Pre-Convention Committee meetings shall be held via Zoom.

C. Detailed information regarding the 2026 Pre-Convention Committees's election procedures and meeting rules can be found in: *Appendix A - DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII (DPH)- 2026 O`AHU COUNTY CONVENTION, CONVENTION COMMITTEES: SELECTION PROCEDURES & MEETING RULES*

**Rule 5. Submissions to Platform and Resolutions.**

- A. The proposers of all platform planks, bylaw amendments, and resolutions shall submit proposals in a Microsoft Word compatible format (8.5" by 11"), using Arial 10 font, with one-inch margins on all sides. Resolution proposals shall be no longer than one page. Each proposal submitted to the Platform Committee is limited to one platform plank. Each proposal shall be submitted by e-mail to the appropriate committee. Convention Committee emails are listed in the table below.
- B. Email Submissions should include the following information in the subject line: 2026 OCD Convention "*TYPE OF DOCUMENT*," where the words "*TYPE OF DOCUMENT*" should be replaced with one of the following words: Resolution, Platform, or Rules. The body of the email should include the following information: type of document (Resolution, Platform Plank, or Bylaws Amendment), the title of the document, name of moving Delegate, and the software program (For example: Microsoft Word) used for submission. All submissions of proposed resolutions, platform planks, and rules amendments must be received before 4:30 pm on March 30, 2026.

Platform	<a href="mailto:platform@oahudemocrats.org">platform@oahudemocrats.org</a>
Resolutions	<a href="mailto:resolutions@oahudemocrats.org">resolutions@oahudemocrats.org</a>
Rules (Bylaws)	<a href="mailto:rules@oahudemocrats.org">rules@oahudemocrats.org</a>

- C. The Resolutions Committee will accept and consider resolutions that relate to State-wide, National, or International policies that can be proposed to the delegates of the DPH Biennial Convention on behalf of O`ahu County Democrats. Resolutions, submitted in the prescribed format by the deadline, will be accepted and evaluated based on the following criteria, in priority order.

Resolutions:

- 1. Submitted by elected officials who are Democrats

2. Originating from a standing committee of the OCC.
- D. All submissions must be supported by another member as a second, which must be verified by a separate email to the respective committee email within the submission deadline.
  - E. Submissions not recommended by the designated convention committee must be included in their report, but shall only be considered at convention after all the recommended proposals have been considered and only if a 2/3rds vote of the delegates approves consideration. The motion to consider a proposal not recommended by the designated committee shall be undebatable.
  - F. No floor submissions will be considered on the day of the Convention except for Courtesy Resolutions, at the discretion of the Chair.

**Rule 6. Proposed Changes to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Constitution and Bylaws, and if time permits, the O'ahu County Bylaws shall:**

- A. State the section and subsection of the Constitution or Bylaw proposed to be amended.
- B. State the Constitution or Bylaw provision again with changes, additions, or deletions set forth in Ramseyer format, i.e., strikethrough deletions and underline words to be added or inserted.  
EXAMPLE: ~~This section is being stricken.~~ This section is being inserted. This section is not being changed.

State the rationale for the proposed change.

If the proposal affects other sections of the DPH Constitution and Bylaws, identify those sections and state the appropriate changes.

The proposers of all bylaw amendments shall submit proposals in a Microsoft Word compatible format (8.5" by 11"); using Arial 10 font, with one-inch margins on all sides. Each proposal shall be submitted by e-mail to the Convention Rules Committee. The Rules Committee email is listed in the table above. Submissions will only be accepted by email and should be submitted as described in Rule 5.B, above with "Bylaws" used as, "TYPE OF DOCUMENT".

All submissions must be supported by another member as a second which must be verified by a separate email to the respective committee email within the submission deadline.

Submissions not recommended by the designated convention committee must be included in their report, but shall only be considered at convention after all the recommended proposals have been considered and only if a 2/3rds vote of the delegates approves consideration. The motion to consider a proposal not recommended by the designated committee shall be undebatable.

No floor submissions will be considered on the day of the Convention.

**Rule 7. Protocols and Floor Participation.**

- A. Electronic Recording. No video-taping or other electronic recording is permitted during any of the proceedings unless approved in advance.
- B. The Chair or their designee shall appoint a member(s) to act as "Host(s)" and/or "Co-Host(s)" for the Convention or pre-convention committee meetings for the purpose of scheduling, initiating, polling, and controlling meeting functions as directed.
- C. For purposes of the Convention, participation in the deliberations on the Convention floor shall be limited to registered and credentialed Delegates.
- D. When recognized by the Chair, the Delegate must state the Delegate's first and last name and district clearly

- E. The Sergeant-at-Arms will monitor the order of pro and con speakers for each topic.
- F. Requesting the Floor. Voting members must stand in line at the floor mic to request recognition by the Chair to make a motion or speak in debate, and after being recognized by the Chair, the member will speak clearly and state their name and district.
- G. All main motions and amendments made from the floor must be in writing by the Delegate making the motion and will be read by the Chair.
- H. Debate on each debatable motion shall be limited to two (2) minutes per speech, with a two-speech limit per Delegate on each debatable motion. The speaker will be given a thirty (30) second warning and will be warned when the two (2) minutes are over. All attendees must stand quietly by the floor mic after speaking.
- G. The Chair may close debate after three delegates have spoken in favor and three delegates have spoken in opposition to the pending motion.
- H. Decorum is prescribed in RONR. Personal attacks, vulgarity, or offensive language can result in loss of debate privileges. Breaches of decorum shall be cause for loss of debate privileges or immediate dismissal by the Chair from the meeting. The Chair's dismissal of an attendee will be announced and recorded in the minutes.

**Rule 8. Separate Consideration of Resolutions, Platform Planks, and Bylaw Amendments.**

- A. Proposed Resolutions recommended in the Resolutions Committee Report shall be considered for adoption *in gross*. If a Delegate desires to amend any resolution or speak against the resolution submitted in the Resolutions Committee Report, the delegate shall submit the appropriate separation and/or amendment forms to the OCC Secretary twenty-four (24) hours prior to the Convention Call to Order. The Delegate who calls for such separate consideration of a resolution shall be recognized first to speak against and/or offer an amendment to the specified resolution.
- B. Proposed changes to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform recommended by the Pre-Convention Platform Committee shall be considered for adoption *in gross*. If a Delegate desires to amend any Platform Plank or speak against the Platform Plank submitted in the Platform Committee Report, the delegate shall submit the appropriate separation and/or amendment forms to the OCC Secretary twenty-four (24) hours prior to the Convention Call to Order. The Delegate who calls for such separate consideration of a Platform Plank shall be recognized first to speak against and/or offer an amendment to the specified Platform Plank.
- C. Proposed changes to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Constitution Bylaws recommended by the Pre-Convention Rules Committee shall be considered for adoption *in gross*. If a Delegate desires to amend any Bylaw Amendment or speak against the Amendment submitted in the Rules Committee Report, the Delegate shall submit the appropriate separation and/or amendment forms to the OCC Secretary twenty-four (24) hours prior to the Convention Call to Order. The Delegate who calls for such separate consideration of a recommended Bylaw Amendment shall be recognized first to speak against and/or offer an amendment to the specified proposal.

## **Rule 9. Voting.**

- A. Voting during all business meetings of the Convention will be conducted in person. The Chair or their designee shall direct the voting procedures which may include, but are not limited to general consent, a polling method, or roll call. Voice votes shall not be used to vote on any question. Voting may be conducted using voting cards or signed ballots. Each registered Delegate entitled to vote will be issued a "voting card" which the Delegate shall raise when called upon by the chair to express the Delegate's vote. No one except the delegate to whom the voting card is issued may use the voting card to vote. Each Delegate must return the voting card issued to them at the end of the convention or if the Delegate must leave before adjournment.

Any voting card left unattended or in the custody or use of anyone except the delegate to whom it was issued will be confiscated by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

- B. Unless ten (10) Convention delegates object, motions will be adopted by general consent.

## **Rule 10. Nominations.**

Candidates for the Representatives from O'ahu Democrats to the SCC must have filed nomination papers with a personal profile and picture to the County Secretary by 4:30 p.m., April 15, 2026, ten (10) days before the Convention of the O'ahu County Democrats.

- A. Nominations shall not be accepted from the floor.

## **Rule 11. Elections.**

- A. At the 2026 Convention, elections will be held for the Representatives from O'ahu Democrats to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i State Central Committee.
- B. In contested races, candidates may speak for two (2) minutes each.
- C. The election shall be decided by a majority of votes cast. If no candidate receives a majority on the first round of voting, then a second round between the top two (2) vote getters shall be conducted.
- D. Ties on the second round poll shall be decided by the flip of a coin.

## **Rule 12. Observers.**

- A. Observers are permitted to watch the proceedings but are not permitted to speak, vote, or otherwise participate in debate unless specifically invited by convention leadership.
- B. Photos and recordings are not permitted during the convention unless specifically authorized by the Chair of the Convention.
- C. Disruptive behavior may result in being asked to leave. This decision shall be at the discretion of the Chair of the Convention.

## **Rule 13. Minutes.**

The Chair shall appoint a Convention secretary to prepare the minutes of the O'ahu County Democrats 2026 Convention and shall be approved at a subsequent OCC meeting.

## **Rule 14. Parliamentary Procedures.**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Bylaws of the O'ahu County Democrats, or these Standing Rules.



**2026 O'ahu County Convention Committees:  
Selection Procedures & Meeting Rules  
Approved by the OCC on March 21, 2026**

1. **Committee Selection Process**
  - 1.1. Selection and Appointment of Committee Co-Chairs to the Credentials, Rules, Platform, and Resolutions Committees: The O'ahu County Committee (OCC) Chairperson shall appoint the committee co-chairs of the Credentials, Rules, Platform, and Resolutions Committees from among delegates to the OCC Convention, with the concurrence of the OCC at its March 2024 meeting. For each committee, the OCC Chairperson shall designate one co-chair to serve as the presiding officer and the other to serve as the secretary or scribe.
  - 1.2. The OCC Chairperson will appoint members to the convention committees from among delegates to the OCC Convention. Each committee shall not exceed 5% of the total eligible county convention delegates. Appointments to committees will be made not later than thirty (30) days prior to the convention. The OCC Chairperson shall also appoint a Zoom Administrator (non-member) to assist each committee.
  - 1.3. Interested delegates shall file an application to be considered for appointment to the convention committees by the deadline established.
  - 1.4. If at all possible, the voting members of the committee shall be evenly divided among the regions.
  - 1.5. The OCC Chairperson may remove any delegate from a committee who is unable to attend the scheduled meetings of the committee or whose conduct in the committee meetings is dilatory or disruptive, or in disregard of the meeting rules and/or the Constitution or Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and the O'ahu County Committee.
  - 1.6. A list of Convention Committee members shall be posted to the O'ahu County Democrats (OCD) website as they are appointed/confirmed.
2. **Committee Meeting Rules**
  - 2.1. Schedule for Committee Meetings: Committee meetings shall take place no later than seven (7) days before the convention. Early committee meetings are encouraged.
  - 2.2. Notification, Access and Sign in Protocols:
    - 2.2.1. The designated presiding officer, one of the appointed committee Co-Chairs, of each Convention Committee shall notify committee members at least five (5) days in advance of the first committee meeting. If extended meetings are necessary to complete the work of the committee, such meetings will be at the call of the committee's presiding officer. Meeting notifications will include the date and time for the meeting and the zoom link.
    - 2.2.2. Voting members will access the respective committee meetings via the OCC zoom account with a computer or other internet enabled device using the login link (URL) provided in the call of the meeting which will include the meeting ID and password. Except for the parliamentarian, access by non-voting attendees (guests) will be limited to sign in via the meeting's call in number.
    - 2.2.3. Prior to the meeting at which a proposal is to be considered or other action by the committee, the meeting date, time and location will be posted to the OCD

website. The notice shall also contain an invitation to contact the respective committee's presiding officer or their designee for copies of documents.

**2.2.4. Sign in Protocols.**

**2.2.4.1.** Voting convention committee members must sign into the zoom meeting with their legal first and last names; phone numbers or fictional names are not permitted. Authorized voting committee members will rename themselves by including the initials "VM" in front of their name. Instructions for doing this will be provided by the committee's presiding officer or their designee. The presiding officer or committee secretary will check these designations against the official list of designated voting members that were appointed by the OCC Chairperson. Only those on this list will have the designation of VM which means "Voting Member". Voting committee members who call in will have their attendance (name) recorded by the scribe.

**2.2.4.2.** Guests will sign in via the meeting's call in number. Their attendance (name) will be recorded by the scribe.

**2.2.4.3.** All attendees are expected to sign into zoom at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled committee start time, unless an earlier time is established by the committee's presiding officer. Attendees must test their webcam, speaker, and microphone functionality immediately after signing in.

**2.2.4.4.** Voting committee members are expected to open and maintain the "participants" window open throughout the meeting.

**2.2.5. Connectivity.**

**2.2.5.1.** Each attendee is responsible for their own connection to the Internet and teleconference; no action will be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, any attendee's individual connection prevented their participation in the meeting provided that at least a quorum of voting members was connected and any required voting threshold was achieved.

**2.2.5.2.** All those participating by teleconference and are using cell phones will ensure they are in an area with strong signal and good reception. If a call is dropped, it shall be the responsibility of the member or members who are participating by ZOOM or other means to call back in.

**2.2.5.3.** All those participating by videoconference will ensure they have a strong internet connection. If the video goes out during the meeting but teleconference does not that will not constitute as a disruption and the meeting will continue.

**2.2.5.4.** Appointed members participating by teleconference or videoconference who leave the meeting prior to the end of the meeting must inform the presiding officer of their departure. A member who must leave may interrupt to inform the presiding officer, but may not interrupt any member who is speaking. As an alternative, the committee member may use the "chat" box to inform the presiding officer of their departure.

**2.2.5.5.** Interference and Noise. Attendees must mute their microphone when not speaking to avoid interference and unintended background noise. The presiding officer, after one warning, may order the muting or disconnecting of any attendee causing undue interference. The Co-Chair's decision will be announced.

**2.3. Quorum:**

**2.3.1.** A quorum of the Rules, Resolutions and Platform Committees shall be a majority of the number of appointed committee members, i.e., one more than half of the number of appointed members. No voting may take place at a meeting without quorum.

- 2.3.2. When a quorum of the appointed committee members is established, the presiding officer or designee will announce the names of all members (voting committee members) and guests in attendance, both those attending by video or telephone.
- 2.4. Convention Resolutions, Platform, and Rules Committees shall have the power to format, edit, combine resolutions of similar substance, and make substantive amendments that do not alter the intent of any amendments to the Platform and Rules, and resolving clauses of resolutions.
- 2.5. **Participation in Meetings**
  - 2.5.1. **Requesting the Floor.** Voting members shall use the “raise hand” button in the participant’s box to request recognition by the presiding officer to make a motion or speak in debate, and after being recognized by the presiding officer, will unmute their microphone, speak clearly, and state their name, delegate status, and District, for example, “John Doe, delegate, District 26.” Any voting member who has technical difficulties requesting the floor shall use the chat box immediately with the prefix, “REQUEST THE FLOOR”.
  - 2.5.2. Motions. The presiding officer may require motions and amendments be submitted in writing using the chat box.
  - 2.5.3. Participation in Discussions: A member wishing to make a motion or participate in discussions must first be recognized by the presiding officer, state their name and position, and address all remarks to the presiding officer.
  - 2.5.4. Authors of proposals before a committee may speak first for the proposal when recognized by the presiding officer.
  - 2.5.5. Appointed members of the committees may speak twice to each question for no more than three minutes per speech. The presiding officer may terminate debate on any proposal after three speakers in favor of the proposal and three speakers opposed to the proposal have discussed the proposal. This does not include the initial remarks by the maker of the motion. All attendees must mute their microphone after speaking. The presiding officer or their designee, may mute the microphone if any attendee neglects to do so after speaking.
  - 2.5.6. Delegates not appointed as members of the committees may speak once to each question for no more than three minutes per speech after committee members have had the opportunity to speak. After all committee members and delegates have had the opportunity to speak, any member of the O’ahu County Democrats who is not a convention delegate may speak once to each question for no more than three minutes per speech.
  - 2.5.7. Priority in debate shall be given to voting members of the committee.
  - 2.5.8. Since time for committee meetings may be limited, the committee may adopt further limitations on debate by 2/3 vote of the appointed committee members present and voting.
  - 2.5.9. Decorum. Decorum is described in Robert’s Rules of Order as well as in OCC Special and Standing Rules #24 and 25. Personal attacks, vulgarity, or offensive language can result in loss of debate privileges. Likewise, it is a breach of decorum to use zoom comment icons (e.g., thumbs up, thumbs down, hands clapping, check mark, x, etc.) in debate. Visual decorum will also be required; any vulgar or offensive image or video is prohibited. Such breaches of decorum shall be cause for muting or an immediate disconnection by the presiding officer from the meeting. The committees presiding officer’s disconnection of an attendee will be announced and recorded in the minutes.
  - 2.5.10. Use of Chat Box. The chat box is restricted to voting members and the parliamentarian. It may only be used to:
    - 2.5.10.1. Present motions for consideration either prior to or upon recognition;
    - 2.5.10.2. Make Nominations from the floor, when in order;

- 2.5.10.3. Provide a link to a document that the speaker cannot display on the screen;
- 2.5.10.4. Provide specific comments if requested by the presiding officer;
- 2.5.10.5. Report technical difficulties of sufficient importance that they need immediate correction;
- 2.5.10.6. Make administrative announcements or
- 2.5.10.7. Report departure from the meeting.
- 2.5.11. Cell phones and other mobile devices, except for members attending by teleconference, must be turned off or silenced during the meeting.
- 2.5.12. No audio or video recordings of the meetings shall be made, except by the presiding officer or the chair's designated committee scribe.
- 2.6. **Voting In Committee Meetings**
  - 2.6.1. Only registered convention delegates who are appointed to the committee shall vote on the issues before the committee. Other delegates may participate in the discussions, but shall not vote.
  - 2.6.2. Voting in committee meetings will be conducted in zoom in the following manner and order at the discretion of the presiding officer:
    - 2.6.2.1. The committee presiding officer will ask whether there are any objections to the motion. If there are not, the chair will rule on the adoption of the motion.
    - 2.6.2.2. If there is an objection to the motion, the presiding officer will conduct a vote on the same question and will ask delegates to use the designated function in zoom, as designated by the chair, and any delegates that wish to abstain shall indicate as such by typing "abstain" in the chat box. For those delegates who are unable to vote by the "yes/no" function in zoom, the presiding officer will call for their verbal vote.
    - 2.6.2.3. Visual or voice confirmation of delegates is required when delegates cast a vote. Video on the delegate's device must be on for visual confirmation or delegate must identify their name and district for voice confirmation.
- 2.7. **Committee Reports**
  - 2.7.1. The scribe of each committee will provide a copy of their report to the OCD webmaster no later than six days before the convention. Such report shall be published on the OCD website at least five (5) calendar days prior to the date of the Convention. There shall be no minority reports. As applicable, the reports will include the proposed changes to the OCD Platform, the OCD Bylaws, and the proposed resolutions.
  - 2.7.2. Reports will consist of the following information: Name of Committee, date(s) met, time called to order and time adjourned, attendance list, and two parts: Part I will consist of all proposals recommended for adoption by the committee; Part II will consist of all proposals that the committee does not recommend for adoption. Those proposals ruled out of order will not be included in the report.
- 2.8. **Submission of Proposals for Amendment to the Platform, and Rules; and Resolutions:** The submission of proposals shall be as specified in the Convention Standing Rules.
- 2.9. **Parliamentary Authority.** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the O'ahu County Convention Committees in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution, Bylaws or special rules of order adopted by the Democratic Party of Hawai'i or the Bylaws and special rules of order, or the Standing Convention Rules adopted by the O'ahu County Committee or with the rules in this document.