

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.

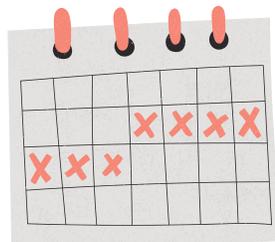
Legislative Priorities Survey

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 2

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O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
ISSUES RESOLUTION 2021-09

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MICHELE YOOKO MATSUO

Whereas, Michele Yooko Matsuo was born on September 1, 1956, the only child of Theodore "Ted" Seigoro and Dorothy Itsue (Nekomoto) Matsuo of Honolulu, and Michele's father, Ted, was a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, very active in the 442nd Veterans Club, and her mother, Dorothy, authored two books on the 442nd, *Boyhood to War – History and Anecdotes of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team*, and *Silent Valor – The Story of the 442nd Medics*; and

Whereas, With all of their family's focus on the Nisei veterans of World War II, Michele grew up surrounded by these brave men, attended their meetings and events, and remained close friends with them over the years, even after her father's passing in 2005, and Michele was exceptionally devoted to these Nisei veterans, assuring that their historic accomplishments would be remembered; and

Whereas, She was an active board member and secretary of the 442nd Veterans Club and a board member of the 442nd Legacy Center, whose mission was to perpetuate the memory of the Nisei soldiers and to care for the 442nd Veterans Club building in Mo'ili'ili; and

Whereas, Michele attended the University Lab School as her mother was a health services administrator at the University of Hawai'i (UH), Mānoa, and after graduating from college, she received her Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University, passed the Hawai'i bar examination and practiced law for 42 years in private practice; and

Whereas, Michele was a member of the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i representing Senate District 10 (2010-2012), District Chair for House District 23 in Manoa (2006-2008), served as chair of the Education Caucus (2016-2018), helped numerous Democratic Party political campaigns, giving political advice and oftentimes serving as a bridge between older Democrats, particularly Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) and younger Democrats, and she worked tirelessly for Democratic candidates since her childhood until her last day on Earth December 22, 2020, and she was deeply passionate in her fight for the protection of the indigenous pueo, the Hawaiian owl, in its UH West nesting grounds; and

Whereas, She served as a Commissioner on the Real Estate Commission in 1989 and dedicated her life to the Mānoa community through many organizations and the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, Michele served as Vice-President and Director of Allegra Publishing Company, Inc., and Vice-President and Director of family-owned Strategy Pacifica, Inc., her pride and joy was in her daughter, Allegra, where they started Allegra's clothing design business called "The Kitty Caffe" as they were both avid travelers specializing in clothing that could withstand the rigors of travel; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognize the legacy of Michele Matsuo as a steadfast member of the State Central Committee for Senate District 10, House District 23 Chair, dedicated champion of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Mānoa Community, and the legacy of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; and be it Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i honor the life of Michele Matsuo (September 1, 1956 to December 22, 2020) and acknowledge the impact she has left on the Democratic Party and the State of Hawai'i; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to her husband, Bradley John Mossman, her daughter, Allegra Somei Kealohikeaokalani Matsuo Mossman, and the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and all elected officials that are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; and the 442nd Veterans Club and 442nd Legacy Center.

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 & T.J. Jasper
Co-Chairs, Resolutions Committee



Meet Region 2 Chair Robert Zane!

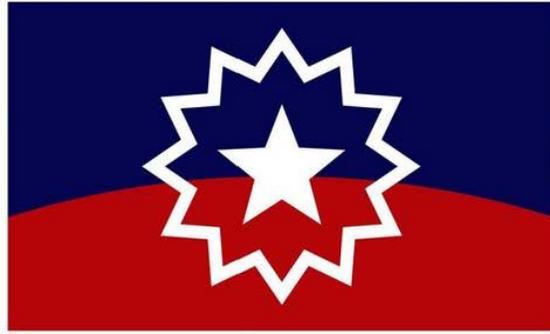
Hello! My name is Robert Zane and I am the Region 2 chairperson. I live in Manoa Valley where I help take care of my 93-years old grandmother and work full time as an attorney for the private law firm of Yoshida & Associates. I was asked to run for this position by one of the fellow members of the Manoa Neighborhood Board and I wanted to become more involved in the Democratic Party while also encouraging civic engagement and understanding in our communities. I look forward to hearing from you and working together to improve our community engagement and expand the Democratic Party here on Oahu.

At the recent O'ahu County Democrats eConvention on May 8, 2021, a resolution celebrating the life and accomplishments of Michele Matsuo 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

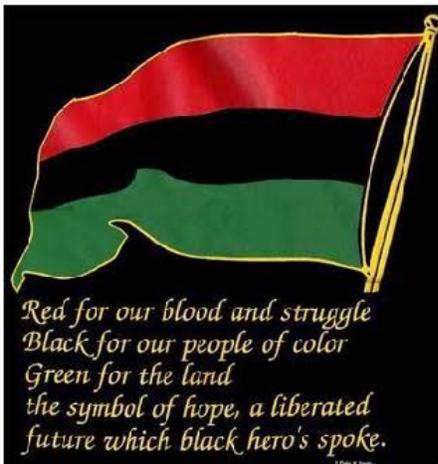
Alphonso Braggs, President Hawai'i NAACP

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