

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

As delegates prepare for the 2026 O'ahu County Convention, be advised that Section 12.1.2 of the Bylaws of the O'ahu County Democrats provides that: The business and purposes of the County's Annual Convention in even-numbered years shall be limited to and dedicated to the 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. County related resolutions may only be considered as time permits.

Article VIII, Section 7A of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i provides that:
The resolving clauses of resolutions, except for those clauses that refer to a specific date, event, or legislative session, once adopted by delegates at a convention of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall represent the official policies of the Party and shall remain in force and effect until rescinded or amended by the delegates at an annual or special convention.

Likewise, Section 13.3 of the Bylaws of the O'ahu County Democrats provides that:
The resolutions adopted by delegates at conventions of the O'ahu County Democrats shall remain in force and effect until rescinded or amended by a two-thirds roll call vote of the full membership of the O'ahu County Committee or by a majority of votes cast by delegates at an annual or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.

And per Section 13.4, "Resolutions adopted at a county convention in a non State Convention year will not be referred by O'ahu County to a future State Convention."

Therefore, a Resolution submitted that is substantially the same or in conflict with an OCD Resolution adopted in the past 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.

Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i further provides that the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall apply to all District Council meetings, County meetings and conventions and State Conventions, where not inconsistent with the Constitution 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." (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." (10:26(4), 39:5)

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.