

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.

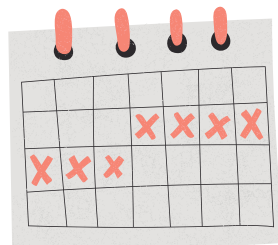
Legislative Priorities Survey

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 5

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: Meet the Region 6 Team



Michael Chapman
Region 6 Chair

Where do you live? Mililani

What does your 'ohana look like? My wonderful wife and I live down the street from my parents and a few of my siblings (I'm the second oldest of seven)

Why did you run for your position? I believe that actively and meaningfully engaging the community in politics is key to improving the world around us. As Region 6 Chair, I am looking to facilitate grassroots change and mobilize new people in the political process.



Jesse Palmer
District 47 Chair

Where do you live? I live in Laie, where I grew up.

What does your 'ohana look like? I live with my wife and two daughters, and my mom and my sister and her family live next door.

Why did you run for your position? I ran for this position to get more involved in local politics.



Jyun Yamamoto
District 46 Chair

I am the District 46 Chair (Wahiawa, Whitmore Village and Laulani Valley). I am a life long resident of the area and a graduate of Leilehua High School. I am retired from Hawaii Army National Guard and Army Civil Service. I have been in the party since the 1970's, but not really active until 2007. Former Neighborhood Board Vice-Chair and former Party Precinct President. I was asked to take over the District Chair after Joe Francher was selected as an officer in the OCC back in 2019. We held a Zoom Democratic candidate's forum in 2020 and opened a hub in Wahiawa for the Oahu County Convention last month.

Where do you live? HD 45 Precinct 4 Waialua

Why did you run for your position? To support the democratic process and Democratic Party



Kathleen Pahinui
District 45 Chair

Region Roundup: Meet the Region 6 Team



Trish La Chica
District 36 Chair

Where do you live? Mililani Town (by the post office)

What does your 'ohana look like? Cricket and I have two kids, Foggy who is 4 and Ricki who is 18 months. Grandpa (my dad) also lives with us. We have two dogs, Lucy and Peanut.

Why did you run for your position? In early 2018, I was asked by the previous District 36 Chair, Will Kane to run for the position as he had been transitioning to a new job at that time and I wanted to get more involved with the community, specifically registering people to vote. I was already involved with the state party back then as the District 22 Chair (when we were still renting in Waikiki) and with the Young Democrats. I am still pretty active with the party, serving as District 36 Chair and as President of the Young Democrats of Hawaii which is open to all democrats under the age of 36.



Danielle Bass
District 37 Chair

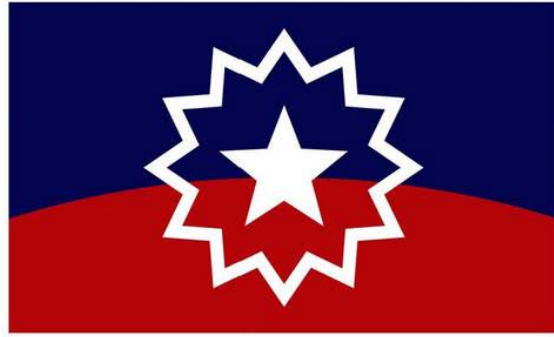
Where do you live? Aloha, I was born and raised in Mililani, O'ahu!

What does your 'ohana look like? It truly took a village to raise me, the Mililani village. My 'ohana is my hometown, I am blessed and grateful for the many aunts, uncles, hanai 'ohana, family friends, and relatives who raised me in our beautiful community. My family is diverse--it looks like Hawai'i, it is multigenerational, multiethnic, and multicultural. I was born as an only child, and am now blessed with 7 younger siblings in 2 different families, with my youngest sibling 24 years younger than me! My husband is also a local boy, born in O'ahu, and lived in Waipi'o Gentry and serves our state in the Hawai'i Air National Guard. My large extended 'ohana taught me to live this life with the values of: family, service, integrity, adventure, people and community, and aloha 'āina.

Why did you run for your position? I ran to serve as District Chair of District 37: Mililani Town, Waipi'o Gentry, and Waikele because I am passionate about our Central O'ahu community! I grew up here, I am a proud Mililani High School graduate, I serve on our Mililani Neighborhood Board and in many community groups. I am committed to serve others, especially our Central O'ahu communities, to keep Mililani, Waipi'o Gentry, and Waikele, the safe, sustainable, and distinguished communities to live, work, and play for all of our families.

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

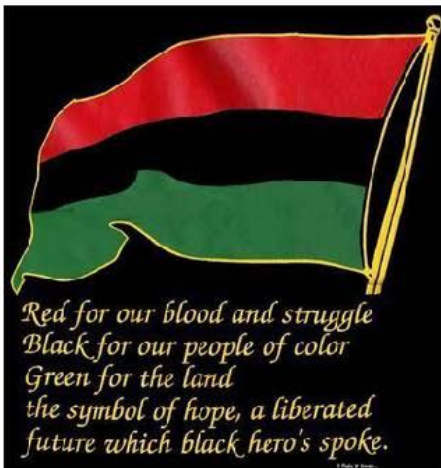
Alphonso Braggs, President Hawai'i NAACP

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