

O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS

OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII'

a gathering place for political action

WELCOME to the inaugural O'ahu County Democrats newsletter. Each month we hope to share news, community events, legislative updates, and more to connect you with fellow Democrats and the Party.

In this issue, meet your officers and Region Chair elected at the successful 2021 eConvention and your current District Chairs who are excited to take on new challenges in the coming year.

Also, check out upcoming events, committee initiatives, and give input on the Legislation Committee's survey which will help shape our priorities and the work we'll be doing alongside our elected officials in the 2022 Legislative Session.

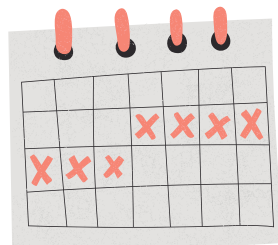
Legislative Priorities Survey

This survey re-visits the top five issues that O'ahu Democrats felt were important in 2020. It also includes a number of other issues that we would appreciate your opinion on. Based on participation in previous surveys, we were able to provide the O'ahu Democratic Senate and House members with valuable information about their constituencies and we hope to do the same for this upcoming legislative session.

Please share your opinion on these important issues by June 28, 2021. Your responses will allow us to better understand what the Democrats on O'ahu are interested and/or concerned with.

[**Click here for survey**](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



View event details
on page 4

JUNE 12

"Let's Talk Story about Hawai'i's Celebration of Juneteenth" on Zoom, 4:30pm. [Click here to register.](#)

JUNE 19

Voter registration table at Manoa Valley Theatre Juneteenth Celebration, 2-5pm.

AUG 20

Food distribution at The Pantry, 9am - 3pm. [Click here to register.](#)

Meet the 2021 – 2023 Officers



Lorna Takehara Strand, Chairperson

Wife to Davy, mother to Patrick and Eric, grandmother to Bubba Toshi, Haya, and Baby Sal, and I love to do sandwich hugs. Davy and I are retired and live in an 'Aiea home my parents built in 1965. And now I am happily starting my second term as Chair of O'ahu County Democrats.

Carlos Santana, Secretary

I currently live in District 28, Precinct 3. I ran for Secretary to fill a need created by the prior Secretary's desire to step down after several years of service. I feel this is an important position to maintain continuity and proper tracking of OCC business.



Kevan Wong, Assistant Treasurer

I live in Kaimukī with my grandparents and my brother. After serving as Region 1 Chair, I ran for assistant treasurer because I wanted to continue my service in a different capacity more in line with my business education.

Jenna Takenouchi, Assistant Secretary

My best fur friend, Lola, and I live in Makiki, but enjoy spending time with family include my grandma, mom, and sister's family. After working in state government for a number of years, I wanted to lend my skills to an organization engaging the community in the issues I care about.



Missing: **Jacce Mikulanec, Vice Chairperson**
Joe Francher, Treasurer

Region Roundup: Region 6



O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII ISSUES RESOLUTION 2021-08

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF FAYE KENNEDY

Whereas, Faye Kennedy was the daughter of Wiley Choice and Zella Rae Jackson Kennedy, born April 3, 1931, in Kansas City, Missouri, she married Patrick Joseph Daly (1931-2015) January 7, 1961 and she received her Associates of Arts degree from Pasadena City College in California in 1951, her Bachelor of Arts degree from Hunter College in New York in 1955, and a Certificate of Alliance Francaise in Paris in 1956, and she was a vocational counselor at the New York State Division of Employment in New York City from 1957 to 1965, a social worker for the New York State Parole Division in New York City from 1965 to 1977, and also a parole officer fighting for prison reform before moving to Hawai'i more than 40 years ago, and along with her sister, Florynce "Flo" Kennedy (a key member of the Civil Rights movement), together and apart, they spent their lives fighting for civil rights; and

Whereas, Faye's background and education gave her both a deep understanding and a powerful voice on issues of racial minorities, women, sexual orientation, disabilities, and all other forms of discrimination, and all the groups that she joined were multiracial and multigenerational, she understood the real value of diversity and inclusiveness and social justice; and

Whereas, Faye was a deeply respected member of the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (1994 – 2008) and served as a Hawai'i State Delegate to four Democratic National Conventions in Chicago (1996), Los Angeles (2000), Boston (2004), and Denver (2008, for Hawai'i's own Presidential Nominee Barack Obama); and

Whereas, She made an impact at every level, from the grassroots community level on her Neighborhood Board, at the State level with the Civil Rights Commission, and at the Federal level with the U.S. Advisory Council on Civil Rights, among many other civil rights activists groups; and

Whereas, Faye served as Co-Chair of the Hawai'i Friends for Civil Rights since 2007, 1st Vice President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People–Hawai'i from 2003 to 2007, President of the Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus, Hawai'i Yacht Club since 2003, and a Board Member of Hawai'i Youth at Risk from 1991 to 1994, American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i from 1992 to 2002, and Hawai'i Literacy, Inc. from 1987 to 1997; and

Whereas, Faye was a member of numerous civil rights groups, including the Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women since 2004, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition of Hawai'i from 1989 to 1993; Hawai'i Advisory Committee of the United States Civil Rights Commission from 1990 to 2007, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women from 1993 to 1995, Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission from 1995 to 2003, and was listed as a notable social worker and author by Marquis Who's Who, and in 1976, authored and published a book entitled, Goodbye Diane; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes the legacy of Faye Kennedy as a steadfast pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement, where she dedicated her life to being a champion for all vulnerable groups, not just African American, in a multicultural society; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i honor the life of Faye Kennedy (April 3, 1931 - February 28, 2020) and acknowledge the impact of she has left on the Democratic Party, the State of Hawai'i, and the United States of America; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Neighborhood Board Commission, Hawai'i Friends for Civil Rights, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People-Hawai'i Chapter, Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus, Hawai'i Youth at Risk, the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Literacy, Inc., Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition of Hawai'i, the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and all elected officials who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

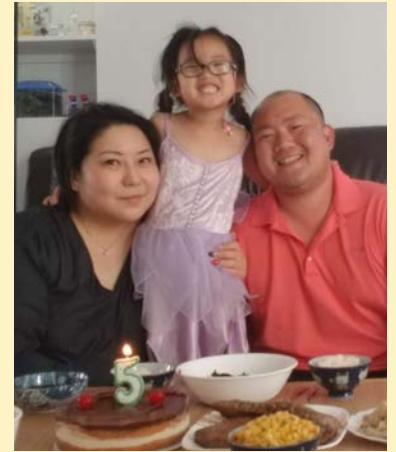
APPROVED THE 1st DAY OF MAY 2021
BY THE DELEGATES OF O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS CONVENTION

Lorna Takehara Strand
Chair, O'ahu County Democrats

Betty Bowen Vega & TJ Jasper
Co-Chairs, Resolutions Committee

At the recent O'ahu County Democrats eConvention on May 8, 2021, a resolution celebrating the life and accomplishments of Faye Kennedy was adopted.

[Read the resolution here.](#)



Meet Region 4 Chair Benjamin Park!

Where do you live?

Salt Lake

What does your 'ohana
look like?

Karen (spouse), Gloria
(daughter), Brownie (cat #1),
Sky (cat #2)

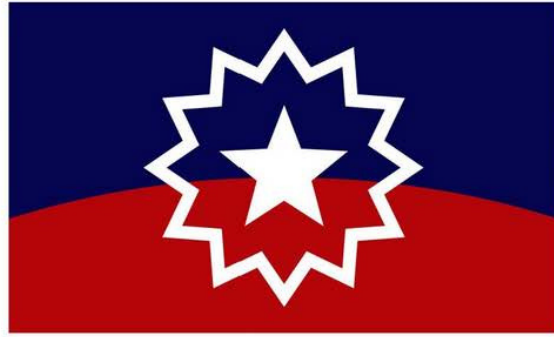
Why did you run for your
position?

To work with my fellow
democrats to improve and
give back to our Region 4
community.



Upcoming Events

*Let's Talk Story
about Hawai'i's
celebration of
JUNETEENTH!*



JUNETEENTH Emancipation Flag #1

Join District 25 **Chair Daphne Barbee-Wooten**
for O'ahu Democrats

"Let's Talk Story about Hawai'i's Celebration of Juneteenth"

Featuring ~

Dr. Akeimi Glenn, Executive Director of the Popolo Project

Samantha Neyland, Hawai'i for Juneteenth Committee, Miss Hawai'i USA 2020

Senator Glenn Wakai, Hawai'i Senate, District 15

Council Member Tommy Waters, City Council Chair

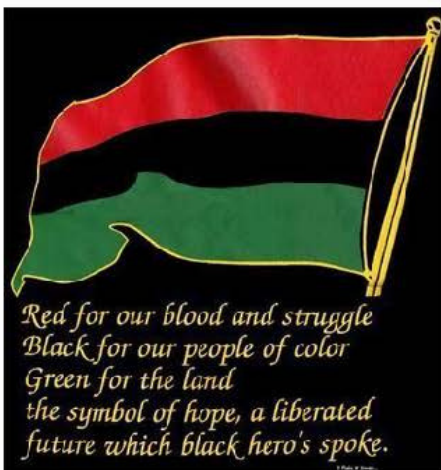
Alphonso Braggs, President Hawai'i NAACP

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 4:30 PM

View the online Talk Story on O'ahu County Democratic Party **Facebook Live**

or

To register to join the Zoom event **[CLICK HERE](#)**



*Red for our blood and struggle
Black for our people of color
Green for the land
the symbol of hope, a liberated
future which black hero's spoke.*

African Liberation flag #2



SATURDAY, JUNE 19th, 2-5 PM

O'ahu Democrats will host a voter registration table at the

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ~ Join us!

MANOA VALLEY THEATRE: 2833 E. Manoa Rd.

Announcements

Aloha from the OCC Membership Committee,

1. We are trying new things to get our current members and new members involved in Democratic activities this summer.

O'ahu County Democrats in Regions 3, 4, and 5 are teaming up with Honolulu Councilmember Radiant Cordero's District 7 Summer of Service campaign and The Pantry to help alleviate food insecurity. We are calling on volunteers from across the Democratic Party to help ensure that no one goes hungry. We have an upcoming food distribution project at The Pantry on Statehood Day, Friday, August 20. Share!!! There are two shifts to choose from, 9 AM or 12 PM. [Signup is open now.](#)

2. We are currently growing our membership committee with representatives from across the OCC's regions. As of June 2, we have committed representatives from OCC Regions 1, 2, and 5.

3. In support of energizing our current members and going out and meet potential new members through tabling and meetup.com, please encourage OCC reps to vote YES on the OCC Membership budget for 2021-2022.

Chris Edwards
OCC SCC Rep.
OCC Membership Co-Chair

Andrea Wagner
OCC Region 1 Chair
OCC Membership Co-Chair

Aloha from the OCC Tree Committee,

As you know, the future of our society in Honolulu is dependent on maintaining balance with the environment. In 2021 we can touch, feel, and see global climate change. We have hotter air, heavier downpours, droughts, warmer oceans, climate migration away from areas in Alaska and Pacific islands. The 2019-2020 wildfires on the west coast and in Alaska burned beyond what we could control. Families, homes, and communities are being burned, waterlogged, and people are dying from the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to Central Alaska and beyond. It is time to increase our sustainability action to alleviate what we can.

Trees can help absorb fertilizers and natural wastes to reduce coral bleaching, trees absorb carbon and pollution, trees reduce urban heat, and trees cut erosion. Trees are a proven solution for blocking the sun from the pavement, absorbing sunlight energy, cooling the air, reducing erosion, and absorbing excess nutrients. Tree planting will work for the OCC, it brings people together, and it is fun and exciting to do.

The OCC Tree committee can help cool down our island by increasing the tree canopy. We will not be alone in this task. OCC should not remain idle while our island heats up.

Our new Tree Committee needs your help. Let us utilize OCC to organize action in urban and rural Honolulu. Let us grow our team's skills for planting and passing on our knowledge to those who share the joy of arboriculture. Those who came before us preserved and restored what they could. It is time to do everything we can to replenish our tree canopy with growing non-invasive trees for upcoming generations to enjoy.

To help expand the Tree Committee's project across the island's 35 house districts vote YES and ask OCC reps to vote YES on the Tree Committee's budget. And join us to plant trees across the island this year alongside partners in government, environmental services, and education.

If you have relationships and friends connected to plant nurseries, forestry experts, or tree planting groups like the Outdoor Circle, the Sierra Club, or Kupukupu then please let me know.

Chris Edwards
Tree Committee, Chair
203-247-6051