

1 THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI‘I
2 AS AMENDED ON MAY 27, 2018
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3 **ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP**

4 **Section 1. General.**

5 The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall be open to all persons who desire to support the Party,
6 who wish to be known as Democrats, and who live in Hawai‘i.

7 The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i believes that its primary election, a state-imposed mandatory
8 nomination procedure, ought to be open to participation of only such persons as are willing to
9 declare their affiliation with and support for the Party, either through public registration to vote,
10 or through maintenance of membership in the Party. The Party further believes that the current
11 Constitution and laws of the State of Hawai‘i, by maintaining secrecy of affiliation, and by
12 compelling the Party to admit to its nomination procedures those who may have no interest in, or
13 actually oppose the interests, values, and platform of the Party, do violence to the Party’s
14 associational freedoms and the individual freedoms of its membership to define their own
15 political views, guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States. The State Central
16 Committee and Party Chairperson shall take appropriate action to correct this injustice.

17
18 **Section 2. Enrollment.**

19 The procedure for enrollment in the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall be as provided in the
20 Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

21
22 **Section 3. Candidates for public office and current or former office-holders of either a
23 partisan or non-partisan office changing Party affiliation.**

24 Current or former elected officials of either a partisan or non-partisan office requesting to switch
25 from another party to the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall be as provided in the Bylaws of the
26 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

27
28 **Section 4. Official Records.**

29 The Secretary of the State Central Committee shall be the official custodian of the membership
30 records of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

31
32 **Section 5. Disciplinary Action.**

33 A member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall be subject to expulsion, reprimand, or
34 censure for reasons and in keeping with procedures provided in the Bylaws of the Democratic
35 Party of Hawai‘i.

36
37 **ARTICLE II – PRECINCT CLUB**

38
39 **Section 1. Definition.**

40 The Precinct Club shall be the basic unit of the Party organization. There shall be one Precinct
41 Club in each precinct, as defined by law.

42
43 **Section 2. Organization.**

44 Initial organization of a Precinct Club shall be under the jurisdiction of the District Council of
45 the district within which the precinct is located. A Precinct Club, once organized and recognized
46 by the District Council, shall be the constituted body having jurisdiction in the precinct.

1 Thereafter, no other Precinct Club in the same precinct may be organized unless and until such
2 time as the club of record shall be declared by the Executive Committee of the District Council
3 to be inactive as defined in this section and as further provided in the Bylaws of the Democratic
4 Party of Hawai‘i.
5

6 **Section 3. Biennial Election of Precinct Officers and Delegates to the State Convention.**

7 3A. The Precinct Club shall meet to elect officers, delegates, and alternates as provided for
8 herein and further provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, on the first
9 Wednesday of March in every even numbered year or at such other times as may be determined
10 by the State Central Committee (“the biennial election meeting”). Elections shall be by ballot if
11 requested by any member present.
12

13 3B. Where no meeting is held because a quorum of one (1) person is not attained at the biennial
14 election meeting, it shall be the duty of the members of that Precinct Club to attempt
15 immediately a successful meeting. Where no officers have been elected in the current biennium,
16 any member of the precinct may, by written petition to the respective District Council, request
17 the initiation of precinct reorganization, as further described in the Bylaws of the Democratic
18 Party of Hawai‘i.
19

20 **Section 4. Officers of Precinct Club.**

21 4A. The elected officers of the Precinct Club shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a
22 Secretary, a Treasurer and the Precinct’s District Councilperson. The Precinct Club may elect
23 such other officers and alternates, including an Alternate District Councilperson for offices as it
24 may deem necessary and may combine any two (2) offices except those of President, First Vice-
25 President and the Precinct’s District Councilperson. Precinct Club officers shall not be required
26 to relinquish their positions if elected or appointed to the State Central Committee.
27

28 4B. Each officer shall take office immediately upon election and shall hold office from the time
29 of election until a successor is duly elected, or until said officer moves out of the precinct.
30

31 4C. Vacancies in any officer position shall be filled as provided in the DPH Bylaws.
32

33 **Section 5. Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention.**

34 Each Precinct Club shall elect delegates to the State Convention as contained in the official Call
35 of the Party, subject to the composition requirements as provided for in the Bylaws of the
36 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. Election of alternates should be subject to the composition
37 requirements as provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. In the event the
38 certified roster indicates insufficient membership for an equal number of alternates, the Precinct
39 Club shall decide the number of alternates to be elected. No person shall vote in a meeting of
40 more than one (1) Precinct Club held for the purpose of electing delegates/alternates to the State
41 Convention.
42

43 **Section 6. Use of the Name of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.**

44 No Precinct Club or combination of Precinct Clubs, or members of clubs, or committees shall be
45 permitted to use the name of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i without first obtaining express and
46 specific consent and authority of the appropriate County Committee or State Central Committee.

1
2 **Section 7. Club Rules.**

3 Each Precinct Club may adopt rules for the proper conduct of its business not inconsistent or in
4 conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i or the Bylaws and
5 Rules of the applicable County Committee.
6

7
8 **ARTICLE III -DISTRICT COUNCIL**
9

10 **Section 1. Organization.**

11 There shall be a District Council in each Representative District which shall consist of all the
12 Precinct Presidents and District Councilpersons of each Precinct Club and the duly elected
13 Chairperson. Counties may include the Precinct First Vice-President.
14

15 **Section 2. Officers.**

16 Officers of a District Council shall be a District Chairperson, not more than three (3) Vice-
17 Chairpersons, not more than two (2) Secretaries, and a Treasurer. The offices of the Secretary
18 and Treasurer may be held by one (1) person. The officers of the District Council shall
19 constitute the Executive Committee. Vacancies in any officer position shall be filled as provided
20 in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.
21

22 **Section 3. Term of office.**

23 The District Council, excepting the District Chairperson, shall take office no later than two
24 weeks after the biennial District Council meeting and end at the time of the election of a
25 successor but in no event past the two weeks after the biennial District Council meeting.
26

27 **Section 4. Meetings.**

28 Regular meetings of the District Council shall be held at least three (3) times a year at such time
29 and place as the Chairperson designates.
30

31 **Section 5. Duties and Responsibilities of the District Council.**

32 5A. The District Council, at its first meeting on the first Tuesday in April, shall hear all
33 challenges concerning the results of the biennial Precinct Club elections that may be brought
34 before it by any Party member residing in the District. The District Council shall, not later than
35 the second Tuesday in April, rule on every challenge concerning a Precinct Officer, or
36 concerning the validity of a vote on, or the eligibility of a person voting on any question other
37 than the election of State Convention Delegates.
38

39 5B. The District Council shall consider challenges concerning delegates to the State Convention
40 as provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.
41

42 5C. It shall be the duty of the District Council to establish and maintain an active and effective
43 Party organization within its district to inform Democrats within the District of Party policy and
44 activities, and to ensure as large a vote as possible for Party candidates in the election.
45

46 5D. To affect these ends, the District Council may adopt District platforms, consistent with the

1 Party Platform adopted by the State Convention, and take such steps as are necessary to
2 encourage officials of the District elected or appointed in the name of the Party to observe the
3 Platform and Principles of the Party.
4

5 **Section 6. District Council Rules.**

6 Each District may adopt rules for the proper conduct of its business not inconsistent or in conflict
7 with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i or the Bylaws and Rules of
8 the applicable County Committee.
9

10
11 **ARTICLE IV -COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS**
12

13 **Section 1. Organization.**

14 There shall be a County Organization in each County which will consist of all members of the
15 Party residing in that County. Between their respective County Conventions, the affairs of each
16 County shall be subject to a County Committee: O‘ahu County Committee, Hawai‘i County
17 Committee, Maui County Committee, and Kaua‘i County Committee.
18

19 **Section 2. Rules for the Adoption of Respective County Organization Bylaws and Rules.**

20 2A. It is the purpose and intent of this rule to authorize and require the respective County
21 Organizations, consisting of all members of the Party residing in that County, to adopt their own
22 bylaws and rules to meet the desires and needs of the individual counties, so long as between
23 their respective County Conventions, the affairs of each County shall be subject to a County
24 Committee.
25

26 2B. The bylaws and bylaws amendments of a County Organization shall first be ratified by the
27 State Central Committee. If the State Central Committee fails to certify the bylaws and bylaws
28 amendments proposed by a County Committee, that County Committee may at the next State
29 Convention appeal for ratification of such bylaws amendments by the Convention.
30

31 2C. Changes to the County Bylaws required to conform or comply with amendments to the State
32 Constitution and/or Bylaws may be affected and adopted by the County Committees within 90
33 days of adoption by the State Party, or, after that time, by the State Central Committee.
34
35

36 **ARTICLE V -STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**
37

38 **Section 1. Membership.**

39 1A. There shall be a State Central Committee consisting of elected and ex-officio members
40 apportioned as follows:
41

- 42 (1) Elected members-at-large:
43 (a) Party Chairperson;
44 (b) National Committeeman;
45 (c) National Committeewoman;
46 (d) Youth Representatives, two (2) representatives of different genders,

- 1 between the ages of 18 and through age 35, inclusive; and
2 (e) Caucus Representatives, two (2) representatives of different genders for
3 each caucus certified by the State Central Committee.
4 (2) Elected members, two (2) representatives of different genders, from each
5 Senatorial District, with the exception of the Senatorial District(s) which cover
6 more than one County, but only in compliance with Section 1A(5) of this Article
7 and elected Democratic Party of Hawai'i Caucus members, two (2)
8 representatives of different genders, as provided in Section 7 of this Article;
9 (3) Elected County Representatives from each County, two (2) representatives of
10 different genders;
11 (4) Ex-officio members:
12 (a) Immediate Past Party Chairperson, and
13 (b) County Chairpersons.
14 (5) Two (2) representatives of different genders elected from each County of a
15 Senatorial District which covers more than one County.
16 (6) One (1) Senator appointed by the Democratic Leader of the Senate and one (1)
17 Representative appointed by the Democratic Leader of the House (alternating
18 gender to maintain gender balance).
19

20 1B. Each elected, appointed, and ex-officio member of the State Central Committee or that
21 member's successor shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
22

23 **Section 2. Elections.**

24 2A. The members of the State Central Committee, except County, Caucus and Youth
25 Representatives on the State Central Committee, shall be elected at the Democratic State
26 Convention by the delegates as designated pursuant to the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of
27 Hawai'i. The County Representatives on the State Central Committee shall be elected by the
28 Convention delegates from their respective County at the County Convention. The Caucus and
29 Youth Representatives on the State Central Committee shall be democratically elected by their
30 respective members as determined by their bylaws.
31

32 County committees may choose to elect all their representatives to the State Central Committee
33 at their County Conventions held in even-numbered years, provided that:
34

- 35 (1) The number of signatures required for nomination would be consistent with the
36 Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i;
37 (2) There would be a single deadline for the filing of nomination papers for all
38 County State Central Committee positions and it would be 10 days before the
39 County Convention at which the elections would be held;
40 (3) The persons eligible to vote would be limited to those members of the Democratic
41 Party of Hawai'i living in the Senate District or County that candidates are
42 seeking to represent; and
43 (4) The County Committee has amended its bylaws to reflect its choice.
44

45 Caucuses and Youth Representatives may choose to elect all their representatives to the State
46 Central Committee via a democratic process held in even-numbered years, provided that:

- 1
2 (1) The number of signatures required for nomination would be consistent with the
3 Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i;
4 (2) The filing of nomination papers for all Caucuses and Youth Representatives will
5 be thirty (30) days before the meeting at which the elections will be held;
6 (3) The persons eligible to vote would be limited to those members of the Democratic
7 Party of Hawai‘i that are also members of the organization that they are seeking to
8 represent; and
9 (4) The organization has amended its bylaws to reflect its choice.

10
11 2B. In addition to the Party Chairperson, who shall also be the Chairperson of the State Central
12 Committee, the elected officers of the State Central Committee shall be a Vice-Chairperson, a
13 Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer. The foregoing
14 officers, excepting the Chairperson, shall be elected by the members of the State Central
15 Committee from its membership. No candidate for public office or other person who serves as
16 the Chairperson, Treasurer, or Deputy Treasurer on a campaign committee shall be an officer of
17 the State Central Committee. They shall serve until their successors have been elected, provided,
18 however, that any officer may be removed for cause by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all
19 the members of the State Central Committee, at a meeting called for that purpose.

20
21 2C. The Chairperson of the State Central Committee may appoint other Vice-Chairpersons from
22 the membership of the State Central Committee, as the Chairperson may deem necessary or
23 proper with the consent of the State Central Committee.

24
25 **Section 3. Vacancies.**

26 When the Party Chairperson files to run for or is appointed to elective public office, with the
27 exception of the State Constitutional Convention delegate, the Party office shall automatically be
28 deemed vacant. Vacancies in the membership of the State Central Committee shall be filled as
29 provided in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

30
31 **Section 4. Tenure-Interim.**

32 The tenure of the interim Party Chairperson shall be until a successor is elected at the next
33 succeeding State Convention.

34
35 **Section 5. Power and Duties.**

36 The State Central Committee shall:

- 37
38 (5) Have general supervision over the affairs of the Party.
39
40 (6) Call all State Conventions and make the necessary arrangements therefore.
41
42 (7) Call all State Conventions and make the necessary arrangements therefore. It shall
43 adopt standing rules for the State Convention prior to the precinct meetings,
44 subject to confirmation by a majority of the votes cast by Convention delegates.
45
46 (8) Allocate and extend such monies as are properly under the control of the

1 Committee. Such funds shall be deposited at a commercial bank in the name of
2 the Party by the Treasurer. The Committee shall require the Treasurer to be
3 bonded in such amounts to the Committee may appear proper (premium therefore
4 to be paid by the Party), to submit a written report to the State Convention, and to
5 submit such other reports written or otherwise, as the Committee will require.
6

- 7 (9) Adopt written policies and procedures based upon generally accepted accounting
8 and fiscal practices and principles.
9
- 10 (10) Ensure that all fund raising projects undertaken in the name of the Democratic
11 Party of Hawai'i be conducted according to the accounting policies and practices
12 adopted by the State Central Committee.
13
- 14 (11) Prepare legislation and take such other action as may be necessary to cause the
15 principles set forth in the Party Platform to be enacted into law.
16
- 17 (12) Take all necessary steps to ensure a full slate of Democratic Party candidates for
18 all elective offices within the State of Hawai'i.
19
- 20 (13) Have authority to charter statewide subsidiary organizations within the
21 Democratic Party of Hawai'i to further the goals of the Party. Each chartered
22 organization shall submit proposed bylaws or rules and amendments to the State
23 Central Committee within ninety (90) days of adoption and may from time to time
24 be required to submit a progress report listing its accomplishments for the
25 preceding year. Upon determination that the proposed bylaws, rules or rule
26 changes are consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party
27 of Hawai'i, such bylaws, rules or rule changes shall become effective. The
28 Committee shall reserve the authority to withdraw the charter of any group which
29 shall in the opinion of the Committee, fail to abide by the principles of the
30 Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and as further provided for in the Bylaws of the
31 Democratic Party of Hawai'i.
32
- 33 (14) Allocate and remit funds from the Party treasury to the Democratic National
34 Committee.
35
- 36 (15) Have power to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution
37 and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i for the governance of itself, its
38 committees and the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.
39
- 40 (16) Implement the Party's Affirmative Action Plan.
41
- 42 (17) Have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be reasonably
43 implied from the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i or
44 incidental to the carrying out of its functions.
45
- 46 (18) Exercise power from Convention to Convention to make interim changes to the

1 Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and the bylaws, rules and regulations
2 of the County Committees, when mandated by the Democratic National
3 Committee for compliance to Rules, Party structure, Delegate selection and Party
4 Charter.

5
6 (19) Remove a member of the State Central Committee who has accrued three
7 absences from regular State Central Committee meetings. For National
8 Committeeman and National Committeewoman, removal would occur when six
9 absences accrue.

10
11 (20) Candidate Statement Forms are to be kept and distributed in accordance with the
12 Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, including the formation of a special
13 committee for implementation.

14
15 **Section 6. Meetings.**

16 6A. Immediately after the adjournment of the State Convention, which shall have elected State
17 Central Committee persons, the members of the new State Central Committee (including its ex-
18 officio members) shall meet for the purpose of organizing and electing its officers.

19
20 6B. The State Central Committee shall meet at least once every three (3) months.

21
22 6C. The State Central Committee shall determine its own quorum rules except that it shall not be
23 less than forty (40) percent of its members.

24
25 6D. At least one (1) meeting of the State Central Committee shall be held in each county every
26 biennium.

27
28 6E. The Party Chairperson shall have the authority to call a special meeting. A special meeting
29 shall also be held upon written request of at least a majority of the Executive Committee
30 and a majority of the State Central Committee. Special meetings shall require not less than five
31 (5) days prior notice to the members of the State Central Committee.

32
33 **Section 7. Caucuses.**

34 7A. Establishment. The State Central Committee may certify autonomous caucuses that
35 represent historically disempowered or under-represented constituencies due to current or past
36 inequality under law, discrimination, social prejudices, or economic injustice, provided the
37 minimal criteria are met.

38
39 7B. Criteria. Party members, formally organized based upon a historically disempowered,
40 legitimate constituency as described in Section 7A of this Article, may apply for certification as a
41 Democratic Party of Hawai'i Caucus. Certification of a caucus by the State Central Committee
42 shall be based on minimal criteria described in Section 7A and in the Bylaws of the Democratic
43 Party of Hawai'i.

44
45 7C. Membership. Only active and associate Democratic Party of Hawai'i members may
46 participate in a Democratic Party of Hawai'i Caucus.

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7D. Nomination and Filing. Each Caucus and Youth Democrats shall certify eligible nominees of different genders to elect two (2) representatives of different genders to the State Central Committee. Procedures and qualifications for the candidate and the election process shall be specified in the bylaws of each caucus and Youth Democrats. If a Caucus' Bylaws does not specify nomination procedures or qualifications by 2018, then a caucus member nominated by five (5) other members of the Caucus before the deadline for State Central Committee nominations shall be certified an eligible nominee. In the event a Caucus fails to certify an eligible nominee as specified in the Caucus Bylaw, appeal may be made to the Convention Credentials Committee. If the State Convention accepts a Credentials Committee report that rules the nominee should have been certified as eligible in accord with the Caucus' Bylaws, the nominee shall stand as a Caucus candidate for State Central Committee at the State Convention.

Section 8. Committees.

The State Central Committee shall appoint standing committees on Finance, Platform, Legislation, Rules, Affirmative Action, Membership, Fundraising, Communications, Community Relations, Convention, Campaign, and Compliance Review.

Section 9. Executive Committee.

9A. The elected and appointed officers as designated herein, the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and the National Committeeman and the National Committeewoman and each County Chairperson shall constitute the Executive Committee of the State Central Committee.

9B. The Executive Committee shall meet once each quarter at the call of its Chairperson or upon written request of not less than five (5) members of the Executive Committee filed with the Secretary of the Executive Committee. Notice of each meeting shall be given by the Secretary at least three (3) days before the date of the meeting.

9C. A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Executive Committee. No proxies may be used by any member of this Executive Committee.

9D. The Executive Committee shall have full charge of matters within the authority of the State Central Committee between meetings of the State Central Committee.

Section 10. Financial Reports.

10A. All officers, and members of the State Central Committee, who in the name of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, engage in fund raising activities or have the responsibility of making disbursements and receiving assessments, contributions or gifts, shall be responsible for a strict accounting of all funds received or disbursed. A full and complete report in writing shall be submitted to the Executive Committee within a reasonable time after the completion of a project or term or at the request of the Party Chairperson or the Treasurer or the Executive Committee. This section shall apply to any other person appointed by this body. In addition, the treasury books and accounts of the State Central Committee shall be audited between March 1st and May 1st of the year in which the State Central Committee is elected. The auditor's report shall be available at the State Convention, and at the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Headquarters

1 for inspection by any member of the Party.

2
3 10B. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the County Committees shall keep their
4 own financial records and shall be exempted from the audit described herein.

5 6 **ARTICLE VI -STATE CONVENTION**

7 8 **Section 1. Time.**

9 The convention will be called biennially in May of each even numbered year, or at such other
10 times as may be determined by the State Central Committee.

11 12 **Section 2. Composition.**

13 The assembly of voting delegates for any State Convention shall be composed of members of the
14 Democratic Party of Hawai'i as provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

15 16 **Section 3. Purposes.**

17 The State Convention shall convene for the purposes provided for in the Bylaws of the
18 Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

19 20 **Section 4. Candidate's Filing Fee.**

21 Any member of the Party wishing to be a candidate for the above offices described in this Article
22 V shall file a nomination paper and pay a fee pursuant to the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of
23 Hawai'i.

24 25 **Section 5. Delegate Registration Fee.**

26 5A. All delegates and alternates in attendance, registered at the State Convention, shall be
27 assessed a registration fee that is determined by the State Central Committee to defray the cost of
28 the Convention. Any excess shall be realization to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

29
30 5B. Where a State Convention delegate is unable to pay the designated registration fee, a written
31 request for waiver should be submitted to the State Convention Credentials Committee as
32 prescribed by the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. No person duly elected as a
33 delegate or alternate delegate to the State Convention shall be excluded as a delegate or alternate
34 due to inability to pay the registration fee.

35
36 5C. In compliance with the Democratic National Committee Rules, no person shall be excluded
37 from any stage of the national delegate selection process for failure to pay the registration fee.

38 39 **Section 6. Organization of the Convention.**

40 The State Central Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of planning for the State
41 Convention. The Party Chairperson shall appoint the Convention Committee as a Standing
42 Committee and all Convention Committee Chairpersons and members as *ad hoc* committees.
43 Among the Convention committees appointed, there shall be:

- 44
45 (1) Convention Platform Committee.
46 (2) Convention Rules Committee.

- 1 (3) Convention Resolutions Committee(s).
- 2 (4) Convention Affirmative Action Committee.
- 3 (5) Convention Credentials Committee.
- 4

5 **Section 7. Officers.**

6 The Convention shall be convened by the Party Chairperson, or in the absence of the Party
7 Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson of the State Central Committee, until a permanent
8 Convention Chairperson is elected. The Secretary of the State Central Committee or in the
9 absence of the Secretary, such other person as may be appointed shall keep the Minute book of
10 the Convention until the permanent Convention Secretary is appointed.

11
12 **Section 8. Minority Reports.**

13 All proposed changes shall be sent to the Convention Floor, unless they are ruled out of order,
14 via the 2 committee reports; report 1 for proposals the committee supports and report 2 for
15 proposals the committee does not support; thereby making Minority Reports obsolete. The
16 results of the Committee votes for each proposed change shall be reported by number voting for,
17 against, or abstention.

18
19
20 **ARTICLE VII -REVENUES**

21
22 **Section 1. Fund Raising.**

23 Subject to the provisions of this Article, Party funds may be raised by the Precinct Clubs, by the
24 District Councils, by the County Committees and by the State Central Committee, in addition to
25 specially endorsed projects of the State Central Committee. All money so raised shall be
26 collected and handled in a proper business-like manner and in accordance with accounting
27 procedures adopted pursuant to Article V and relevant Federal and State statutes, laws, rules and
28 regulations. Receipts shall be given for all cash contributions and regular accounting shall be
29 made.

30
31 **Section 2. Conflicts.**

32 Where a fund raising activity is staged by the State Central Committee, it shall be the duty of all
33 other branches of the Party to cooperate in such activity.

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36 **ARTICLE VIII -GENERAL PROVISIONS**

37
38 **Section 1. Representation of Women and Young People.**

39 The Precinct Club, District Councils, County Committees and the State Central Committee shall
40 take affirmative action to ensure representation of women and young people in all elected and
41 appointed offices and on all delegations and on all committees of the Democratic Party of
42 Hawai'i in reasonable relationship to their presence in the population of the State.

43
44 **Section 2. Appeals.**

45 An appeal from an interpretation of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i may be
46 taken from a Precinct Club to the District Council, from the District Council to the County

1 Committee, and from the County Committee to the State Central Committee. Appeals shall be
2 taken within five (5) days from the date of action by the Precinct Club, District Council, or
3 County Committee as the case may be. Notice of the time and place of hearing an appeal shall
4 be given to all parties concerned at least three (3) days prior to the hearing, but such notice may
5 be waived by any of the parties.
6

7 **Section 3. Candidate Support of Platform, Resolutions, Constitution and Bylaws.**

8 Every Democratic Party candidate for election to office, whether Federal, State or County, and
9 every member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall support the Party Platform. Every
10 member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall support candidates who are members of the
11 Party and request the Party’s support in the general, special or nonpartisan elections.
12

13 **Section 4. Ethical Campaign Practices.**

14 The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and all members who file as a Democratic candidate for
15 elective office shall agree to a campaign ethics code or code of fair campaign practices, which
16 may be based on available codes and modified as needed, provided that any failure to abide by
17 this section shall not be subject to Article I on expulsion, reprimand, or censure.
18

19 **Section 5. Parliamentary Authority.**

20 The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern
21 all Precinct Club meetings, Caucus Meetings, District Council meetings, County meetings and
22 conventions and State Conventions in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they
23 are not inconsistent with the Constitution, Bylaws or special rules of order adopted by the
24 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i or the Bylaws and Rules of the applicable County Committee.
25

26 **Section 6. Interpretation of Constitution and Bylaws.**

27 The State Central Committee shall be empowered to make final decisions on the interpretation of
28 this Constitution and the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.
29

30 **Section 7. Resolutions.**

31 7A. The resolving clauses of resolutions, except for those clauses that refer to a specific date,
32 event, or legislative session, once adopted by delegates at a convention of the Democratic Party
33 of Hawai‘i shall represent the official policies of the Party and shall remain in force and effect
34 until rescinded or amended by the delegates at an annual or special convention.
35

36 7B. Copies of resolutions of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i still in force and effect, including
37 their preamble and transmission clauses, shall be made available online.
38

39 **Section 8. Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action.**

40 8A. In order that the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i at all levels be an open Party which includes
41 rather than excludes people from participation, a program of effective affirmative action is
42 hereby adopted.
43

44 8B. Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender
45 expression, age, color, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, disability, or economic status in
46 the conduct of the business of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i is prohibited.

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2
3 8C. Any vacancy in the election process as defined by Section 11-118, Hawai'i Revised
4 Statutes, because of death, withdrawal, disqualification, or any other cause shall be filled as
5 follows, except that no vacancy shall be filled if following the vacancy one or more Democrats
6 remained on the ballot.

- 7
8 (1) By the respective District Council if the vacancy is at the District level.
9 (2) By the respective County Committee if the vacancy is for an office covering a
10 geographic area larger than a District, including all County government offices.
11 (3) By the State Central Committee if the vacancy is for an office covering a
12 geographic area larger than a County.
13

14 **Section 9. Process to Identify Candidates to Fill Midterm Vacancies.**

15 When any vacancy occurs in the United States Senate, State Senate or State House that is held by
16 a Democrat, the following process shall be followed to identify candidates who may be
17 recommended to the Governor to fill the vacant office:
18

- 19 (1) The District Council shall select candidates if the vacancy is for an office
20 representing a State Representative District.
21 (2) The respective officers of the Precinct Clubs and District Councils affected shall
22 select the candidates if the vacancy is for an office representing a State Senate
23 District.
24 (3) The State Central Committee shall select the candidates if the vacancy is for an
25 office representing the entire State.
26

27 **Section 10. Ethics and Potential Conflict of Interest Disclosures.**

28 Any member of the State Central Committee or a County Committee who engages in activity
29 defined as "lobbying" under Hawai'i Revised Statutes shall file a written disclosure with the
30 respective Committee Secretary stating for whom they are lobbying and on what matters.
31 Candidates for the State Chair, County Chair or the SCC shall file such a disclosure within 7
32 days after filing to run for the office. Such disclosures shall be available for inspection by Party
33 members.
34

35 **Section 11. Prohibition Against Unit Rule**

36 No member shall be bound to cast their vote by instructions from any party unit or organization,
37 except that pledged delegates to the national convention shall be bound to cast their vote on the
38 first round for the candidate they were elected to support, unless released by their candidate, and
39 presidential electors shall be bound on the first round to vote for the presidential candidate who
40 is the nominee of the Democratic Party.
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ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Section 1. Amendment of Constitution.

This Constitution may be amended or revised by delegates at State Convention by a majority vote. The effective date of such amendments shall be immediately upon adjournment of the State Convention at which the amendments were adopted.

Section 2. Amendment of Bylaws.

The Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i may be amended or revised by delegates at State Convention by a majority vote or at any regular meeting of the State Central Committee by a majority vote of all its members, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.

Section 3. Changes to County Bylaws.

Changes to the County Bylaws required to conform or comply with amendments to the State Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i may be effected and adopted by the County Committees within 90 days of the adoption by the State Party, or, after that time, by order of the State Central Committee.

Section 4. Publication.

Amended versions of Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall be published online with the date of their most recent amendment.

Section 5. Copies.

Copies of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall be made available online.