

RULES OF THE HAWAI'I COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
As Amended at County Convention May 6, 2006

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SECTION 1. ORGANIZATION:

There shall be THE HAWAI'I COUNTY COMMITTEE (hereafter referred to as "HCC") in the Hawai'i County Democratic Party which shall consist of the elected officers of the HCC and elected officers of each of the District Councils. A member of the HCC must:

- A. Be a member of the Hawai'i Democratic Party; and,
- B. Physically reside in the County of Hawai'i at a specific address in the district and precinct listed by the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

SECTION 2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Members of the HCC Executive Committee shall be the HCC Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson for East Hawai'i, the Vice Chairperson for West Hawai'i, not more than two secretaries, a treasurer, and the District Council Chairpersons.

SECTION 3. OFFICER ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATIONS:

Any member of the party residing in the County of Hawai'i may be elected an Officer of the HCC. If a District Chairperson, Precinct President, or District Council Representative is elected as an HCC Officer, that person shall automatically vacate the lesser office. Any person who wishes to be a candidate for Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, or male/female county representative to the State Central Committee, shall file nomination papers with the HCC Secretary

at least ten days prior to the County Convention. Nominations from the floor, signed by not less than ten members of the Party shall also be permitted.

SECTION 4. DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

The duties of the officers of the HCC shall be those usually pertaining to the office concerned and specifically include any duties imposed by these rules.

- A. The Chairperson of the HCC shall have the power and duty to appoint Chairpersons and members of all special and standing committees unless otherwise specified, with the advice and consent of the HCC. The Chairperson shall consult with the Vice Chairperson for East Hawai'i and the Vice Chairperson for West Hawai'i in all committee appointments and balance the membership of all committees with members from all Representative Districts. The Chairperson shall be responsible for the calling of all meetings of the HCC, the giving of proper notice, and the arranging for meeting places for both regular and special meetings. The Chairperson shall also be responsible for attending meetings of the State Central Committee and its select committees, and for reporting the proceedings at such meetings to the next regular meeting of the HCC. The County Chairperson shall also be responsible to provide all Precinct Presidents a copy of the Rules of the Hawai'i County Democratic Party, at a minimum, and Articles I, II, III, and IV of the General Laws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, if money permits.
- B. The Vice Chairperson for East Hawai'i shall reside in either the First, Second, Third or Fourth Representative District and shall be responsible for carrying on the functions of the Chairperson in assisting District Council Chairpersons of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Representative Districts in carrying out their responsibilities.
- C. The Vice Chairperson for West Hawai'i shall reside in either the Fifth, Sixth or Seventh Representative District and shall be responsible for carrying on the functions of the Chairperson in assisting District Council Chairpersons of the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Representative Districts in carrying out their responsibilities.
- D. The Secretary(ies) shall be charged with keeping accurate minutes of all meetings of the HCC and Executive Committee. These minutes shall be properly typewritten and entered along with all written reports of officers and special and standing committees in a book maintained for that purpose and turned over intact to the succeeding Secretary. The Secretary(ies) shall also have primary responsibility for the care and maintenance of membership records and will provide all records and changes to the State Central Committee and the Secretary of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i as the official keeper of the membership records. Membership records shall be kept on computer in a standard database program. The Secretary(ies) shall be responsible for seeing that these records are available for inspection by interested Democrats at all reasonable times. The membership lists, certified as correct to the best of their knowledge and belief shall be turned over intact to the new secretary at the end of the Secretary's term of office.

- E. The Treasurer shall be primarily responsible for financial accounting for all fund raising activities within the County and shall have custody of the HCC Treasury, which shall be deposited in a commercial bank in the name of the HCC. The Treasurer shall submit a written report at each regular meeting of the HCC. The Treasurer shall be responsible for seeing that all moneys collected in the name of the HCC is collected by duly authorized and identified persons, that receipts are given to all contributors, and that a strict accounting is kept of all funds collected. The Treasurer shall be bonded in a reasonable amount determined by the HCC, and the premium will be paid from HCC funds. The Treasurer shall sign all checks written on HCC's account, which checks shall be counter-signed by one of the following officers of HCC in consecutive order, Chairperson, Vice Chairperson for East Hawai'i, Vice Chairperson for West Hawai'i, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary.

SECTION 5. TERM OF OFFICE:

- A. The members of the HCC who are elected from their District Councils shall be members of the HCC coterminous with their term of office on the District Council.
- B. The term of HCC officers elected at the Hawai'i County Convention shall be from their election for the next two years until the next election at the next County Convention.
- C. The Treasurer shall be responsible for compliance with all laws concerning financial reporting required of HCC, such as campaign spending laws. In the event the Treasurer fails to comply with the Campaign Spending Commission laws and administrative rules, the Treasurer may be removed from office by decision of the Executive Committee of the HCC. The Treasurer's removal shall be effective as of the date a successor is appointed. The Chairperson of the HCC shall promptly appoint a successor upon such removal and the confirmation of the appointment shall be decided at the next scheduled meeting of the HCC by the members in attendance.
- D. Any officer found by a majority vote of the HCC to have intentionally violated any rule shall be given a letter on the first such instance detailing in what way the rule was violated and the steps taken to repair any damage. Any subsequent violation of any rule by the same officer affirmed by a majority vote will subject the officer to removal from office by a two-thirds vote of the HCC and the office shall be declared vacant and filled according to these rules.

SECTION 6. VACANCIES:

- A. County Chairperson. In the event the office of the County Chairperson, becomes vacant, the Vice Chairperson representing East or West Hawai'i sets of Representative Districts which the vacating County Chairperson represented shall automatically become Chairperson. The new Chairperson shall, with the approval of the Hawai'i County Committee, appoint a new Vice Chairperson representing the vacated seat. The New Chairperson shall appoint any member to any of the Hawai'i

County Democratic Party vacancies with the advice and consent of the Hawai'i County Committee.

- B. Other vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled by appointment by the Chairperson with the advice and consent of the HCC except the district chairs. If the Chairperson fails to appoint a person to fill a vacant position by the time of the first meeting following occurrence of the vacancy then the HCC shall appoint a person to fill the vacant position.
- C. When the Chairperson or a District Chairperson files to run for public office, that office shall be deemed vacant.

SECTION 7. MEETINGS, NOTICE, ATTENDANCE:

- A. Regular meetings of the HCC shall be held at least once every three months with the intent of holding meetings in different districts of the island. Electronic attendance by teleconferencing, videoconferencing or other equivalent means is acceptable, if feasible. Notice of meetings shall be given in person or by telephone or by fax/modem or e-mail or by mailing such notice to the last known address of each member not less than ten calendar days prior to the meeting. Failing a meeting to be called by the Chairperson at least once every three months, a meeting shall be called by either the Vice Chairperson for East Hawai'i or the Vice Chairperson for West Hawai'i or by no fewer than four District Council Chairs.
- B. A special meeting may be held at any time by call of the Chairperson or upon written request submitted to the Secretary or Chairperson by not less than twenty-five percent of the total membership. Notice of a special meeting shall be given as in 7A.
- C. No matter relating to platform, changes to rules or the platform may be enacted by the HCC unless the matters to be enacted have been designated in the proper meeting notice.

SECTION 8. QUORUM:

The HCC shall determine its own quorum rules at the first meeting of its term except that the quorum must be at least thirty-three percent of its membership.

SECTION 9. STANDING COMMITTEES:

The Standing Committees of the HCC shall consist of at least the following:

- A. Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall act as Chairperson of the Finance Committee and shall be responsible for raising and accounting for funds within the County.
- B. Appointments Committee. The Appointments Committee shall be responsible for receiving, processing and forwarding to the proper persons all recommendations for

appointments. The Committee shall also obtain and compile information on job openings and forward such information to the Districts and Precincts.

C. Organization Committee. The Organization Committee shall help organize or reorganize new or inactive District Councils and Precinct Clubs, encourage the registration of voters and compile necessary and pertinent information on voting within the County.

D. Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee shall be charged with compiling information on worthwhile legislative projects in keeping with the Party Platforms; drafting or having drafted appropriate measures and cooperating with the proper officials and members of the HCC and State Legislature and County Council in having such legislation introduced and passed. The Chairperson of the Legislative Committee shall report to the HCC at its regular meetings on the activities of the Committee and on the cooperation received from the various elected officials and board members.

E. Campaign Committee. The Campaign Committee shall be responsible for coordinating an effective Primary and General Election Campaign.

1. The Campaign Committee shall include:
 - (a) A Chairperson appointed by the HCC Chairperson who shall only vote to break a tie
 - (b) One representative of each candidate committee
 - (c) One member from each District Council.
2. The Campaign Committee shall organize Candidate Forums and/or Rallies in each of the Representative Districts of the County. All Candidates filed as Democrats are eligible to participate. A moderate fee to defray expenses shall be assessed on each candidate as a condition of participation as determined by the Committee.
3. A General Election Campaign Brochure shall be prepared by the Campaign Committee listing all Democratic Candidates on the ballot. Candidates shall be assessed a reasonable fee for this purpose. Advertising in at least two daily newspapers of the island shall constitute a 'brochure' if so designated by the committee.

F. Education Committee. The Education Committee shall promote understanding of the Party structure and voting procedures, and encourage participation in the Democratic Party.

G. Rules Committee. The Rules Committee shall perform the duties assigned by these rules or the HCC Chairperson and other duties approved from time to time by the HCC or the County Convention. The chairman of the Rules Committee shall serve as Parliamentarian during meetings of the HCC.

SECTION 10. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

It shall be the duty of the HCC to establish and maintain an active and effective Party organization within the County, to inform Democrats within the County of Party policy, and activities to ensure as large a vote as possible for Party candidates in the elections.

- A. To affect these ends, the HCC may adopt positions consistent with the Party Platform adopted by the State and County Conventions, and take such steps as necessary to encourage officials of the County and State, elected and appointed, in the name of the Democratic Party to observe the platforms and principles of the Party.
- B. It shall be the duty of the HCC to cooperate in carrying out the policies and programs of the State Central Committee.

SECTION 11. COUNTY CONVENTION: TIME, PLACE AND NOTICE:

- A. The meeting to elect the officers of the HCC and the two (2) Hawai'i County at-large Representatives to the State Central Committee shall be held in even-numbered years on the first week end of May as part of the County Convention.
- B. The time and place of the Hawai'i County Convention shall be designated by the HCC Chairperson with the advice and consent of the HCC members. Notice of the place and time shall be mailed to the delegates thirty days prior to the date of the convention.
- C. Delegates to the Convention shall include the officers of the Executive Committee and 25 delegates and 5 alternates from each of the seven districts, as determined by the District Council provided that each Precinct Club shall be entitled to at least one delegate.
- D. The President of each Precinct Club shall be notified of the number of Delegates from that Precinct Club at least 10 days prior to the Biennial Election of Precinct Club officers.
- E. County convention delegates and alternates shall be elected at the Biennial Precinct Club meetings from the eligible Precinct members based on equal gender representation whenever possible.
- F. All County Convention Committee members must be voting members of the Convention.
- G. The Chairperson may appoint Pre-convention Committee chairpersons with the approval of the HCC. The date, time and location of all Pre-convention Committee meetings shall be announced at the biennial precinct elections. All Pre-convention Committees shall convene at the same date, time and location at least 13 days prior to the County Convention.

SECTION 12. COUNTY CONVENTION RULES:

- A. The HCC may adopt rules for the proper conduct of its business not inconsistent or in conflict with the General Laws of the Hawai'i State Democratic Party.
- B. The HCC shall be empowered to make the final decision on the interpretation of these rules subject to appeal to the SCC.
- C. The Hawai'i County Convention shall have the power to amend these rules at its Biennial Meeting subject to approval by the State Central Committee or the State Convention.

SECTION 13. ADOPTION OF HCC RULES:

- A. The HCC shall submit the proposed rules to the State Central Committee within thirty days of adoption. Upon determination by the SCC that the proposed rules or rules changes are not inconsistent with the General Laws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the HCC rules and rules changes shall become effective.
- B. Once the new rules are approved by the SCC, Sections 1 through 10 of Article IV of the General Laws shall no longer apply to the HCC.
- C. In the event the HCC fails to submit the proposed rules for ratification, or if such rules are not ratified as stated in SECTION A above, then Sections I through 10 of Article IV of the General Laws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall remain applicable to the HCC.

SECTION 14. RULES OF CONDUCT:

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall apply to all HCC meetings where not inconsistent with these rules.

2006 Hawai'i County Democratic Party Platform

Preamble

The abiding values of the Democratic Party are liberty, social justice, compassion and respect for the dignity and worth of the individual. These principles and our quality of life must always be protected. As the party of the people, we Hawai'i County Democrats commit ourselves to these values.

Education

Democracy depends on an educated electorate; thus, education of Hawai'i's people is a top priority. The public education system must provide comprehensive, lifelong education that equips our citizens to pursue their ambition and to be informed participants in the democratic process.

Economic Development

The economy of Hawai'i County is based on our natural, aesthetic, and cultural resources. Maintenance of these resources, particularly our rural ambience, is essential for sustainable economic development. We support diversified agriculture and encourage value-added products and the "Buy Hawai'i" program. We recognize the need for sustainable economic activity, and a living wage and affordable housing for all. We must protect workers' rights to organize without reprisal.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Recognizing that there is a transportation crisis on the Big Island, we support urgent development of transportation systems, bus service, shuttles, bike trails and adequate alternative traffic routes.

Energy

We support energy independence and self-sufficiency for Hawai'i County through the urgent development of renewable alternative energy sources. We commit to independence from off-island energy by 2020

Environment

The Democratic Party believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased citizen involvement in protecting our resources. We support programs that encourage clean efficient creative and environmental friendly modes of transportation and solid waste management.

We oppose any dumping of any toxic substance into our coastal waters from county, state, and federal entities including military and support the funding for the enforcement prohibiting the dumping of any toxic substances.

Culture

Recognizing Hawai'i's diverse people, our history and our culture as valuable resources, we Democrats encourage and support the expression of these diverse cultures. We celebrate the unique importance of Native Hawai'ians to our collective culture. We support the right of the Native Hawai'ians to reach their own settlement of unresolved issues with the state and federal governments.

Family

We affirm that the right to define "family" resides with the individual, not the state. We support a woman's right to

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choose.

Health and Human Services

As Democrats, we support creation and maintenance of programs that protect the health and welfare of all citizens. We believe a "safety net" is critical to working families and vulnerable populations. We support Hawai'i's continuing leadership in pursuit of universal health care.

Affordable Housing

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i County recognizes the lack of adequate, accessible, affordable, and safe housing on the Big Island. We support efforts to provide affordable employee housing near places of employment.

Government

We believe health, public safety, and well-being of the community are the primary responsibilities of County government, and these must always be balanced with personal liberty.

We affirm Government operations at County level shall abide by rules of law and shall be efficient, effective, accountable, and open to everyone.

Conclusion

We Hawai'i Democrats commit to a renewed sense of aloha, a spirit of openness, and mutual respect. With this spirit, we can assure that Hawai'i will remain a special place for all who call this island home.