

1 THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI‘I AS PROPOSED  
 2 by the 2022 State Convention Standing Committee on Rules on May 02, 2022  
 3 to the 2022 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i State Convention  
 4  
 5

6 TABLE OF CONTENTS  
 7

8 TABLE OF CONTENTS..... i

9 ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP ..... 1

10 Section 1. General. .... 1

11 Section 2. Enrollment..... 1

12 Section 3. Candidates for public office and current or former office-holders of either a  
 13 partisan or non-partisan office changing Party affiliation..... 1

14 Section 4. Official Records. .... 1

15 Section 5. Disciplinary Action..... 1

16 ARTICLE II – PRECINCT CLUB ..... 1

17 ~~Section 1. Definition..... 1~~

18 ~~Section 2. Organization..... 1~~

19 ~~Section 3. Biennial Election of Precinct Officers and Delegates to the State Convention..... 2~~

20 ~~Section 4. Officers of Precinct Club..... 2~~

21 ~~Section 5. Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention. .... 2~~

22 ~~Section 6. Use of the Name of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i..... 2~~

23 ~~Section 7. Club Rules. .... 3~~

24 ARTICLE III – DISTRICT COUNCIL..... 3

25 Section 1. Organization and Definition. .... 3

26 Section 2. Officers..... 3

27 Section 3. Term of Office. .... 4

28 Section 4. Meetings..... 4

29 Section 5. Duties and Responsibilities of the District Council..... 4

30 Section [6].7 District Council Rules..... 4

31 ARTICLE IV – COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS..... 5

32 Section 1. Organization..... 5

33 Section 2. Rules for the Adoption of Respective County Organization Bylaws and Rules..... 5

34 ARTICLE V – STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ..... 5

35 Section 1. Membership. .... 5

36 Section 2. Elections..... 6

37 Section 3. Vacancies..... 7

38 Section 4. Tenure-Interim. .... 7

39 Section 5. Power and Duties..... 7

40 Section 6. Meetings..... 9

41 Section 7. Caucuses..... 9

42 Section 8. Committees..... 10

43 Section 9. Executive Committee. .... 10

44 Section 10. Financial Reports. .... 10

1	<b>ARTICLE VI – STATE CONVENTION.....</b>	<b>11</b>
2	<b>Section 1. Time.....</b>	<b>11</b>
3	<b>Section 2. Composition and Election of Delegates and Alternates. ....</b>	<b>11</b>
4	<b>Section 3. Purposes.....</b>	<b>11</b>
5	<b>Section 4. Candidate’s Filing Fee.....</b>	<b>11</b>
6	<b>Section 5. Delegate Registration Fee. ....</b>	<b>11</b>
7	<b>Section 6. Organization of the Convention.....</b>	<b>12</b>
8	<b>Section 7. Officers.....</b>	<b>12</b>
9	<b>[Section 8. Minority Reports. ....</b>	<b>12</b>
10	<b>ARTICLE VII – REVENUES .....</b>	<b>12</b>
11	<b>Section 1. Fund Raising.....</b>	<b>12</b>
12	<b>Section 2. Conflicts.....</b>	<b>13</b>
13	<b>ARTICLE VIII – GENERAL PROVISIONS.....</b>	<b>13</b>
14	<b>Section 1. Representation of Women and Young People. ....</b>	<b>13</b>
15	<b>Section 2. Appeals. ....</b>	<b>13</b>
16	<b>Section 3. Candidate Support of Platform, Resolutions, Constitution and Bylaws. ....</b>	<b>13</b>
17	<b>Section [4] 5. Ethical Campaign Practices. ....</b>	<b>14</b>
18	<b>Section [5] 6. Parliamentary Authority.....</b>	<b>14</b>
19	<b>Section [6] 7. Interpretation of Constitution and Bylaws. ....</b>	<b>14</b>
20	<b>Section [7] 8. Resolutions. ....</b>	<b>14</b>
21	<b>Section [8] 9. Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action.....</b>	<b>14</b>
22	<b>Section [9] 10. Process to Identify Candidates to Fill Midterm Vacancies. ....</b>	<b>15</b>
23	<b>Section [10] 11. Ethics and Potential Conflict of Interest Disclosures. ....</b>	<b>15</b>
24	<b>ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.....</b>	<b>16</b>
25	<b>Section 1. Amendment of Constitution.....</b>	<b>16</b>
26	<b>Section 2. Amendment of Bylaws.....</b>	<b>16</b>
27	<b>Section 3. Changes to County Bylaws.....</b>	<b>16</b>
28	<b>Section 4. Publication. ....</b>	<b>16</b>
29	<b>Section 5. Copies.....</b>	<b>16</b>
30		
31		

1  
2  
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, suspension,  
34 reprimand, removal from a meeting, or censure for reasons and in keeping with procedures  
35 provided in the Bylaws of the Democratic 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~~

1 by the District Council, shall be the constituted body having jurisdiction in the precinct.—  
2 Thereafter, no other Precinct Club in the same precinct may be organized unless and until such  
3 time as the club of record shall be declared by the Executive Committee of the District Council  
4 to be inactive as defined in this section and as further provided in the Bylaws of the Democratic  
5 Party of Hawai‘i.  
6

7 **~~Section 3. Biennial Election of Precinct Officers and Delegates to the State Convention.—~~**

8 ~~3A. The Precinct Club shall meet to elect officers, delegates, and alternates as provided for~~  
9 ~~herein and further provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, on the first~~  
10 ~~Wednesday of March in every even numbered year or at such other times as may be determined~~  
11 ~~by the State Central Committee (“the biennial election meeting”). Elections shall be by ballot if~~  
12 ~~requested by any member present.—~~  
13

14 ~~3B. Where no meeting is held because a quorum of one (1) person is not attained at the biennial~~  
15 ~~election meeting, it shall be the duty of the members of that Precinct Club to attempt~~  
16 ~~immediately a successful meeting. Where no officers have been elected in the current biennium,~~  
17 ~~any member of the precinct may, by written petition to the respective District Council, request~~  
18 ~~the initiation of precinct reorganization, as further described in the Bylaws of the Democratic~~  
19 ~~Party of Hawai‘i.~~  
20

21 **~~Section 4. Officers of Precinct Club.—~~**

22 ~~4A. The elected officers of the Precinct Club shall be a President, a First Vice President, a~~  
23 ~~Secretary, a Treasurer and the Precinct’s District Councilperson. The Precinct Club may elect~~  
24 ~~such other officers and alternates, including an Alternate District Councilperson for offices as it~~  
25 ~~may deem necessary and may combine any two (2) offices except those of President, First Vice~~  
26 ~~President and the Precinct’s District Councilperson. Precinct Club officers shall not be required~~  
27 ~~to relinquish their positions if elected or appointed to the State Central Committee.~~  
28

29 ~~4B. Each officer shall take office immediately upon election and shall hold office from the time~~  
30 ~~of election until a successor is duly elected, or until said officer moves out of the precinct.~~  
31

32 ~~4C. Vacancies in any officer position shall be filled as provided in the DPH Bylaws.~~  
33

34 **~~Section 5. Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention.—~~**

35 ~~Each Precinct Club shall elect delegates to the State Convention as contained in the official Call~~  
36 ~~of the Party, subject to the composition requirements as provided for in the Bylaws of the~~  
37 ~~Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. Election of alternates should be subject to the composition~~  
38 ~~requirements as provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. In the event the~~  
39 ~~certified roster indicates insufficient membership for an equal number of alternates, the Precinct~~  
40 ~~Club shall decide the number of alternates to be elected. No person shall vote in a meeting of~~  
41 ~~more than one (1) Precinct Club held for the purpose of electing delegates/alternates to the State~~  
42 ~~Convention.—~~  
43

44 **~~Section 6. Use of the Name of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.—~~**

45 ~~No Precinct Club or combination of Precinct Clubs, or members of clubs, or committees shall be~~

1 permitted to use the name of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i without first obtaining express and  
2 specific consent and authority of the appropriate County Committee or State Central Committee.  
3

4 **Section 7. Club Rules.**

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

9 **Section 1. Precinct Club.**

10 Determining the formation, if any; duties; and organization of Precinct Clubs will be the sole  
11 responsibility of each County Committee.  
12

13 **Section 2. Restrictions.**

14 County Committees are not allowed to usurp any of the responsibilities of the District Council as  
15 laid out in the Constitution or Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i if they choose to form  
16 Precinct Clubs.  
17

18 No Precinct Club will be allowed to have a Precinct Treasurer.  
19  
20

21 **ARTICLE III – DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
22

23 **Section 1. Organization and Definition.**

24 There shall be a District Council in each Representative District which shall consist of all the  
25 District Chairperson, District Vice-chairperson, District Secretary, District Treasurer, and eleven  
26 (11) at-large Directors, with at least every precinct having the opportunity for representation on  
27 the District Council. State Central Committee Senate Representative that resides in the  
28 Representative District shall be a non-voting, ex officio member of the District Council and not  
29 count towards quorum for District Council meetings. [~~Precinct Presidents and District~~  
30 Councilpersons of each Precinct Club and the duly elected Chairperson. Counties may include  
31 the Precinct First Vice President.]  
32

33 1B. Definition: The District Council shall be the basic unit of the Party organization. There shall  
34 be one District Council in each Representative District, as defined by law.  
35

36 **Section 2. Officers.**

37 Officers of a District Council shall be a District Chairperson, [~~not more than three (3)~~] Vice-  
38 Chairpersons, [~~not more than two (2) Secretaries;~~] Secretary, and a Treasurer. [~~The offices of the~~  
39 ~~Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one (1) person.]~~ In addition, two (2) additional Vice-  
40 Chairpersons and one (1) additional Secretary can be elected at the biennial election meeting or  
41 any subsequent District meeting where notice was given to the entire District membership that  
42 nominations and voting were to occur to fill these additional officer positions. The officers of  
43 the District Council shall constitute the Executive Committee. Vacancies in any officer position  
44 shall be filled as provided in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.  
45

1 **Section 3. Term of Office.**

2 The District Council, excepting the District Chairperson, shall take office no later than two  
3 weeks after the biennial District Council meeting and end at the time of the election of a  
4 successor but in no event past the two weeks after the biennial District Council meeting.  
5

6 **Section 4. Meetings.**

7 Regular meetings of the District Council shall be held at least three (3) times a year at such time  
8 and place as the Chairperson designates.  
9

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

11 5A. The District Council, at its first meeting [~~on the first Tuesday in April,~~] to take place forty-  
12 five (45) calendar days after the biennial elections, shall hear all challenges concerning the  
13 results of the biennial [~~Precinct-Club~~] elections that may be brought before it by any Party  
14 member residing in the District. The District Council shall, not later than [~~the second Tuesday in~~  
15 ~~April~~] one (1) week after the first meeting, rule on every challenge concerning [~~a Precinct-~~  
16 ~~Officer, or concerning~~] the validity of a vote on, or the eligibility of a person voting on any  
17 question other than the election of State Convention Delegates.  
18

19 5B. The District Council shall consider challenges concerning delegates to the State Convention  
20 as provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.  
21

22 5C. It shall be the duty of the District Council to establish and maintain an active and effective  
23 Party organization within its district to inform Democrats within the District of Party policy and  
24 activities, and to ensure as large a vote as possible for Party candidates in the election.  
25

26 5D. To affect these ends, the District Council may adopt District platforms, consistent with the  
27 Party Platform adopted by the State Convention, and take such steps as are necessary to  
28 encourage officials of the District elected or appointed in the name of the Party to observe the  
29 Platform and Principles of the Party.  
30

31 **Section 6. Biennial Election of District Officers and Delegates to the State Convention.**

32 Each District shall meet to elect District Officers, delegates, and alternates as provided for herein  
33 and further provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, on the first  
34 Wednesday of March in every even numbered year or at such other date and time as may be  
35 determined by the State Central Committee (“the biennial election meeting”).  
36

37 **Section [6].7 District Council Rules.**

38 7A. Each District Council may adopt rules for the proper conduct of its business not inconsistent  
39 or in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i or the Bylaws  
40 and Rules of the applicable County Committee.  
41

42 7B. The rules and rules amendments of District Council shall first be ratified by the State Central  
43 Committee. If the State Central Committee fails to certify the rules and/or rules amendments  
44 proposed by District Council, the District Council may at the next State Convention appeal for  
45 ratification of such rules and/or rules amendments by the Convention.

1  
2 7C. Changes to the District Council rules are required to conform or comply with amendments to  
3 the State Constitution and/or Bylaws may be affected and adopted by the District Council within  
4 ninety (90) calendar days of adoption by the State Party, or, after that time, by the State Central  
5 Committee.  
6  
7

## 8 **ARTICLE IV – COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS**

9

### 10 **Section 1. Organization.**

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

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

17 2A. It is the purpose and intent of this rule to authorize and require the respective County  
18 Organizations, consisting of all members of the Party residing in that County, to adopt their own  
19 bylaws and rules to meet the desires and needs of the individual counties, so long as between  
20 their respective County Conventions, the affairs of each County shall be subject to a County  
21 Committee.  
22

23 2B. The bylaws and bylaws amendments of a County Organization shall first be ratified by the  
24 State Central Committee. If the State Central Committee fails to certify the bylaws and bylaws  
25 amendments proposed by a County Committee, that County Committee may at the next State  
26 Convention appeal for ratification of such bylaws amendments by the Convention.  
27

28 2C. Changes to the County Bylaws required to conform or comply with amendments to the State  
29 Constitution and/or Bylaws may be affected and adopted by the County Committees within  
30 ninety (90) calendar days of adoption by the State Party, or, after that time, by the State Central  
31 Committee.  
32  
33

## 34 **ARTICLE V – STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

35

### 36 **Section 1. Membership.**

37 1A. There shall be a State Central Committee consisting of elected and ex-officio members  
38 apportioned as follows:  
39

- 40 (1) Elected members-at-large:
  - 41 (a) Party Chairperson;
  - 42 (b) National Committeeman;
  - 43 (c) National Committeewoman;
  - 44 (d) Youth Representatives, two (2) representatives of different genders,  
45 between the ages of 18 and through age 35, inclusive; and

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

19 1B. Each elected, appointed, and ex-officio member of the State Central Committee or that  
20 member's successor shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

21

## 22 **Section 2. Elections.**

23 2A. The members of the State Central Committee, except County, Caucus and Youth  
24 Representatives on the State Central Committee, shall be elected at the Democratic State  
25 Convention by the delegates as designated pursuant to the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of  
26 Hawai'i. The County Representatives on the State Central Committee shall be elected by the  
27 Convention delegates from their respective County at the County Convention. The Caucus and  
28 Youth Representatives on the State Central Committee shall be democratically elected by their  
29 respective members as determined by their bylaws.

30

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

33

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

44 Caucuses and Youth Representatives may choose to elect all their representatives to the State  
45 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) calendar 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 (1) Have general supervision over the affairs of the Party.
- 39
- 40 (2) Call all State Conventions and make the necessary arrangements therefore.
- 41
- 42 (3) Call all State Conventions and make the necessary arrangements therefore. It shall
- 43 adopt standing rules for the State Convention prior to the [~~precinct~~] biennial
- 44 election meetings, subject to confirmation by a majority of the votes cast by
- 45 Convention delegates.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45

- (4) Allocate and extend such monies as are properly under the control of the Committee. Such funds shall be deposited at a commercial bank in the name of the Party by the Treasurer. The Committee shall require the Treasurer to be bonded in such amounts to the Committee may appear proper (premium therefore to be paid by the Party), to submit a written report to the State Convention, and to submit such other reports written or otherwise, as the Committee will require.
- (5) Adopt written policies and procedures based upon generally accepted accounting and fiscal practices and principles.
- (6) Ensure that all fund raising projects undertaken in the name of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i be conducted according to the accounting policies and practices adopted by the State Central Committee.
- (7) Prepare legislation and take such other action as may be necessary to cause the principles set forth in the Party Platform to be enacted into law.
- (8) Take all necessary steps to ensure a full slate of Democratic Party candidates for all elective offices within the State of Hawai‘i.
- (9) Have authority to charter statewide subsidiary organizations within the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i to further the goals of the Party. Each chartered organization shall submit proposed bylaws or rules and amendments to the State Central Committee within ninety (90) calendar days of adoption and may from time to time be required to submit a progress report listing its accomplishments for the preceding year. Upon determination that the proposed bylaws, rules or rule changes are consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, such bylaws, rules or rule changes shall become effective. The Committee shall reserve the authority to withdraw the charter of any group which shall in the opinion of the Committee, fail to abide by the principles of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, and as further provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.
- (10) Allocate and remit funds from the Party treasury to the Democratic National Committee.
- (11) Have power to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i for the governance of itself, its committees and the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.
- (12) Implement the Party's Affirmative Action Plan.
- (13) Have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be reasonably implied from the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i or

1 incidental to the carrying out of its functions.

2  
3 (14) Exercise power from Convention to Convention to make interim changes to the  
4 Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, and the bylaws, rules and regulations  
5 of the County Committees, when mandated by the Democratic National  
6 Committee for compliance to Rules, Party structure, Delegate selection and Party  
7 Charter.

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

13  
14 (16) Candidate Statement Forms are to be kept and distributed in accordance with the  
15 Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, including the formation of a special  
16 committee for implementation.

17  
18 **Section 6. Meetings.**

19 6A. Immediately after the adjournment of the State Convention, which shall have elected State  
20 Central Committee persons, the members of the new State Central Committee (including its ex-  
21 officio members) shall meet for the purpose of organizing and electing its officers.

22  
23 6B. The State Central Committee shall meet at least once every three (3) months.

24  
25 6C. The State Central Committee shall determine its own quorum rules except that it shall not be  
26 less than forty (40) percent of its members.

27  
28 6D. At least one (1) meeting of the State Central Committee shall be held in each county every  
29 biennium.

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

35  
36 6F. No member of the State Central Committee shall hold more than one proxy.

37  
38 **Section 7. Caucuses.**

39 7A. Establishment. The State Central Committee may certify autonomous caucuses that  
40 represent historically disempowered or under-represented constituencies due to current or past  
41 inequality under law, discrimination, social prejudices, or economic injustice, provided the  
42 minimal criteria are met.

43  
44 7B. Criteria. Party members, formally organized based upon a historically disempowered,  
45 legitimate constituency as described in Section 7A of this Article, may apply for certification as a

1 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Caucus. Certification of a caucus by the State Central Committee  
2 shall be based on minimal criteria described in Section 7A and in the Bylaws of the Democratic  
3 Party of Hawai‘i.

4  
5 7C. Membership. Only active and associate Democratic Party of Hawai‘i members may  
6 participate in a Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Caucus.

7  
8 7D. Nomination and Filing. Each Caucus and Youth Democrats shall certify eligible nominees  
9 of different genders to elect two (2) representatives of different genders to the State Central  
10 Committee. Procedures and qualifications for the candidate and the election process shall be  
11 specified in the bylaws of each caucus and Youth Democrats. If a Caucus’ Bylaws does not  
12 specify nomination procedures or qualifications by 2018, then a caucus member nominated by  
13 five (5) other members of the Caucus before the deadline for State Central Committee  
14 nominations shall be certified an eligible nominee. In the event a Caucus fails to certify an  
15 eligible nominee as specified in the Caucus Bylaw, appeal may be made to the Convention  
16 Credentials Committee. If the State Convention accepts a Credentials Committee report that  
17 rules the nominee should have been certified as eligible in accord with the Caucus’ Bylaws, the  
18 nominee shall stand as a Caucus candidate for State Central Committee at the State Convention.

19  
20 **Section 8. Committees.**

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

24  
25 **Section 9. Executive Committee.**

26 9A. The elected and appointed officers as designated herein, the Bylaws of the Democratic Party  
27 of Hawai‘i, and the National Committeeman and the National Committeewoman and each  
28 County Chairperson shall constitute the Executive Committee of the State Central Committee.

29  
30 9B. The Executive Committee shall meet once each quarter at the call of its Chairperson or upon  
31 written request of not less than five (5) members of the Executive Committee filed with the  
32 Secretary of the Executive Committee. Notice of each meeting shall be given by the Secretary at  
33 least three (3) calendar days before the date of the meeting.

34  
35 9C. A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the  
36 Executive Committee. No proxies may be used by any member of this Executive Committee.

37  
38 9D. The Executive Committee shall have full charge of matters within the authority of the State  
39 Central Committee between meetings of the State Central Committee.

40  
41 **Section 10. Financial Reports.**

42 10A. All officers, and members of the State Central Committee, who in the name of the  
43 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, engage in fund raising activities or have the responsibility of  
44 making disbursements and receiving assessments, contributions or gifts, shall be responsible for  
45 a strict accounting of all funds received or disbursed. A full and complete report in writing shall

1 be submitted to the Executive Committee within a reasonable time after the completion of a  
2 project or term or at the request of the Party Chairperson or the Treasurer or the Executive  
3 Committee. This section shall apply to any other person appointed by this body. In addition,  
4 ~~[the] any~~ treasury ~~[books and accounts]~~ function of the State Central Committee shall be subject  
5 to audit ~~[audited between March 1st and May 1st]~~ at anytime during ~~[of]~~ the year in which the  
6 State Central Committee is elected. ~~[The]~~ Any and all auditor~~[s]~~ reports shall be available at the  
7 State Convention, and at the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Headquarters for inspection by any  
8 member of the Party.

9  
10 10B. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the County Committees shall keep their  
11 own financial records and shall be exempted from the audit described herein.

## 12 13 **ARTICLE VI – STATE CONVENTION**

### 14 15 **Section 1. Time.**

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

### 18 19 **Section 2. Composition and Election of Delegates and Alternates.**

20 2A. Composition: The assembly of voting delegates for any State Convention shall be composed  
21 of members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i as provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic  
22 Party of Hawai'i.

23  
24 2B. Election of Delegates and Alternates: Each District shall elect delegates at the precinct level  
25 to the State Convention as contained in the official Call of the Party, subject to the composition  
26 requirements as provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. Election of  
27 alternates should be subject to the composition requirements as provided for in the Bylaws of the  
28 Democratic Party of Hawai'i. In the event the certified roster indicates insufficient membership  
29 for an equal number of alternates, the members of the precinct shall decide the number of  
30 alternates to be elected. Only members that reside in the precinct can vote for the  
31 Delegates/Alternates representing their precinct, no person shall vote in a meeting of more than  
32 one (1) precinct held for the purpose of electing delegates/alternates to the State Convention.

### 33 34 **Section 3. Purposes.**

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

### 37 38 **Section 4. Candidate's Filing Fee.**

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

### 42 43 **Section 5. Delegate Registration Fee.**

44 5A. All delegates and alternates in attendance, registered at the State Convention, shall be  
45 assessed a registration fee that is determined by the State Central Committee to defray the cost of

1 the Convention. Any excess shall be realization to the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

2  
3 5B. Where a State Convention delegate is unable to pay the designated registration fee, a written  
4 request for waiver should be submitted to the State Convention Credentials Committee as  
5 prescribed by the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. No person duly elected as a  
6 delegate or alternate delegate to the State Convention shall be excluded as a delegate or alternate  
7 due to inability to pay the registration fee.

8  
9 5C. In compliance with the Democratic National Committee Rules, no person shall be excluded  
10 from any stage of the national delegate selection process for failure to pay the registration fee.

## 11 12 **Section 6. Organization of the Convention.**

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

- 17  
18 (1) Convention Platform Committee.  
19 (2) Convention Rules Committee.  
20 (3) Convention Resolutions Committee(s).  
21 (4) Convention Affirmative Action Committee.  
22 (5) Convention Credentials Committee.

## 23 24 **Section 7. Officers.**

25 The Convention shall be convened by the Party Chairperson, or in the absence of the Party  
26 Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson of the State Central Committee [~~until a permanent~~  
27 ~~Convention Chairperson is elected~~]. The Secretary of the State Central Committee or in the  
28 absence of the Secretary, such other person as may be appointed shall keep the Minute book of  
29 the Convention until the permanent Convention Secretary is appointed.

## 30 31 ~~[Section 8. Minority Reports.]~~

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

## 37 38 39 **ARTICLE VII – REVENUES**

### 40 41 **Section 1. Fund Raising.**

42 Subject to the provisions of this Article, Party funds may be raised by the Precinct Clubs (if their  
43 formation is authorized by the County Committee), by the District Councils, by the County  
44 Committees and by the State Central Committee, in addition to specially endorsed projects of the  
45 State Central Committee. All money so raised shall be [~~collected and handled in a proper~~

1 ~~business like manner and in accordance with accounting procedures adopted pursuant to Article~~  
2 ~~V and relevant Federal and State statutes, laws, rules and regulations]~~ promptly submitted to the  
3 State or County Treasurer. No bank accounts shall be opened or held at the Caucus, District or  
4 Precinct level. State and County Treasurers will designate line items for allocated funds set aside  
5 for Caucuses, District, Precinct or specially endorsed projects. Receipts shall be given for all  
6 cash contributions [and regular accounting shall be made]. Required contributor information  
7 shall be collected for all contributions. Receipts and contributor information shall be promptly  
8 forwarded to the State or County Treasurer for proper compliance reporting as required in  
9 Federal and State statutes, laws, rules and regulations.

10  
11 **Section 2. Conflicts.**

12 Where a fund raising activity is staged by the State Central Committee, it shall be the duty of all  
13 other branches of the Party to cooperate in such activity.  
14

15  
16 **ARTICLE VIII – GENERAL PROVISIONS**  
17

18 **Section 1. Representation of Women and Young People.**

19 The Precinct Club (if their formation is authorized by the County Committee), District Councils,  
20 County Committees and the State Central Committee shall take affirmative action to ensure  
21 representation of women and young people in all elected and appointed offices and on all  
22 delegations and on all committees of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i in reasonable relationship  
23 to their presence in the population of the State.  
24

25 **Section 2. Appeals.**

26 An appeal from an interpretation of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i may be  
27 taken from a Precinct Club (if their formation is authorized by the County Committee) to the  
28 District Council, from the District Council to the County Committee, and from the County  
29 Committee to the State Central Committee. Appeals shall be taken within five (5) calendar days  
30 from the date of action by the Precinct Club, District Council, or County Committee as the case  
31 may be. Notice of the time and place of hearing an appeal shall be given to all parties concerned  
32 at least three (3) calendar days prior to the hearing, but such notice may be waived by any of the  
33 parties.  
34

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

36 Every Democratic Party candidate for election to office, whether Federal, State or County, and  
37 every member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall support the Party Platform. ~~[Every~~  
38 ~~member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall support candidates who are members of the~~  
39 ~~Party and request the Party’s support in the general, special or nonpartisan elections.]~~  
40

41 **Section 4: Party Support of Democratic Party Candidates.**  
42

43 Every member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall support candidates who request the  
44 Party’s support in the general, special, or nonpartisan elections. To be eligible for such

1 support, the candidate must be a member in good standing and must have completed the  
2 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Candidate Statement.

3  
4 In nonpartisan races in which there is no Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supported member as  
5 defined above, Democratic Party of Hawai‘i members may support any candidate they believe  
6 will best be able to carry out the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i platform, Constitution and  
7 Bylaws and adopted resolutions.

8  
9 The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i or any unit thereof shall not endorse any candidate in any race  
10 in which more than one Democratic candidate is running.

11  
12 **Section [4] 5. Ethical Campaign Practices.**

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

17  
18 **Section [5] 6. Parliamentary Authority.**

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

25  
26 **Section [6] 7. 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] 8. Resolutions.**

31 [7] 8A. 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 [7] 8B. Copies of resolutions of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i still in force and effect,  
37 including their preamble and transmission clauses, shall be made available online.

38  
39 **Section [8] 9. Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action.**

40 [8] 9A. In order that the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i at all levels be an open Party which  
41 includes rather than excludes people from participation, a program of effective affirmative action  
42 is hereby adopted.

43  
44 [8] 9B. 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



1 the conduct of the business of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i is prohibited.

2  
3 [8] 9C. 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] 10. 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] 11. 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 State Central Committee shall file such a  
32 disclosure within seven (7) calendar days after filing to run for the office. Such disclosures shall  
33 be available for inspection by Party members.  
34

35 **Section [11] 12. 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.  
41

42 **Section 13. Use of the Name of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and Party Logo.**

43 No District Council, Precinct Club or combination of Precinct Clubs (if their formation is  
44 authorized by the County Committee), or District Councils or members of clubs, committees, or  
45 Caucuses shall be permitted to use the name of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and/or the Party

1 logo, without first obtaining express and specific consent and authority of the Party Chair and/or  
2 the appropriate County Committee or State Central Committee.  
3  
4

## 5 **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

### 6 7 **Section 1. Amendment of Constitution.**

8 This Constitution may be amended or revised by delegates at State Convention by a majority  
9 vote. The effective date of such amendments shall be immediately upon adjournment of the State  
10 Convention at which the amendments were adopted.  
11

### 12 **Section 2. Amendment of Bylaws.**

13 The Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i may be amended or revised by delegates at State  
14 Convention by a majority vote or at any regular or special meeting of the State Central  
15 Committee by a majority vote of all its members, provided that the amendment has been  
16 reviewed by the rules committee and provided that the recommendation of the rules committee  
17 has been submitted in writing and presented orally at the previous regular meeting.  
18

### 19 **Section 3. Changes to County Bylaws.**

20 Changes to the County Bylaws required to conform or comply with amendments to the State  
21 Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i may be effected and adopted by  
22 the County Committees within ninety (90) calendar days of the adoption by the State Party, or,  
23 after that time, by order of the State Central Committee.  
24

### 25 **Section 4. Publication.**

26 Amended versions of Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall be  
27 published online with the date of their most recent amendment.  
28

### 29 **Section 5. Copies.**

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