

# 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.

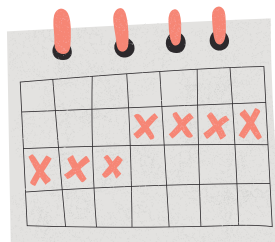
## Legislative Priorities Survey

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.

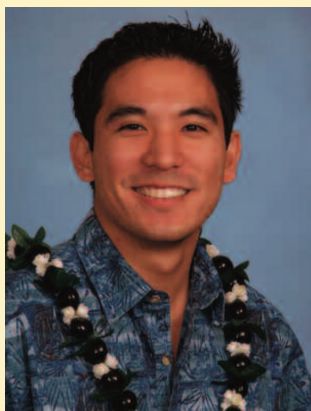
## Jenna Takenouchi, Assistant Secretary

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 9 Team



**Justin Akagi**  
**Region 9 Chair**

**Where do you live?** I live in Kaneohe with my wife and two children.

**What does your 'ohana look like?** My family looks like a typical multi-generational Windward family. My wife and I both grew up in Windward O'ahu, and plan to live here for the rest of our lives. Our kids attend public school in Kaneohe and play in community sports leagues; we enjoy volunteering our time with community organizations; and we have many long-time friends throughout this region.

**Why did you run for your position?** I love our Windward communities; my roots run deep here and I want to see the best for our region. My grandparents had a farm in Kaneohe many decades ago, before moving their family to Waimanalo. I grew up on the same land in Waimanalo where my grandparents farmed produce and chickens, and where my parents now have an orchid nursery. Growing up, I went to school and spent most of my free time playing sports and doing extracurricular activities in Kailua. After joining the Democratic Party as a college student, and eventually moving to Kaneohe with my wife and children, I decided to get more involved with the Democratic Party. My goal is to bring the region together through collaboration, hard work, and open communication.



**William South**  
**District 48 Chair**

**Where do you live?** I live in Kaneohe (since 1985). I moved to Hawaii in 1979 to complete my MS in Agronomy and Soil Science. Still here 42 years later.

**What does your 'ohana look like?** My ohana here consists of Louise , my wife and 48-3 President, and 3 cats, 4 chickens, and one parrot. I have ohana in my home state of Montana whom I try to visit frequently. Immediate relatives include my younger brother Rick and my Aunt Joyce. I lost my father (101 years) about a year ago. My mother passed away in 2016. Lets not forget multitudes of cousins, nieces and nephews here and all over the globe.

**Why did you run for your position?** Years ago, I got tired of listening to myself screaming at politicians and not doing anything about it. I decided that I needed to step up and join the fray. My good friend Charlie Toguchi recommended that I run for District 48 Chair. The rest is history. I have also served as an SCC representative. Since I am also a property owner in Montana, I serve in the Madison County SCC. Last year, I spent several months working with a Senatorial and House campaign in Montana, trying to turn Montana blue.

# Region Roundup: Meet the Region 9 Team



**Betty Bowen Vega**  
District 49 Chair

**Where do you live?** Maunawili, Kailua

**What does your 'ohana look like?** My spouse and I reared four sons and have been blessed with ten grandchildren—8 girls and 2 boys. Through marriages, our ohana has become more diverse with mixed ethnicities with every generation, from European Caucasians immigrating to the new world in 1674 to Native Americans, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in 2021—all embodied in our grandchildren.

**Why did you run for your position?** First, I was appointed District Chair due to a vacancy. Then, I ran for the position, was elected and two years later re-elected—serving almost five years now. I ran to encourage others to become part of the political process and to discover the many ways we can advocate for our communities.



**Lynn Marie Sager**  
District 50 Chair

**Where do you live?** I currently live in the home my family built when I was ten years old. My backyard is a canal that leads to Kaneohe bay. The road sign at the top of my street says that I live on a circle drive. That circle really consists of an old fishpond that someone once had the right to fill in. Now my family owns a small piece of it.

I spent several years being bullied at Puohala Elementary, and King Intermediate until finally finding safe harbor at Castle High School. After graduating from UH Manoa with High Honors, I made my life on the mainland, pursuing a career in drama and theater. I was like many who saw no future in staying in the Islands. I have been in several hundred plays, a couple of bad movies, visited twenty-six countries on the Department of Defense's dime, and basically had a full life.

When I was not working in theater, I was teaching. So, in 2009, when I decided to move home to be closer than a six thousand mile phone call from my aging parents, teaching is what I fell back on. My parents took me to my first Precinct meeting, where I discovered how few people understand their own party, and how quickly that party needs you to fill a job.

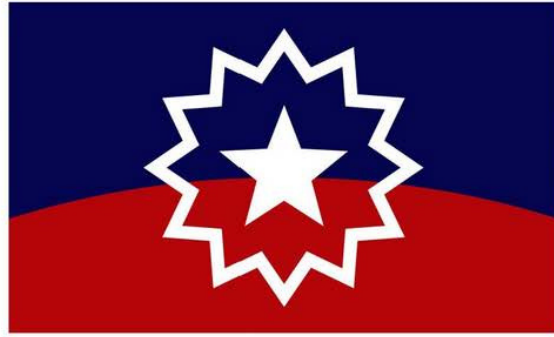
**What does your 'ohana look like?** My ohana is spread across the world—Molokai, Maui, Oregon, California, the Netherlands.

**Why did you run for your position?** I never ran for election. I was asked. I said yes. No one else wanted the job.

**Missing: Kory Rosette, District 51 Chair**

# 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

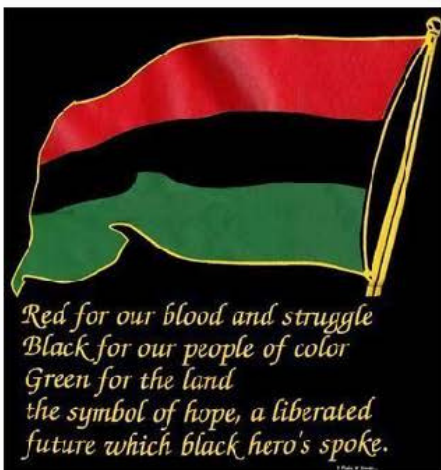
**Alphonso Braggs**, President Hawai'i NAACP

**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