

Greetings, fellow Democrats!

District 4 - the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Puna - will hold its quarterly meeting beginning at 4 p.m. this Saturday, Aug. 15th, at the Nanawale Estates home of Frankie Stapleton.

The house is located 3rd street down Nanawale Blvd. on the right, Crystal Circle, turn R and it's the first house on the left (actually corner of Nanawale and Crystal), phone 965-8945 if you get lost. BYOB or pupus would be appreciated. Hope to see you all there.

We are looking forward to a report from Phil Barnes, an intriguing fundraising idea, and a possible town hall meeting with Rep. Mazie Hirono to discuss. So please attend and give your input.



Phil Barnes: No blue dogs here!

The year 2009 has been a busy one for active members of Hawaii County Democratic Party's 4th District, beginning in January with an Inaugural Ball celebrating the ascendancy of Hawaii-born Democrat Barack Obama to highest post in the United States of America, to, most recently, Volcano's 4th of July parade that celebrated the birth of the USA 233 years ago.



Ken Charon's painting of a body-surfing Barack Obama – seen here at Hilo's Election Eve Grand Rally – has provided District 4 with an extremely popular fundraising motif as well as inspiration!

District 4 Democrats led by Chairman Phil Barnes worked hard to make a reality of the dream expressed last fall by party members of staging an inaugural ball if Obama actually was elected to the presidency. Wonder of wonders, he was, and we did!



Then it was on to the Hawaii County Democratic Party Convention at Kilauea Military Camp on May 2. Hilo's Steve Pavao was elected to post of Hawaii County Democratic Party chair, with former Chair John Buckstead of Kona now serving as West Hawaii vice chair. Phil Barnes, formerly District 4 chair, was elected vice chairman for East Hawaii, Al Beeman of Hilo was elected county secretary, and Claudia Kane of Kona, assistant secretary. Following the election of the County Executive Committee, Dist. 4 members elected Frankie Stapleton to replace Barnes as chair of Dist. 4.



Post-Convention breakfast with Sen. Gary Hooser (blue shirt) and Josh Frost of Progressive Democrats of Hawaii (standing)

On the heels of the HCDP convention District 4 paired with convention host District 5 to stage a variety of community-building events at KMC over the weekend. Their post-convention presentations explored the latest in the Big Island's fight for the rural physicians residency program, Hawaiian sovereignty issues, and at a Progressive Democrats' breakfast on Sunday,

discussion centered on clean elections, the Hawaii County 2% land fund, civil unions legislation and more. Hal Glatzer and his Downtown Swing Band got everyone's feet tapping as the Democrats, including 103-year-old Sara Mae Landers, took to the Lava Lounge dance floor.



RoxAnne Lawson, at left, Sara Burgess, and Sara Mae Landers, at right, are among the most active Democrats from the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Puna. For more pix of the HCDF County Convention and Post-Convention activities, see District 5's link on this website. Dist. 5 Chair Sara Witt got some great shots too!

News was made at the post-convention Hawaiian issues forum when Jon Osorio, PhD., moderated the discussion on the Akaka Bill's pros and cons, ceded lands, nation building and Kau Inoa. Panelists were Oz Stender, Bishop Estate trustee; Mililani Trask, UN representative and one of the Akaka Bill originators who now opposes the current Akaka Bill; Angel Pilago, former

Hawaii County Councilman; and Jade Danner, a young Hawaiian businesswoman and activist. The Democratic Party and the KMC audience totally appreciated the enlightening discussion by such distinguished leaders of the Hawaiian community.

For those who would like to view and hear the Hawaiian issues forum on the internet, go Dave Corrigan's bigislandvideonews.com and click on the Hawaiian issues archive. There are nine excellent clips at that site. In addition, Wendell Ka'ehu'ae videotaped the forum and produced an 80-minute program for Na Leo O Hawaii public access TV. The public access station is willing to reschedule the show if requested and Wendell presented the 4th District with a DVD copy of the program, for anyone who would like to view it. Thanks so much to Wendell and Dave for helping the public have access to such an informative and revealing discussion of Hawaiian sovereignty issues!

The heady topics were put aside on July 4th as Democrats worldwide celebrated the birth of our nation. District 4 joined District 5 in Volcano's delightful Independence Day Parade. It was a great day!



Mayor Billy Kenoī, at right, with Elvis (Dan Nix) and Mrs. George Mason IV (ancestor of Frankie Stapleton, District 4 chair)