

# O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS

OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I

*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.

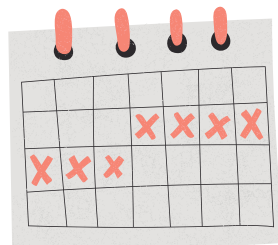
## Legislative Priorities Survey

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 5



## O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII ISSUES RESOLUTION 2021-05

### HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF JEAN FUJINAGA

**Whereas,** Jean Fujinaga was born on January 7, 1940 in 'Aiea, Hawai'i; and

**Whereas,** She enjoyed writing so much that as a ninth-grader, she was hired at the Honolulu Star-Bulletin as an editor of The 'Aiea Cannus Speak and as a correspondent would visit the 'Aiea Community Association for news on the Aiea community; and

**Whereas,** At Waipahu High School, she was a page editor of The Cane Tassel and was a member of the Honor Society as a sophomore; and

**Whereas,** She received a \$180 'Aiea Lion's Club Scholarship to attend the University of Hawai'i (UH), Mānoa and thereafter she worked three summers at the Del Monte Cannery earning \$200 a year to pay for her tuition at UH without having to ask her parents; and

**Whereas,** She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa, and a Master of Arts in English from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); and

**Whereas,** She strived to achieve her Master's Degree English because of the need for Community College teachers but when she returned to Hawai'i, there were no community colleges at that time; and

**Whereas,** She was an instructor in English at the University of Hawai'i in the fall of 1965, and pursued graduate work at the University of Hawai'i in Educational Philosophy; and

**Whereas,** She received her Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University, and a Doctor of Philosophy from Columbia University; and

**Whereas,** Jean Fujinaga became a bold feminist in the 1960s; and

**Whereas,** She worked as a legislative aide for Congressional Representative Patsy Mink, in her Washington D.C. office and she also worked for State Representative Tom Okamura; and

**Whereas,** Jean Fujinaga devoted most of her life to public service behind the scenes working for Patsy T. Mink, Tom Okamura, and the Governors' Association; and

**Whereas,** Jean spent hundreds of hours organizing the 'Aiealani Senior Citizens' Group at the City and County of Honolulu's 'Aiea District Park, and at the 'Aiea Public Library as her parents were active in both institutions and she desired to continue in their legacy and heritage, and to remain a part of the community; and

**Whereas,** Jean's thoughts included, "My roots are here in 'Aiea. I have done many interesting things in my life because I have not been afraid"; and

**Whereas,** Jean Fujinaga supported dozens of campaigns of Democrats from the 1950s until her last day of life on February 7, 2021; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved,** That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i honor the life and work of Jean Fujinaga (January 7, 1940 to February 7, 2021); and be it

**Ordered,** That copies of this resolution be transmitted to her brother, Paul Fujinaga, and 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



## Meet Region 5 Chair Steven Canales!

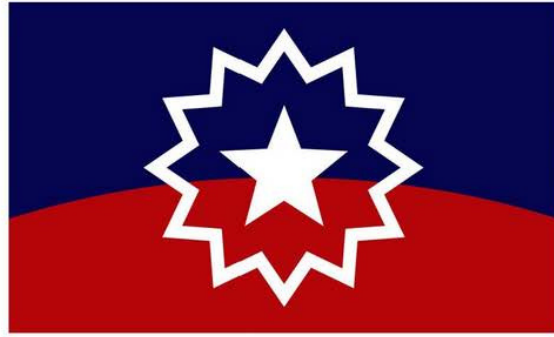
I live in Pearl City, my family has lived in Pearl City over 65 yrs. I started doing community service in my early years. My dad was part of the Pearl City Community Association and Pearl City Baseball. My dad helped with many campaigns which I was a part of. I was born as a Democrat, and will always be. I hold almost every position in Region5, from precinct, district, and now Region Chair. I helped with SCC Fundraising Committee, Labor Caucus Chair, worked on OCC Convention and SCC Convention.

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

[Read the resolution here.](#)

# 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

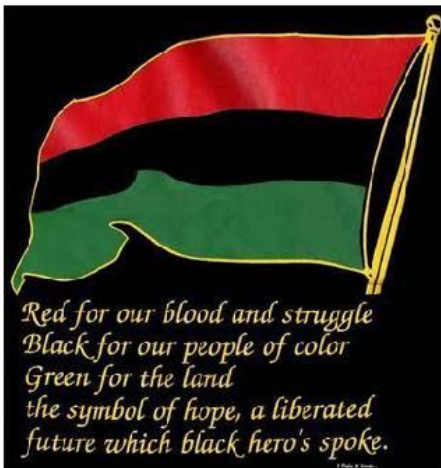
**Alphonso Braggs**, President Hawai'i NAACP

**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