



2026 Democratic Party of Hawaii Candidate Questionnaire Responses

***To find a specific candidate's response see the Table of Contents or
use "CTR F" to search by name***

Table of Contents

Amy A. Perruso	5
Andrew Phomsouvanh	6
Andrew Takuya Garrett	8
Angie Knight	9
Anthony Makana Paris	11
Anthony Nagatani	15
Arjuna Heim	19
Ashley Olson	23
Bobby Silva	26
Bulla Eastman	27
Carol Fukunaga	30
Chad K. Schimmelfennig	31
Chisty Kikue MacPherson	33
Corey Rosenlee	37
Cristina Holt	38
Daisy Balais Hartsfield	41
Darius K. Kila	42
David Tarnas	43
Daynette "Dee" Morikawa	44
Derek S.K. Kawakami	46
Derek Turbin	49
Ed Case	51
Eric C. Barsatan	55
Ernest Carvalho	59
George Teva Lucas-Tadeo	68
Greggor Ilagan	69
Ian Ross	70
Ikaika Olds	73
Jackson D Sayama	74
Jake Takaya Morrow	75

James Logue	78
Jarrett Keohokalole	82
Jeanné Kapela	83
Jenna W.Y.C Takenouchi	85
Jennifer Margaret Booker	86
Jordan K. Nakamura	89
Josh Green	94
Kahi Pacarro	95
Kalehua Kaopua	98
Keoni Kuoha	102
Ki'i Kaho'ohanohano	103
Kim Coco Iwamoto	106
Kyle T Yamashita	107
Lauren Kapoliahiika Shim	108
Les Ihara Jr	109
Linda Ichiyama	110
Lisa Marten Moonier	111
Loren Keola Doctolero	112
Luke A. Evslin	115
Lynn Vasquez	116
Mahina Poepoe	119
Markus Owens	120
Matthew Kanealii-Kleinfelder	121
Matthias Kusch	124
Maurice Morita	125
Micah C K Kalama	127
Michael (Cov) Ratcliffe	129
Mike Gabbard	130
Nadia Alves	131
Nani Brown	136
Nathan Kenichi Char	139
Nicholas (Nick) Kiswanto	142
Nicole Lowen	147

Rahman, Inam Ikeda Perreira	148
Reno Abihai	158
Sam Puleasi	163
Scot Matayoshi	165
Sne Patel	166
Steven Haumschild	170
Steven W King	171
Terez Amato	173
Troy N. Hashimoto	174
Tyson K. Miyake	177

Amy A. Perruso

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the existing platform but do think that it is too vague and leaves too much room for policy making that does not align with the best version of Democratic Party values.

Andrew Phomsouvanh

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform because it aligns with my commitment to serving working families, strengthening our communities, and creating opportunities for local residents. I look forward to helping advance these shared priorities.

3. AGRICULTURE

This plank is particularly meaningful to me because a stronger agricultural sector is essential to Hawai'i's long-term food security, economic resilience, and quality of life. Having worked at the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, I have seen firsthand the challenges our farmers face, including rising costs, limited access to land and infrastructure, and the ongoing threat of invasive species. Strengthening local agriculture helps reduce our dependence on imported food while creating opportunities for local farmers and businesses.

I support this plank as written, but I would strengthen it by including greater emphasis on investing in agricultural infrastructure, such as food hubs, processing facilities, irrigation systems, and farm-to-school programs. These investments can help local producers get their products to market more efficiently and increase Hawai'i's ability to produce and consume more locally grown food.

4. GOVERNMENT

The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is the support for expanding vote-by-mail and increasing access to the electoral process. Voting should be as accessible as possible, and vote-by-mail helps ensure that working families, kūpuna, individuals with disabilities, and residents with busy schedules have a convenient opportunity to participate in elections. A strong democracy depends on broad civic participation, and reducing barriers to voting helps ensure more voices are heard. I support this plank as written and do not believe significant changes are necessary. Continuing to expand voter access while maintaining confidence in the integrity of our elections is an important goal for Hawai'i.

5. KŪPUNA

This plank is particularly meaningful to me because my grandmother lives with my family, and I have seen firsthand the importance of helping kūpuna age with dignity while

remaining connected to their families and communities. Throughout my campaign, I have also spoken with many kūpuna in District 21 who want to remain in the homes and neighborhoods they love but are increasingly concerned about rising costs and living on fixed incomes.

I support this plank as written. If I were to strengthen it, I would place greater emphasis on affordability and cost-of-living challenges facing kūpuna. Helping seniors age in place means not only providing access to care and support services, but also ensuring housing, utilities, food, and other necessities remain affordable.

6. TRANSPORTATION

This plank is meaningful to me because transportation affects nearly every aspect of daily life, including the cost of living, access to jobs, education, healthcare, and public safety. Residents should have safe, reliable, and affordable options for getting around, whether they drive, take transit, walk, bike, or use a combination of transportation modes. As our communities continue to grow, investing in transportation infrastructure will be critical to maintaining quality of life and reducing congestion.

I support this plank as written.

Andrew Takuya Garrett

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

As a lifelong Democrat, I support the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's commitment to opportunity, fairness, and building a stronger future for all our residents. The platform reflects values that have guided my public service: investing in public education, supporting working families, protecting our environment, expanding affordable housing, strengthening workers' rights, and ensuring government remains transparent and accountable to the people it serves.

As Chair of the House Higher Education Committee, I have worked to expand educational opportunity, strengthen workforce pathways, and help create an economy where local families can thrive. I am proud to stand with the Democratic Party of Hawai'i in advancing policies that promote equity, sustainability, and opportunity for future generations.

Angie Knight

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Democratic Party platform as it promotes policies that advance equity and tax fairness, improving not just the lives of the highest-income earners but people across all income levels and career fields. Moreover, I support policies that encourage and empower greater stewardship of Hawai'i's finite resources.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness: I will continue to fight for public safety reform that closes revolving doors that are detrimental to all stakeholders: police, judiciary, accused, emergency departments, etc. Law enforcement is called upon with limited ability to aid or de-escalate situations, often having only citations or arrests as their solution to community issues. This results in overcrowding in emergency departments due to the diversion for assessment of mental illness, often discharged without treatment, though their needs are determined. Moreover, I will support policies that improve emergency preparedness, so the recovery burden can be less severe on households and small business owners.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Education: As written, the platform states that we do not support funding for private institutions at all; however, for preschool and supplemental educational programs, subsidy vouchers have been used to level the playing field, allowing more families to access childcare, reducing their financial burden and promoting their return to the workforce. Though I understand the idea behind the platform's stance, I will continue to promote policies that create greater opportunity for families to reduce financial strain and better bear the high cost of living in Hawai'i.

5. AGRICULTURE

Agriculture should be included in all climate change conversations, both as a mitigation measure and in terms of long-term impacts. Moreover, agriculture plays a substantive role in housing and zoning discussions and should be emphasized in sustainability conversations.

6. EDUCATION

Air conditioning in classrooms and free school lunches for all students are two policies I strongly support.

Anthony Makana Paris

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

As a Democrat in Hawai'i, I wholeheartedly support the principles and values articulated in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform. The Platform's commitments to protecting and expanding access to quality healthcare, advancing equity and social justice for Native Hawaiians and all communities, investing in public education, addressing the climate crisis and protecting our islands' natural resources, and strengthening workers' rights and affordable housing reflect the priorities I hold for our state and its people.

I believe these principles provide the moral and policy compass our communities need. They recognize the dignity of every person, the importance of collective action to meet shared challenges, and the duty to safeguard Hawai'i's cultural and environmental heritage for future generations. Those core goals, equity, sustainability, opportunity, and stewardship, are the reasons I stand with the Platform.

I may differ from other Democrats on the best avenues or specific policy tools to achieve those goals. Supporting the Platform does not require uniformity on tactics; responsible governance requires honest debate about trade-offs, practical implementation, and fiscal and administrative feasibility. Where my views differ, I intend to contribute constructively, bringing evidence, local experience, and a focus on outcomes to help shape policies that are effective, equitable, and politically achievable.

In short, I fully embrace the Platform's values and objectives, and I commit to working within the party to translate those shared principles into policies that measurably improve the lives of people across Hawai'i. I welcome rigorous discussion about strategy and details, because thoughtful disagreement, when grounded in our common goals, strengthens our ability to deliver meaningful results.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I support expanding and strengthening efforts to treat housing as a human right, because adequate, affordable housing is the foundation for addressing Hawai'i's high cost of living, insurance instability, traffic, food insecurity, and strained public services. I will back policies that increase deeply affordable rental and ownership options for lowest income residents, reduce regulatory and infrastructure barriers that raise costs, stabilize condominium and

homeowner insurance, prevent displacement and curb speculation, and scale rapid rehousing with wrap around services.

I will support and advocate for fast track zoning and permitting reforms that tie state infrastructure grants to county adoption of transit oriented, mixed use zoning, and I will encourage expansion of a one stop, time bound permitting pathway statewide. I will promote incentives for counties to adopt standardized, pre approved housing designs—locally produced by Hawai'i architects—for common housing types, complete with engineering packages so projects using them receive expedited review and lower fees.

I will work to expand the State Land for Housing inventory, prioritize parcels near transit for long term leases or disposition to nonprofits, DHHL, and OHA, and seed community land trusts to remove land cost from the affordability equation. I will support production targets for permanently affordable units, greater low income housing tax credits and bond authority, and dedicated revenue streams—such as an empty home surcharge, visitor contributions, corporate and REIT parity, and taxed adult use marijuana—directed to housing and infrastructure.

To address insurance instability, I will encourage and empower the Insurance Commissioner to scrutinize extreme premium hikes, and I will advocate for expanded condo stabilization assistance, studies of a public reinsurance option, and funding for resilience retrofits that reduce insurable risk. For houselessness, I will champion scaling housing first rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and comprehensive wrap around services, with clear performance metrics and accountability.

Near term, I will support, encourage, and advocate for: expansion of fast track permitting and zoning incentive legislation; publication and growth of the State Land for Housing inventory with commitments of key parcels to affordable projects; establishment and capitalization of an Affordable Housing Infrastructure Fund; stronger administrative review measures and expanded condo relief pilots through the Insurance Commissioner's office; and increased rapid rehousing vouchers and supportive services.

I will collaborate with counties, Native Hawaiian organizations, local architects, community developers, and labor to expand durable, resident centered housing solutions that keep families in Hawai'i, strengthen our communities, and preserve our āina and culture.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Maybe the following to be added to the "Economic Justice and Labor" plank: To mobilize long term, affordable capital for this vision, we will establish a State Sovereign Development Bank; an independent, professionally managed public finance institution that turns public seed capital into far larger private and federal investment. The Bank will finance permanently affordable housing, renewable energy, resilient infrastructure, and

community ownership projects that create local jobs and lasting public benefit. Guided by transparency, strict risk limits, independent audits, and public reporting, it will protect public deposits and routine appropriations, return net earnings to public funds, and prioritize projects that strengthen equity, resilience, and shared prosperity for generations.

5. AGRICULTURE

Food security matters to me because local, sustainable agriculture keeps families fed, strengthens our island economy, and protects our ʻāina for future generations.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

The arts help us envision a better world, call us to be better neighbors, and bring us closer through shared experience.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Community resilience is essential to protect lives and livelihoods when disasters strike and to ensure rapid, equitable recovery.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

An economy that delivers prosperity for all matters because it reduces poverty, improves health, and keeps kama ʻāina families here. Remembering that the economy exists to serve people, not profit.

9. EDUCATION

Free, well funded public education is meaningful because it opens opportunity, builds civic capacity, and prepares our keiki for the future.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Urgent climate action and renewable energy are vital to preserve Hawaiʻi's ecosystems, protect communities, and secure long term resilience.

11. GOVERNMENT

Accountability and ethics in government matter because they restore public trust and ensure decisions reflect the common good.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Universal, high quality healthcare is meaningful because everyone deserves access to care that keeps families healthy and communities strong.

13. HOUSING

Treating housing as a human right is essential because stable, affordable homes are the foundation for economic security and community stability.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Protecting civil rights and reproductive freedom matters because dignity and equality are prerequisite to a just society.

15. KŪPUNA

Supporting kūpuna to age in place matters because honoring elders preserves wisdom, family ties, and community continuity.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Advancing Native Hawaiian justice and funding cultural programs is meaningful because it repairs historical harms and strengthens cultural survival for all who call Hawaii home.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Digital access matters because connectivity enables education, employment, civic participation, and opportunity for all residents.

18. TRANSPORTATION

Investing in efficient, clean transit is meaningful because it reduces congestion, lowers emissions, and expands access to jobs and services.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Prioritizing diplomacy and holding the military accountable matters because it protects our environment, public health, and the wellbeing of veterans and communities.

Anthony Nagatani

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform with Reservations

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support this platform. I share its values and nearly all of its goals, and on the issues that brought me into this race I'm fully with it. Housing is a human right, and the platform's commitment to housing local families, building more of it, and pushing back on speculation is the heart of my campaign. I'm with it on labor and collective bargaining, on a living wage, on free public education and paying teachers like the professionals they are, and on reproductive freedom. That's why I'm running as a Democrat.

My reservations are about how we reach shared goals, not whether we should. I don't want to frame tourism and the military as industries to move away from. They feed too many local families for that. I'm angry about Red Hill and I'll say so anywhere, but I want to modernize and hold these industries accountable, not shrink them. We diversify our economy by adding to it, not subtracting from it.

On health care, I want universal coverage, and I want to get there without throwing thousands of working people in health administration out of a job. I support lowering the Medicare age and a strong public option the system can grow into over time. Same destination, with a transition that brings the workers along.

On campaign finance, I'm on the record, including on PBS, supporting public financing of elections, and I'm vehemently opposed to Citizens United. I also accept large individual contributions, and I'll be plain about why: you can't fix the rules of a game you've lost. Until public financing exists, I'll compete under the rules as they are so I'm in a position to change them. I don't take corporate PAC money.

I'm proud to run on this platform, and I'll work inside this party to reach its goals by the road I think actually gets us there.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Housing. The platform says housing is a human right, and that's the reason I'm running. In my district, in Chinatown, Downtown, Iwilei, and Sand Island, the thing keeping housing expensive and scarce is infrastructure that predates the war. You can't build what the pipes and the grid can't support. In office I'll fight to modernize that pre-WWII infrastructure so we can actually build the housing local families need, push to cut the barriers that slow that

building down, and protect the housing we have from speculation. I want coming home to be possible for the next local kid, not rare.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Economic Justice and Labor. I'm with almost all of it, but I'd change how it talks about the military and tourism. The plank treats them as industries to move away from. They feed too many local families for that frame. I'd improve it by holding these industries accountable and putting them to work for us instead of shrinking them. I'm angry about Red Hill and I'll say so anywhere, but accountability and partnership aren't opposites. The Army Corps of Engineers is the largest pool of engineering talent in these islands, and I'd rather have it building union, environmentally sound infrastructure than treat it as something to cut. We diversify our economy by adding to it, not subtracting from it.

5. AGRICULTURE

The part that matters most to me is food security. We import almost everything we eat, and that's a vulnerability for an island chain. I support protecting ag land and fighting invasive species. One improvement: I'd tie this more directly to keeping ag land affordable for working farmers, because the land-cost problem and the housing-cost problem in Hawaii are the same problem.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

This one's personal. I grew up singing in the Honolulu Boy Choir and I still do community theater when I can, so I know what arts access does for a kid. I support public funding for arts and arts education. I'd just push to make sure the funding actually reaches public school classrooms and not only the big institutions.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The most meaningful part is the link between public safety and public health. I'd improve the plank by naming the missing piece: beds. We treat houselessness like a policing problem when it's a public-health emergency. I want officers backed to enforce the law, including mandatory treatment, matched by an equal amount of compassion: a real, fully staffed facility with medical beds, comprehensive care, and family reunification where it's possible. The principle is here. I want the building that makes it real.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

I'm with almost all of this, especially the living wage and the right to organize. Where I'd improve it is the framing of tourism and the military as industries to move away from. They feed too many local families for that. I'd hold them accountable and put them to work for us, the Army Corps building union, environmentally sound infrastructure, instead of treating them as something to shrink. We grow our economy by adding to it, not subtracting from it.

9. EDUCATION

Free public education and paying teachers like professionals is the heart of it, and I'm all in. Two improvements: I'd keep some honest, objective way to measure how kids are actually doing rather than dropping standardized assessment entirely, and I'd let public pre-K dollars work through trusted local providers so we build childcare capacity instead of limiting it.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

The Public Trust doctrine and the Ahupua'a thinking are what stand out, the idea that how we manage land and water has to balance people and nature. I support the 100% renewable goal. My improvement is practical: tie the environmental review process to actually building the housing and infrastructure we need, so "protect the environment" and "build for local families" stop being treated as opposites.

11. GOVERNMENT

The most meaningful part is getting money out of politics. I support public financing of elections, I've said so on PBS, and I'm vehemently opposed to Citizens United. I'd strengthen the plank by being specific about the goal: overturn Citizens United and build a public financing system real enough that someone without wealth can run and win.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Mental health access is the part I care most about, personally and for my district, and we don't have nearly enough of it. On universal coverage, I'd improve how we get there: lower the Medicare age, build a strong public option the system can grow into, and manage the transition so the working people in health administration don't lose their jobs along the way. Same destination, more honest about the path.

13. HOUSING

This is why I'm running. Housing is a human right, and in my district the thing keeping it scarce and expensive is infrastructure that predates the war. You can't build what the pipes and the grid won't support. I wouldn't change the values here at all. I'd just make the mechanism explicit: modernize our old infrastructure first, because that's what actually lets us build for local families and bring costs down.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Equal rights under the law for everyone, full stop, including reproductive freedom and full equality for the LGBTQIA+ community. I support this plank as written. The foster and adopted children language stands out to me as thoughtful, putting the child's safety first while still respecting family. I wouldn't change it.

15. KŪPUNA

I support the funding for kūpuna care and caregiver support. I'd improve it by connecting it to housing, because a lot of our kūpuna can only age in place if there's affordable housing for family nearby.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

I support this plank. I want to be straight about where I stand on it: I'm not Kānaka. I'm a product of Hawaii's colonial history, born and raised here, and this is home, but that history is not something I get to speak over. The decisions this plank points to, from the Public Land Trust to questions like TMT, belong to Native Hawaiians to make. My job as a non-Hawaiian representative is to support those commitments, help deliver the resources and accountability the plank calls for, and listen. So I won't propose a change here. I'd rather defer to the people whose plank this is.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Digital access as essential infrastructure is the right call, especially for kūpuna and for kids doing schoolwork. I came home because remote work finally made it possible, so I know firsthand what connectivity makes possible. I'd improve the plank by tying digital equity to the same goal as everything else, which is keeping people able to live and work here without leaving.

18. TRANSPORTATION

Affordable, efficient transit that doesn't run on imported fuel is the heart of it. I support transit oriented development, and in my district that's directly tied to housing. My improvement: make sure transit investment is planned together with housing, so we build homes where the transit is and don't strand working families far from where they need to go.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

I support honoring veterans and caring for their physical and mental health, no reservation there. I also believe the military has to be held accountable for harm it causes here, and Red Hill is exactly why. Where I'd improve the plank is the framing: I don't support shrinking the military as a goal. You can't unilaterally disarm, these jobs support local families, and I'd rather hold the military accountable and partner with it than treat it as something to reduce.

Arjuna Heim

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Hawaii Democratic Party Platform as it aligns most closely with my moral values and would like to see actionable policies inspired by this Platform enacted by the legislature.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Housing: infrastructure is the number one barrier to housing and affordable housing across this state, I would support policies which create infrastructure banking of our various public infrastructure funds and leverage them into bond financing so as the government can at large upgrade our outdated infrastructure at scale instead of piecemeal. Additionally, supporting density near major public transit areas (which complements the Party's transportation goals), propose a young homeowner tax credit which would provide a tax credit for people under 35 who have filed a tax return in Hawaii and have bought property intent for owner occupancy, as well as utilize public lands within the urban land use area to build dense state or county owned quality rental housing at scale to the needs of residents. Support removing duplicative processes/procedures which slow down and increase the cost of delivering housing.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Technology and Digital Equity: the party must take a bold stance on technology and digital equity by holding Big Tech corporations accountable for the degradation of our social and political fabric which have caused harms that fall disproportionately on our youth. The rage-based attention economy is not an accident; it is a deliberate design choice by corporations that profit while our children suffer rising rates of suicide and self-harm. I think the party should support meaningful regulation that keeps children under 16 off these platforms, equip parents with the legal tools to take action against platforms that have caused documented harm to minors, protect our limited energy resources from the unchecked expansion of data centers, and enact strong data privacy laws that put Hawaii's people in control of their own information. Additionally, I think supporting taxing the advertising revenues these companies generate by selling our data, and directing those funds toward youth mental health, education, and digital literacy.

5. AGRICULTURE

Food security is key for resiliency and lowering costs to residents. I think including different forms of AG (such as verticle hydroponics) would be good to include as well, the platform doesn't get into the role of small farmers which are integral to diversifying our economy and food access/availability.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

Broad statements that I generally agree with--arts and culture are one of the most important forms of expression in a functional democracy whether it is communicating the past, present, hopes of the future, or protest. I think it's lacking specificism or mentional specially of Native Hawaiian's and the improtance of funding and making available programs which empower Native Hawaiian artists in cultural expressions.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Linking public safety to root causes like poverty and racism, and explicly supports police reform and investments in public health responses. I think separating out climate disaster preparedness and crime/policing would make this section more logical, it feels a bit awkward bunching it together.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

Commitment to workers rights, progressive taxation, and economic diversification away from tourism and military are excellent goals to strive for. I think it would help to include explicitly that increase tax burdens not just on high income earners ant he wealthy but on corporations as well, and I think a foward thinking adjustment would be some language on protecting workers from AI/automation transitions (how can we enable workers to gain a stake of profits in an evolving AI/automation tranistion of their jobs and not be left behind).

9. EDUCATION

Agree whole heartedly with this section--quality public education is a core tenant to create thriving residents who can obtain better prospects in life, its integral that we pay teachers their worth. I would include a specific paragraph about public librarys to this section as well: the improtance of public librarys and continued funding for the good of all in this state as a place for education, self improvement, resource hub, and third space.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Energy independce is key to sustainability and future security as well as protect against cost shocks of the global market to oil. Expanding upon the importance of transit oriented development to meeting energy and environmental goals as well as considering community energy independence into this section.

11. GOVERNMENT

Pro: automative voter registration, same day voter registration, campaign finance section. Should include: language which expells someone from the party for participating in non ethical standards as laid out in Article XIV of the state constituttion. It should also include here emphasis of a government that works for people and delivers actual services rather than going through processes for the sake of process.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

I agree with universal healthcare system and expanding and improving medicare for all as well as supporting public funding. However, that seems more like a federal policy which the state is limited in enacting/influencing. Inclusion of state solutions, like utilizing state buying power to purchase expensive but life saving drugs in bulk to lower the cost to residents, increasing the availability of locally grown produce, and investing in an urban environment that promotes walking/active lifestyle. Investing in the UH system which is R1 Research school, and is better equiped to look at the connections between health and wellbeing and cultural knowledge.

13. HOUSING

Pro: framing housing as a human right. This section should explicity support transit oriented development and production of dense housing which is complimentary to the Enviornment and Energy plank.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Section is comprehensive and explicity anmes LGBTQIA+ equality, reproductive rights, disability rights, and foster care. I think it should also include an enforcment clause that the state should defend against abuses of human and civil rights, no matter where they come from.

15. KŪPUNA

Agree with ageing in place with dignity and investing in kupuna and family care program. However, without a section on young people I fear this continues to perpetuate the practice across the US and here in Hawaii of investing in older, retires at the expense of younger people. In isolation, this section reads as investing in Hawaiis wealthiest demographic without acknowledging the intergenerational tradeoff if the platform doesn't pair kupuna investment with equally strong commitments to young people, housing affordability, and family formation, it implicitly accepts the trend of young people leaving the state, which ultimately undermines the tax base and workforce needed to actually deliver elder care.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

It's good that the plank is generally suppyortive of native hawaiiains in efforts to secure justice and repair harms but it's more reactionary than forward thinking. A stronger version would shift from "we support efforts to repair harms" to "we commit to fulfilling our

existing constitutional obligations, empowering OHA and DHHL as the institutions Native Hawaiians have built, and supporting Native Hawaiian self-governance."

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Digital equity is a great plank that I agree with, however as stated in a previous response: the party must take a bold stance on technology and digital equity by holding Big Tech corporations accountable for the degradation of our social and political fabric which have caused harms that fall disproportionately on our youth. The rage-based attention economy is not an accident; it is a deliberate design choice by corporations that profit while our children suffer rising rates of suicide and self-harm. I think the party should support meaningful regulation that keeps children under 16 off these platforms, equip parents with the legal tools to take action against platforms that have caused documented harm to minors, protect our limited energy resources from the unchecked expansion of data centers, and enact strong data privacy laws that put Hawaii's people in control of their own information. Additionally, I think supporting taxing the advertising revenues these companies generate by selling our data, and directing those funds toward youth mental health, education, and digital literacy.

18. TRANSPORTATION

Fully agree on public mass transit and bike lanes. Something that is missing is reducing reliance on single person vehicle transportation and creating a urban environment that is friendly to pedestrian and bike transportation: reducing urban heat through reduction of VMT, planting of street trees, and creating wide pedestrian pathways with shade and places to rest.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

I agree with all the sentiments of this section; diplomacy > violence, utilizing the US Military as last resort to defend human right and freedoms and reduction of military spending and the national security industry. However, this last paragraph feels incoherent with the statments in Economic Justice and Labor "We support policies to diversify our economy so that it is no longer reliant on environmentally adverse industries such as tourism and the military"--something needs to be reconciled between the two.

Ashley Olson

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

Yes, I support the Platform, I believe in the Democratic Party values

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Education: My background already aligns with this plank in terms of 21st century school facilities, separation of church and state, gender equity and inclusive practices, honest sexual wellness programs, and professional salaries for educators.

As a legislator, I will protect collective bargaining rights, because this affects so many more than just teachers. Additionally, I will work with colleagues to seek dedicated funding streams for education to address educator recruitment and retention, but also to address the incredible repair and maintenance backlog our schools face.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

EDUCATION: Acknowledge that teachers' working conditions are students' learning environment and that climate controlled classrooms improve student outcomes. Invest in robust, state approved teacher education programs (SATEP) to reduce the costs associated with obtaining licensure. Recognize that we must recruit from among our own students. Emphasize Hawaiian Immersion and the need to train and recruit teachers in order to maintain and expand the reach of the Hawaiian language. Additionally, I believe it would be worth adding the words "age appropriate" with regard to content on the historical injustice and cultural subjugation faced by Native Hawaiians and other historically underrepresented populations".

5. AGRICULTURE

One way to strengthen this plank would be to emphasize supporting local farmers, ranchers, and food producers through workforce development, and tax credits based on food produced for local consumption (so that we don't get more "sod farmers").

6. ARTS & CULTURE

Recognize the arts not only as a cultural asset, but also as an important contributor to Hawaii's economy and quality of life.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Add mental health and substance abuse to the list of root causes of crime.

Add flood and fire mitigation as well as evacuation plans to the paragraph about natural and man-made disasters. Address infrastructure issues here as well such as moving utilities underground and/or away from the shoreline.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

Explicitly address the affordability challenges facing working families, particularly housing, health care, and child care costs. Point out that when an insurance company or health care insurance company has shareholders, their focus is on profits for those shareholders and not on the needs of those to whom they provide service. Additionally, address the regressive nature of the excise tax. Speak to expanding tax credits for low income families - and identifying "low income" with more attention paid to our cost of living rather than relying on federal guidelines.

9. EDUCATION

Please refer to first two questions on this survey.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Education is the first step to understanding - and better stewardship of our resources. Emphasize proactive planning, resilient infrastructure, and effective natural resource management as ways to mitigate risk from natural, and manmade, disasters.

11. GOVERNMENT

At the State and County levels, increase leadership capacity through active recruitment of candidates and term limits. Stagger terms, and restructure the way that leadership roles are assigned so that it is not simply "s/he who has served longest".

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Directly address the recent federal student loan guidelines that reclassified nursing degrees, removing them from the "professional degree" designation.

13. HOUSING

Edit to state that houselessness is A symptom, not THE symptom of an inequitable economic system, etc. Additionally, language around anti-speculation should be strengthened, emphasizing our support for policies that "preserve housing for owner-occupants, long-term renters, and local communities". Support tax incentives for those who rent their income properties to long term tenants.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

We must add language explicitly recognizing that civil rights protections must be actively enforced, not merely preserved.

15. KŪPUNA

Recognize that family caregivers provide essential care that allows many kūpuna to remain in their homes and communities. Support expansion of caregiver support services, including respite care, training, counseling, workplace flexibility, and financial assistance for family members providing long-term care.

Support community centers that provide places for kūpuna to gather and socialize and emphasize the need for transportation that takes into account the fact that an all-day excursion for a two hour event is too taxing for many of our kūpuna.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Address explicitly that, if we lose `Ōlelo Hawai`i, we will also lose the culture - and the language is best preserved and expanded through education. Speak to recruitment of teachers for Kaiapuni programs, and bring immersion fully into the public schools. Kaiapuni programs should not be relegated to charter schools, they should be a full partner in regular public schools.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Emphasize that high quality internet must be not only consistent, but affordable. I believe that it is time to recognize internet access as a utility, much like water and power.

18. TRANSPORTATION

Transportation access and equity must be emphasized. There is a heavy focus on fossil fuel and infrastructure, but much less so on whether people can actually reach jobs, schools, health care, and other necessities.

We also need to address the importance of air transportation, and how disadvantaged residents are on Moloka`i, Lāna`i, and parts of Hawai`i Island.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Add language emphasizing international law and human rights standards as guiding principles for foreign policy. We discuss “diplomacy, cooperation and the promotion of mutual prosperity” but don’t delve into accountability.

Address the dismissal and erasure of women, especially in leadership roles, from the armed services and make clear that we want the most qualified individuals in leadership roles, regardless of gender, ethnicity, race or religion. We must state that religion has no place in military decision making.

Bobby Silva

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Democratic Platform

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I really support the Agriculture and Food Security Plank. Sourcing our own natural food is a big part of living in Hawaii. Fighting heigher prices created my import tarrifs is a good step in making thing affordable again.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

The housing and zoning plank definalty need improvement. Part of my stance is Accountiblity and holding people and policies accountable so that real change can happen is a big part of why I'm running.

5. EDUCATION

Growing up I watched my parents struggle to send me to Private school. Today the public school system is much better - my childrern attend one of the best in the state, but all school should be held to a higher standard.

Bulla Eastman

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform with Reservations

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

The platform is a wide brush attempt to address a plethora of concerns. There are some items that need more discussion with our constituents to determine their position.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

#6 Strengthen Local Food Systems, work with local farmers to increase production as a supply line for the DOE Healthy Food Program that has faltered. Offer assistance to allow local fatmwrsto be competitive with mainland vendors to big box stores.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

#8 We need to solidify with our constituents their position for Gender Affirming Care as many still have questions and concerns. I would go back to public forums to encourage a larger dialogue with our constituents.

5. AGRICULTURE

Assist farmers for greater production to lessen our dependency on goods being shipped in. Increase participation in DOE Healthy Eating but have an adequate supply of goods from local producers. If we can reduce our dependency upon goods being shipped we can stabilize our economy and offer viable economic opportunities for the work force.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

We need to support local culture more assertively and should include more than just native Hawaiians. By including more ethnic groups we can accommodate more interest from the community.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We need to address the high rate of recidivism by creating more programs that will prepare the inmates for their reintegration to society upon their release. I would suggest collaboration between unions and current administration of the prison facilities to offer training that coincides with the union requirements.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

By increasing the minimum wage to a livable wage will reduce the number of full time positions by business owners. we should address the high cost of living that affects everyone.

9. EDUCATION

Life long education will only have upside benefits for our community as a whole.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Climate change should not be the focus but conservation and greater educational programs for the public so we could have a greater participation by the constituents.

11. GOVERNMENT

I believe in reducing the size and influence of government over businesses. We should focus on the retention of the local talent that are leaving in the highest number ever.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Promote and educate for health and increasing longevity.

13. HOUSING

Housing is a challenge because of supply and demand. We need to explore alternatives for the first time buyers. To lessen poverty we increase home ownership for our constituents.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

We should support the rights to legal immigrants. If they're here legally thane we need to protect and assist as needed.

15. KŪPUNA

More benefits and programs for the kupuna.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Honor the Native Hawaiians and we need to address DHHL and help accelerate their process for ownership.

17. TRANSPORTATION

Our island is becoming closer to grid lock than ever before. Incentivize mass transit and any entity that can decrease the amount of cars on the road.

18. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Return all training lands back to the state.

Carol Fukunaga

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I have reviewed the DPH platform and endorse it.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Public Safety and Disaster & Emergency Preparedness - support policies and legislation to establish resilient community hubs, create/implement disaster preparedness programs that address public health/public safety,

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Economic Justice and Labor - can improve upon DPH's opposition to the tip credit, which can be retooled to acknowledge that small businesses (restaurants in particular) face unprecedented economic challenges for food supplies, facilities and equipment. If government requires restaurants/small businesses to pay minimum wages for employees who also receive tips from customers, there should be a means of providing tax breaks to help restaurants/food service establishments survive.

Chad K. Schimmelfennig

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

The values and beliefs of the platform are a direct reflection of my core values as a father, veteran, Kanaka, and community member seeking an elected position

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

As an educator, I naturally have to agree with the educational plank because I have a greater understanding of both the DOE and Charter school systems. As an elected official, I will continue to advocate for a rich and viable education system that benefits both educators and students in all educational branches.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I'm not sure how to enhance any of the platform, but as a veteran, I would definitely like to see more effort given towards our veterans who have served in the armed forces. I don't exactly know how to further this plank since it's concise and direct, but I am always open to advancing veterans affairs

5. AGRICULTURE

I would suggest that not only identify robust agriculture, but include small localized ag that would have the potential of growing and providing products for their own district as well.

6. EDUCATION

Knowledge that there are two branches of the BOE and have a clear delineation between both DOE and Charter school systems. This has been an issue with laws being introduced that fail to look at how one benefits and the may not.

7. KŪPUNA

The fact that this is included in a plank was a big plus for me. I appreciate that we are acknowledging our kupuna, but more that we value their insight and experience which should be a necessary value in decisions we make for our future

8. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

As a kanaka, this does capture the essence of what many of us want and are continually fighting for. Having this as its own plank proves that this platform is committed to the promotion of an equitable change for the betterment of our people.

9. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The previous page had my response to this question

Chisty Kikue MacPherson

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I completely support the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

In general, I believe that housing is a human right, people should be paid living wages, we need to balance the needs of our people with preserving our natural resources, humans have inherent rights to freedom, justice, dignity, and peace, and that we need to work against corruption in all forms.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

"We believe government officials should be held to the highest ethical standards, as required by Article XIV of the Hawai'i State Constitution, and support full transparency in all government functions. We support policies that protect the integrity of our electoral process.

We support government reforms that limit the influence of money on the creation or execution of policy. We support campaign finance reform that limits the amount of money organizations, corporations or individuals can donate to political campaigns. We support full public-financing of elections."

I would go so far as to add that if the DPH is made aware that one of their elected members is not upholding the Hawai'i State Constitution, then the elected may be subject to termination as a member. This would obviously require further discernment, but there needs to be more serious consequences for our elected officials who are representing the Party and who are in serious violation.

5. AGRICULTURE

We support responsible development of these resources to achieve food security and self-sufficiency, while ensuring the sustainability of these resources for future generations to come.

This is an area that our state needs to expand on, supporting our local farmers and providing them with the resources needed to produce food for our own people and lower food costs.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

We support public funding of the arts, artists, arts education and cultural organizations and initiatives in communities and schools.

The arts need to be made accessible to all of our residents, including those who cannot afford to pay for experiences and educational opportunities.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We support policies that prevent crime by addressing root causes, especially systemic poverty and systemic racism.

This is key, and we are seeing the uptick in violence and crime because of broader systemic and economic issues impacting our islands.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

We believe all workers have the right to safe, dignified jobs that pay a living wage.

There is a difference between a minimum wage and a living wage, and we need to continue fighting for the later.

9. EDUCATION

Educators should be paid professional salaries to ensure that all children are taught by qualified teachers.

For too long, our educators have been underpaid. It's time for the state to fund an increase in their salaries so that they can afford to live here and to motivate new folks to enter the field and fill the vacant positions that have been plaguing our educational system.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

We believe that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment.

This includes our wai, kai and auwai and everything else. We need to shut down Red Hill once and for all.

11. GOVERNMENT

We believe that a government of, by and for the people should be accountable to the people.

Elected officials need to remember that they serve the people, not themselves. Self-interests that only benefit our elected officials and not the people they serve need to be monitored. Special interest groups that do not benefit the wider public need to stop being given privileged access to our resources, either directly or through the public officials they lobby and donate to.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We believe all people have the right to access high quality healthcare regardless of ability to pay.

This is becoming more and more critical since our current Administration is not in alignment.

13. HOUSING

We believe housing is a human right.

And because of this, our government should be making this a priority at the Legislature and City and County.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

We believe in full equality before the law for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Agender, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) community.

This includes supporting Same-Sex Marriage and Gender Affirming Care.

15. KŪPUNA

We support policies that make it easier to age in place and we support policies that make it easier for caregivers to provide quality care for kūpuna.

Caregiving challenges and issues continue to be a need requiring support here in Hawai i.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

We support Native Hawaiians in their efforts to secure justice from the federal and state governments to repair the harms suffered and endured by the Native Hawaiian people and 'āina, including fulfilling its Public Land Trust responsibilities which require that the revenue be provided annually to Native Hawaiians and funding of the Hawaiian Homes Commission budget and other housing programs to ensure that no Native Hawaiian is homeless, here in their homeland.

Our lawmakers have a LONG way to go in ensuring that these ideals and rights are valued and acted on.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

We support achieving digital equity to ensure that all of Hawai'i's residents—from keiki to kupuna—have the information technology capacity needed to participate fully in our society, democracy and economy, including civics, social and cultural activities, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.

I am increasingly seeing the challenges that our Kūpuna and ESL residents face when applying for employment, services and participating in our civic life. Language access and simplifying technology + offering different modes of communication for those without computer or phone access should be a priority.

18. TRANSPORTATION

We believe in the necessity of providing a safe, efficient transportation infrastructure.

I would appreciate adding "accessible, affordable" to this first statement.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

We support policy that holds the United States military accountable for harm it causes to the people of Hawai'i and to the environment.

Absolutely agree.

Corey Rosenlee

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the platform of the Democratic Party

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I believe in a dedicated funding source for education and will introduce legislation to fund education at much higher levels.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I don't disagree with the platform

Cristina Holt

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I just won my re-election to be representative for SCC D1. I support the platform and will continue to work to be accountable and hold others accountable to that platform. I introduced a resolution to add mechanisms for doing just that and it passed our state convention on May 30th.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Support Rights of Native

Hawaiians & Preserve Native Hawaiian Culture

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Our platform is quite strong. I would improve our mechanisms for making sure that those who run (and continue to run) as democrats SHOW in their work and voting record that they are in alignment. We do not currently have that and I see myself and in community that we have many wearing a Democrat hat in name but not in action. It is costing our party dearly.

I would also like to see our party acknowledge the damage of capitalism and imperialism and work quickly and diligently to move away from this deadly model of exploitation and to move towards a commerce of care economy. But I'm not sure we as a party are quite ready for that conversation ;)

5. AGRICULTURE

Small Farms, Local People feeding local people clean, healthy foods. END big chemical companies running experiments on our land, food and people.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

More money for arts, more protection of culture. Artists and cultural practitioners deserve to make a living wage and not be treated as lazy and unneeded.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

More Education, More services, more land restoration, led by kanaka.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

End military and tourism dominance in our economy. Move away from capitalism and imperialism. Move towards commerce and care. Protect and uplift labor. The working class is the only class that matters. We better start acting like it.

9. EDUCATION

Pay teachers, fix schools, FEED ALL KIDS, the future generations are the future.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Climate change is REAL and we must work towards smaller, localized energy solutions that discontinue the use of dirty fuels. We cannot keep consuming at this exponential rate. We must live within the means of our land.

11. GOVERNMENT

Get big money out of government. End corruption. Stop refusing donations from people just because the party thinks they're too far left. Hold elected people accountable in practice, not just in theory. Walk the freakin walk.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Medicare for ALL! NOW!!!!

13. HOUSING

House kanaka and locals first. Prioritize community land trusts and quit treating housing as a commodity to be traded rather than a necessity for our people.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

All people deserve the right to be happy, healthy, and have TIME to be with their loved ones and community, how they choose to. Stand up for those most marginalized and most likely to be attacked. Stand up now and always.

15. KŪPUNA

Kupuna Care is a MUST. When we care for the most vulnerable among us, we all thrive. Kupuna are the keepers of story, knowledge, and we must respect them and care for them and put them in positions to be around people as often as they wish to pass along their knowledge.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

This is Native Hawaiian Land. The US STOLE IT and we should work every day to clean up, pay reparations, and rebuild a sovereign kingdom of Hawai'i. We must right the wrongs of generations previous to us. We must start right away.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

NO DATA CENTERS. NO TECH BILLIONAIRES. Quit letting the rich steal our resources and our land. It's disgusting watching the party lick those boots.

18. TRANSPORTATION

Free, fast, reliable transportation. Make the ultra rich pay for it all. If we're lucky maybe theyll leave forever.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

As I said before- The US is an illegally occupying military force in the sovereign Nation of Hawaii. That must end. AND we as the US MUST keep our promises to those service members by providing them with school, housing, healthcare. Quit allowing nonsense wars to send our young people off to die to make the rich even richer.

Daisy Balais Hartsfield

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I believe in equal opportunity for all and my values align with the State and Oahu County Platforms.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Statewide, Economic Justice & Labor is necessary to decrease the cost of living. I will support bills to build and stabilize the workforce (e.g., increasing minimum wage, creating programs to increase the streams of applicants), provide safer work environments, meeting with unions to find out the needs of their members, exploring options to increase benefits to workers (e.g., paid leave, flexibility of work hours and remote work), and am also open to learning how employers can be supported so that they can also benefit from changes needed in the labor system.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Technology & Digital Equity is an area where changes occur so quickly that it is a challenge to stay current with information. Specific to this, plank, I would like to see a focus on how to protect the user so that their personal information remains confidential as much as possible, that they are not unknowingly placed in situations where they are coerced or taken advantage of/scammed, and to mitigate opportunities of online harassment/bullying, etc. To address this, I need to make the time to better educate myself about this.

Darius K. Kila

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform with Reservations

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

There are portions of this platform that I feel that are too prescriptive.

David Tarnas

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Platform.

Daynette "Dee" Morikawa

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

My past voting record will reflect my support for the platform.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I agree with all planks and will continue to support legislation in those areas.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

It will be difficult to fund certain areas unless our economy is strong and the loss of Federal funds is not too severe. I believe we have done a good job in past legislative sessions to take care of our ALICE families, agriculture initiatives and environment protections as best as we can.

5. AGRICULTURE

We have directed major funding to improve agriculture initiatives and hope to see its benefits in the near future.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

Recent legislation has addressed this area under the guidance of the leadership of Chair Kapela and this will continue if we are successfully elected again.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Not all bills passed due to funding issues, but we will continue to try improving these initiatives.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

Same answer as above.

9. EDUCATION

Need to pursue free meals and transportation. Another major funding issue.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Great committee chair leadership in this area. We will get better with good collaboration by all stakeholders.

11. GOVERNMENT

Need more transparency and accountability in how government provides public service. We must cut waste and be more efficient.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Good committee leadership will make for great results.

13. HOUSING

Same as above. When we have good legislation coming out of committees, funding is the only deterrent but I believe we are moving forward with more accomplishments.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Federal administration makes this area the most problematic but we must preserve and fight for our rights.

15. KŪPUNA

Always moving in a positive direction with these issues.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Another area under attack by the Federal government so we must be vigilant and preserve what we can.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Legislature is aware of these issues and will continue to develop policy where necessary.

18. TRANSPORTATION

Can only do what funding is available.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

I am very supportive of my district's military involvement and veterans affairs on Kauai are favorable thus far. However, legislative committee work continues under good leadership.

Derek S.K. Kawakami

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

We are the only party that ensures that we have a level playing field for people to achieve the American dream. Our party ensures that vulnerable and underserved communities have access to programs, services, and financial support to succeed. We believe that basic human rights shouldn't be reserved for those that can afford it nor should our ethnicity and race be a factor in receiving it. Our platform is a foundation and a path forward to ensuring a thriving community and safe space for all. Our party most closely reflects the values of Aloha.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I think the platform is balanced and well thought out. It is a holistic approach to addressing Hawaii's needs. If I had to pick one, it would be housing because that is what I hear about the most as I travel across the State and talk to different communities. I will always use the platform as a foundation of our decision making and actions.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I think the platform is sound.

5. AGRICULTURE

We believe that a key part of a sustainable and self-sufficient future for Hawai'i lies in a robust agricultural sector in our state that is capable of providing Hawai'i's people with sufficient, healthy and affordable food in perpetuity. We support the preservation and cultivation of sufficient land and marine agricultural resources to achieve this goal.

This statement hits the nail on the head.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

As an advocate and supporter of arts and culture, this plank resonates deeply with me. Government needs to create the space and environment for artists and cultural practitioners to thrive. Arts and Culture are critical to a thriving and strong economy.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

As Mayor, we understand the importance of Public Safety, disaster, and emergency preparedness. I thrive in this arena and am the only candidate with the track record and experience of leading an island through disasters and challenging times.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

All people should be able to prosper.

9. EDUCATION

As a son of a public school teacher, a husband of a public school teacher, and as a parent of children who are products of our public school system as well as my wife Monica and I both being products of our public school system, I believe that having a high quality education system for all is the foundation for a thriving and vibrant society. Education begins at birth and we must continue to support initiatives that makes early learning and public education accessible to all.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

As the only candidate who has served on the Board of Directors for our Electric Utility Cooperative and served as the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, we shaped the way for the success that our utility is seeing today. We lead the nation renewable energy, on some days we are actually hitting 100 percent renewable. As Mayor, we are the first in the nation to create a sea level rise zoning ordinance. We are also the first in the State to introduce a Wildland Urban Interface zoning ordinance. We are seeing an increase in coastal flooding, storm activity, and wildfires, As Mayor, we took action and continue to address climate change by building in preparation, response, and resilience to take care of our environment and move towards a clean energy future.

11. GOVERNMENT

I agree wholeheartedly

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

As Mayor, we built the first inclusive playgrounds for children with disabilities. We lead in incorporating health and wellness in our built environment. We created and sustained programs for our Kupuna and Keiki to ensure that healthy activities and recreational space can be accessed by all. We work with our healthcare system to ensure high quality and affordable healthcare is accessible to all. As Mayor, I am the first to provide free healthcare insurance to our government workers. Government workers are exempt from the prepaid health care act and so much work remains to ensure that they are inline with the rest of the private sector.

13. HOUSING

I support the plank wholeheartedly. I am the only candidate that has a proven track record in delivering housing as laid out in this plank.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

It goes without question that human and civil rights are the driving force and foundation of our party's mission.

15. KŪPUNA

I agree wholeheartedly.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

As a Native Hawaiian, we are committed to ensuring that the host people and culture are made whole and we cannot thrive, until we ensure that our Native Hawaiian communities are taken cared of.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

I agree.

18. TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is a critical need for our vulnerable and underserved population. When I talk to struggling families, the roadblocks for success often include, housing, childcare, and transportation.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

I agree

Derek Turbin

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

Strong support

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Will support legislation in strong support of local agriculture development and economic justice and labor.

4. AGRICULTURE

I'm in strong support of developing a sustainable environment that supports local farmers and agriculture.

5. ARTS & CULTURE

We must support initiatives that preserves our rich history and culture.

6. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

With the recent storms and disasters resulting from climate change, we need to be more proactive and less reactive when it comes to preparing our communities for natural disasters.

7. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

I'm a strong supporter of economic justice and labor. I support the right to organize and unionize.

8. EDUCATION

We need to invest in our Public Schools. Including ensuring that teachers receive good and fair wages, and our facilities are well functioning and up to date.

9. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

In District 21 the environment is a major issue. We need to manage invasive species, and build sustainable energy infrastructure.

10. GOVERNMENT

We must protect our Democracy, including the right to vote by mail and due process rights for all.

11. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

I support the belief that all people have an inherent right to live a healthy life in a clean and safe environment.

12. HOUSING

We need to invest in quality affordable housing.

13. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

I'm a strong supporter of Women's Reproductive Rights and LGBTQ+ rights.

14. KŪPUNA

Kupuna deserve quality care including quality in-home care and health care.

15. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

I'm in support of actions by the federal and state governments to enhance Native Hawaiian culture, health, language, and quality housing.

16. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

I support achieving digital equity to ensure that all of Hawai'i's residents—from keiki to kupuna—have the information technology capacity needed to participate fully in our society, democracy and economy.

17. TRANSPORTATION

It's essential that Hawai'i provides safe, efficient transportation infrastructure.

18. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

I'm in strong support policies that provide veterans with the best possible care of both their physical and mental health.

Ed Case

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform with Reservations

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the State Platform with the following reservations and exceptions:

Public Safety and Disaster and Emergency Preparedness:

4th paragraph:

-I don't categorically oppose the death penalty in each and all circumstances. There may be very limited situations where, if there is no question of guilt for a heinous crime and there are strict safeguards against mistake, it might be appropriate. An example is the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

-I don't agree that the purpose of incarceration is solely to protect the public. While i do agree that incarceration is resorted to too frequently in our criminal justice system, loss of freedom is also both a deterrence to and a consequence of crime.

Economic Justice and Labor:

2nd paragraph:

-I agree with diversifying our economy and that there are environmentally adverse consequences of tourism and defense, but don't agree with the blanket statement that they are "environmentally adverse", and also don't agree with singling them out without mention of other industries with environmental consequences such as agriculture.

3rd paragraph:

-I don't agree with ruling out any and all tip credit-related policies; there may be circumstances in which they are appropriate.

Education

3rd paragraph:

-I don't agree that collective bargaining should apply to "all" educational employees. For non-public schools, that should be subject to current rights to choose whether to organize. For public schools, there may be some positions at the management level (for example, the Superintendent of the Hawai'i Department of Education and other senior managers) for when it is not appropriate.

4th paragraph:

-The last sentence does not fully represent what i believe we should and shouldn't teach of our history. I don't doubt that Native Hawaiians and many others (not just "historically underrepresented populations") were subjected to injustice, and that that must be accurately and fully taught. But that doesn't capture the full sweep and context of our history good and bad, tends toward a telling of history that in the big picture is not correct, and if not told in full context is divisive and counter to other principles we embrace.

Health and Wellbeing

1st paragraph:

-I support available, affordable, quality health care for all Americans, but not a single one-size-fits-all "universal health care system", including a mandated universal "Medicare for All" system (although I do support a public option under which anyone who wants to be covered by Medicare can opt in).

Housing

2nd paragraph:

-I agree with what I believe is the intent of the first sentence which is to state that homelessness is one result of unacceptable growing inequality in our system. I don't agree if the intent is to indict our economic system broadly, and also believe that there are many ways to address affordable housing and homelessness at all of the state, local and community levels without crippling a system on which our economy, jobs, taxes and services rely.

Native Hawaiians and Hawaiian Culture

1st paragraph:

-I support the Public Land Trust and agree that neither Native Hawaiians nor any of us should be homeless in our own land. I'm reluctant to agree to this and various other

characterizations of what the Public Land Trust does and doesn't require short of the facts of what it says as further legislated by legislatures and interpreted by the courts.

U.S. Military and Veterans Affairs

1st and 2nd paragraphs:

-I agree with much of what is stated and implied here, for example, that our foreign policy should include "diplomacy, cooperation and the promotion of mutual prosperity", and that we should promote nuclear disarmament. But I also believe that, given the reality of the world we live in today and will continue to live in, with major challenges from countries like the People's Republic of China and Russia who do not share our values, we must maintain a strong national defense to deter actions not in our best interests and to act on them when we must.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

It is less about agreeing with any specific plank because I believe they are all critical. It is more about agreeing with the elements of each plank that focus on what the people of Hawai'i most care about: attacking the unacceptably high cost of living, and improving our economy and providing good jobs that allow them to make it and care for their 'ohana here. In that light I believe the platform would be greatly improved with specific planks on reducing the cost of living and improving our economy and jobs which include the various specific already in the platform in various places as well as many other specifics. Over twelve years in Congress, in legislation, my Appropriations Committee and otherwise, I have focused on many of these specifics for reducing the main drivers of high costs as well as supporting and expanding our main economic pillars and jobs and creating new ones.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

U.S. Military and Veterans Affairs. I outlined my concerns with the incompleteness of the statements on our national defense above, and believe further that a platform that ignores

the realities of our world today and of the need for a strong national defense will not be considered a credible statement of position by the great majority of Hawai'i. There is nothing inconsistent between recognizing the critical need for national defense, and calling for it to be developed and used responsibly in an uncertain and dangerous world without shorting our many other critical non-defense needs.

Eric C. Barsatan

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I am a long time Democrat. My values and beliefs are completely aligned with the Democratic Party of Hawaii and therefore I support the Platform.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Education: I would vote to support appropriate initiatives related to the democratic party's goals in all areas related to education. To help achieve the goals of in terms of the area of early education, I would propose to start introducing or exposing children to new technologies early on including Artificial Intelligence (AI), appropriate for their age level, as they need to prepare for the future and not left behind.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Economic Sustainability: I would improve it by creating more programs in partnership with banks and SBA to promote and encourage people to be entrepreneurs and become business owners. Small businesses help in job creation and innovation, which are the foundation of a healthy economy.

5. AGRICULTURE

"Buy Local" strategies. This is meaningful to me because I would like to help our local farmers and they provide jobs for our community. Also, fresh produce are best for our residents and restaurants. I would improve this area by looking at tax incentives to businesses that supports "Buy Local" strategies.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

Hawai'i prospers when we protect and promote the unique artistic and cultural contributions of the artists who create and preserve Hawai'i's multicultural heritage. This is meaningful to me because artists are sometimes overlooked but we should treat them like island treasures. We can improve this area by looking at how we can expand in supporting local artists including increasing partnership with the tourism industry.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

"Ensuring access to economic and social services during natural disasters" is meaningful to me because we have to take care of the people that are impacted. How we can improve in this area is that we need to look at continuous support for them until they get back on their feet.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

"Committed to ending institutionalized discrimination and racism" is meaningful to me because I first-hand experience it myself in the workforce as a minority. How we can improve in this area is to include more minorities or people that have been affected in this area to find recommendations and solutions as they first-hand have experience.

9. EDUCATION

"Education is the foundation for the future of Hawai'i" is meaningful to me because this is exactly my belief. As a father of four, I would want my kids who are in public school to have the best education possible so they can be great contributor to Hawaii's economy in the future. How we can improve in this area is to make sure that all schools are supported equally as there seems to be this idea that better neighborhoods have better school.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

"O'ahu's natural and cultural resources must be preserved, protected, and sustained for the benefit of present and future generations" is meaningful to me because I am a strong advocate and champion of this because it one of the things that makes Hawaii special and unique. We can improve in this area by educating our keikis and the new generation so the initiatives that are in place today will continue in the future.

11. GOVERNMENT

"Continuously review and adopt voter participation reforms that create easy, simple, accessible registration and voting programs" is meaningful to me especially that I am running for office. How we can improve in this area is to provide more education and awareness of the voting process to help voters understand from voter registration to mailing their ballots. Especially in areas that have low registered voters and where there are low voter turnout.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

"Support a healthcare system that ensures accessible, affordable, quality services and coverage for all" is meaningful to me because this should be one of our top priorities. How we can improve in this area is to help bridge the relationship between the insurance providers and the health systems so they can have a better partnership provide health services to the community.

13. HOUSING

"Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to individual income" meaningful to me because it is more so important now due to inflation and the continuous rise of our cost of living. To help improve this area, we need to have a more robust program to see real change. This issue is tough and on-going and so solution may even include partnering at the national level to work with nationwide banks and housing/real estate corporations.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

"We are committed to ending institutionalized discrimination and racism" is meaningful to me because it's an on-going issue and this is important because Hawaii has great diversity. I would improve in this area by looking existing laws and how it can be improved them -- whether is enforcing or updating the laws, or even increasing fines and penalties.

15. KŪPUNA

"We support strengthening and expanding the home care workforce, giving seniors and people with disabilities access to quality, affordable long-term care, services, and supports, and ensuring that all of these resources are readily available at home or in the community" is meaningful to me because we have to care for our kupuna. How I can improve in this area to have more manpower or people in the workforce to reach out to our seniors and help them navigate the system.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

"We support policies and programs that embrace and enrich Native Hawaiian traditions and values" is meaningful to me because it what makes Hawaii, Hawaii. It's the foundation of Hawaii and it's what makes Hawaii so special to residents and visitors. To help improve in this area to have continuous funding for this area to preserve the strong and famous identity of Hawaii.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

"We believe that digital access is a critical and essential service necessary for the functioning of and participation in many aspects of our economy and community life" is meaningful to me cause we have to embrace technology, especially new technology otherwise we will be left behind. There are always new technology and this industry moves rapidly. To improve this area, we need to have specific part of government to monitor this area and propose them to Hawaii accordingly.

18. TRANSPORTATION

"We support transportation projects and planning to reduce traffic congestion, promote mass transit, and reduce our reliance on automobiles by employing private and public use of alternative modes of travel" is meaningful to me because many of the people I know believe this should be a major priority. To improve in this area, there should be better

transparency to the community of what the projects out there and so the community can get more involved in finding solutions.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

"We support programs that provide free or affordable, responsive and timely healthcare, with particular focus on mental health, post-traumatic stress, substance abuse issues, and health conditions associated with service. Additionally, we support efforts to assist veterans in their reintegration to society through educational benefits and job training, ending chronic homelessness, and combating suicide" is meaningful to me because I have work for an organization to provide housing for single soldiers and I saw all these issues first hand. I would improve in this area by helping to provide more "case managers" for the veterans to help them navigate the system to take advantage of benefits available for them. Also to have veterans in office and senior military personnel to help propose solutions to issues related to veterans.

Ernest Carvalho

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Hawai i Democratic Party Platform with reservations.

As a lifelong Democrat, veteran, public servant, and community leader, I strongly support the platform's core values of integrity, fairness, opportunity, transparency, environmental stewardship, workers' rights, affordable housing, quality public education, healthcare access, support for kūpuna, and protection of civil rights. Many of these principles align with the work I have done throughout my life serving the people of Kalihi, Liliha, Iwilei, Chinatown, and District 28.

I particularly support efforts to strengthen food security and local agriculture, preserve Hawai i's natural resources, protect our water supply, expand affordable housing opportunities for local residents, improve educational outcomes with greater emphasis on STEM and career pathways, support our working families, and ensure that our kūpuna can age with dignity and security.

I also strongly support investments in the arts and culture. As someone who has worked extensively in Downtown-Chinatown, I have seen firsthand how artists, cultural practitioners, and community events help strengthen neighborhoods, preserve history, and create economic opportunities. Hawai i's unique cultural heritage must continue to be protected and celebrated.

I support many of the platform's public safety goals, including rehabilitation, addiction treatment, mental health services, and community-based solutions. However, I also believe that residents deserve safe streets and that there must be meaningful accountability for violent offenders, repeat criminals, and those who threaten public safety. Compassion and accountability must work together.

As a veteran of the United States Air Force, I also recognize the important role the military plays in our national security and Hawai i's economy. While I support holding the military accountable for environmental harm and public health impacts, including Red Hill, I believe we must maintain a strong national defense while working toward peace through diplomacy.

I further believe that Hawai i must continue to diversify its economy while recognizing that

tourism and the military remain major economic drivers. Our goal should be to improve these industries, reduce negative impacts, and create new opportunities in technology, agriculture, renewable energy, small business development, and local entrepreneurship.

Overall, I support the spirit and objectives of the platform while maintaining independent views on several policy areas. My commitment is not to ideology, but to the people of Hawai'i. I will always work to find practical solutions that improve the lives of working families, protect our communities, preserve our culture and environment, and create a better future for the next generation.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

The platform plank I agree with most is Housing.

Housing is one of the greatest challenges facing Hawai'i today. Too many working families, kūpuna, young adults, and local residents are struggling to afford a place to live in the communities they call home. Housing insecurity also contributes to many of the issues we see every day, including homelessness, poverty, crime, and the loss of local families who are forced to leave Hawai'i in search of opportunity elsewhere.

If elected, I will work to increase the supply of housing for local residents while protecting our agricultural lands and preserving the character of our communities. I support streamlining the development of affordable and workforce housing, encouraging the adaptive reuse of existing buildings, and exploring opportunities to add housing within urban areas such as Chinatown, Iwilei, and Downtown Honolulu.

I will also advocate for policies that prioritize local residents over outside investors, expand pathways to homeownership, and support housing options for kūpuna, working families, and those transitioning out of homelessness. Housing alone is not enough; we must also provide access to mental health services, addiction treatment, job training, and other support services that help people achieve long-term stability.

As someone who works directly with individuals and families seeking assistance through public benefit programs, I see firsthand the challenges many people face. I believe every person deserves the opportunity to live in safe, stable housing, and I will make housing affordability and housing security a top priority in the Legislature.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

One platform plank I believe can be improved is Public Safety and Disaster and Emergency Preparedness, particularly as it relates to urban crime and conditions in Downtown Honolulu and Chinatown.

While the platform has strong values around rehabilitation, mental health services, and fair policing, it does not go far enough in addressing the day-to-day reality that residents, workers, and small businesses in Chinatown experience: persistent street-level crime, repeat offenders, and visible disorder that undermines public trust and economic recovery.

In Chinatown, public safety cannot be treated as an abstract policy discussion. It is about whether kupuna feel safe walking to the store, whether small businesses can open their doors without repeated vandalism or theft, and whether families feel secure in their own neighborhood. The current framework needs stronger accountability measures for repeat offenders and clearer strategies to prevent cycles of crime from continuing without meaningful intervention.

If elected, I would improve this plank by pushing for a more coordinated, visible, and consistent public safety presence in Chinatown that includes law enforcement, outreach workers, and mental health professionals working together on the ground. We need faster response times, better follow-through on chronic problem locations, and stronger enforcement against repeat criminal behavior that disrupts community life.

At the same time, I would expand targeted intervention programs that focus on addiction, mental health, and housing instability, but with clear expectations and structure so that services are not disconnected from accountability. Public safety must balance compassion with consequences.

Finally, I would strengthen neighborhood-level partnerships between the state, city, businesses, and community organizations to ensure Chinatown is not left reacting to crime, but actively preventing it through sustained presence, coordination, and leadership. A safe Chinatown is essential not only for residents, but for the cultural and economic future of the entire District 28.

5. AGRICULTURE

The Agriculture plank is important because it is key to Hawai'i's long-term food security and self-sufficiency.

I support protecting agricultural land, strengthening local food production, and improving food security.

This plank can be improved by better protecting farmland from development and speculative use.

I would also expand support for small farmers, community agriculture, and urban farming like community gardens and vertical farming.

Food security depends on both protecting land and making agriculture accessible and sustainable for local people.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

The Arts and Culture plank is meaningful to me because it reflects Hawai'i's identity, history, and spirit. In places like Downtown Honolulu and Chinatown, arts and culture give communities their sense of pride and belonging.

I strongly support funding for the arts, arts education, and cultural preservation, especially efforts that protect Native Hawaiian language, traditions, and cultural practices.

I believe this plank can be improved by providing more direct support to local working artists, not just large institutions. Many artists face housing insecurity and lack stable income, so funding should better reach community-based programs and individuals.

I would also strengthen the role of arts in community revitalization, especially in Chinatown, where public art and cultural spaces can help improve safety, support small businesses, and rebuild community pride.

Investing in artists is ultimately an investment in the culture, identity, and resilience of Hawai'i.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Public Safety and Disaster and Emergency Preparedness plank is important because safety in places like Chinatown directly affects residents, businesses, and community confidence.

I support its focus on fair justice, rehabilitation, mental health services, and addressing root causes like poverty and addiction.

This plank can be improved by focusing more on visible, consistent safety outcomes, faster response times, and better coordination in high-crime areas.

I would also strengthen accountability for repeat offenders while still supporting rehabilitation and recovery.

Finally, I would improve emergency preparedness through stronger local planning, communication, and coordination across agencies.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

The Economic Justice and Labor plank is important because it supports the dignity of working families in Hawai'i, where many still struggle with high costs of living despite working hard.

I support living wages, workers' rights, collective bargaining, and policies that reduce inequality.

This plank can be improved by focusing more on real outcomes like housing affordability, cost of living, and keeping local families in Hawai'i.

I would also strengthen workforce training and career pathways so workers can access stable, long-term jobs.

Finally, I would support small businesses and local entrepreneurship while still ensuring fair wages for workers.

9. EDUCATION

The Education plank is important because education is the foundation of opportunity and determines whether Hawai'i's keiki can build their future here or be forced to leave.

I support fully funded public education, well-paid teachers, safe schools, and culturally relevant learning.

This plank can be improved by focusing more on workforce readiness and real-world skills for careers in healthcare, trades, technology, and public service.

I would also expand career and technical education, apprenticeships, and partnerships with local industries to keep students in Hawai'i.

Finally, I would strengthen support for students facing housing, food, and mental health challenges so learning can succeed.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

The Environment and Energy plank is important to me because Hawai'i is on the front lines of climate change, rising sea levels, and resource strain, making environmental protection essential to our future.

I support the commitment to climate action, 100% renewable energy, protecting native ecosystems, and reducing fossil fuel dependence.

This plank can be improved by better balancing environmental goals with housing, infrastructure, and affordability needs so policies are practical for residents.

I would also prioritize energy resilience through rooftop solar, battery storage, and microgrids to reduce costs and improve energy security.

Finally, I would strengthen efforts to protect freshwater resources, which are just as critical as energy for Hawai'i's future.

Environmental policy must protect both the land and the people.

11. GOVERNMENT

The Government plank is important because transparency, accountability, and trust are essential for all other issues like housing, education, and public safety.

I support the commitment to transparency, ethics, election integrity, separation of church and state, and expanding voter access.

This plank can be improved by focusing more on real accountability, faster government response, and reducing bureaucracy that delays action.

I would also strengthen neighborhood-level access so communities like Chinatown and Kalihi get more direct engagement and quicker solutions to local issues.

Good government must be transparent, responsive, and deliver real results for the people.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Health and Wellbeing plank is about ensuring everyone has access to care and the ability to live a healthy life, including physical, mental, and social wellbeing.

I support universal healthcare access, mental health services, reproductive care, and efforts to reduce health disparities across Hawai'i.

This plank can be improved by better connecting healthcare with housing and social services to address issues like homelessness, addiction, and chronic illness together.

I would also expand treatment capacity for behavioral health and substance abuse, especially in high-need communities.

Finally, I would strengthen prevention through community-based wellness programs, early care, and local health support systems.

13. HOUSING

I support expanding affordable housing, reducing development barriers, and addressing homelessness through rapid rehousing and services.

This plank can be improved by focusing more on housing tied to local wages, not just general affordability.

I would also prioritize redeveloping existing urban areas like Honolulu and Chinatown before expanding into new land.

Stronger protections are needed to prevent displacement and ensure long-term residents benefit from development.

Finally, I would support faster, lower-cost housing options like ADUs, modular housing, and local builder partnerships.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

The Human and Civil Rights plank is grounded in dignity, fairness, and equal protection under the law, which is essential in Hawai'i's diverse communities.

I support its commitment to equal rights, anti-discrimination protections, women's rights, disability rights, LGBTQIA+ equality, reproductive freedom, and protecting vulnerable populations.

This plank can be improved by better balancing rights protections with community safety and trust in public institutions.

I would also expand its focus on equal opportunity in housing, education, and employment, not just legal protections.

Finally, I would strengthen access to justice so residents can resolve issues faster and more easily at the community level.

15. KŪPUNA

The Kūpuna plank is important because it reflects how we care for those who built our communities and preserve our culture and knowledge.

I support helping kūpuna age in place, improving caregiving, preventing elder abuse, and ensuring access to healthcare and long-term care.

This plank can be improved by addressing the caregiver shortage and rising costs of care in Hawai'i.

I would also expand support for family caregivers through respite services and financial relief.

Finally, I would improve coordination between healthcare, housing, and community services so kūpuna can live safely and with dignity.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

The Native Hawaiians and Hawaiian Culture plank is important because it reflects the foundation of Hawai‘i—its people, history, and identity.

I support justice for Native Hawaiians, Public Land Trust responsibilities, Hawaiian Home Lands, and investment in housing, education, health, and culture.

This plank can be improved by ensuring Native Hawaiian voices are meaningfully included in decision-making, not just consulted.

I would also expand support for Hawaiian language education and cultural programs in schools and communities.

Finally, I would strengthen alignment between land use and cultural stewardship to protect āina and long-term sustainability.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

The Technology and Digital Equity plank is important because access to technology is essential for education, work, healthcare, and civic participation in Hawai‘i.

I support expanding broadband access, digital literacy, net neutrality, and equitable access to technology while protecting personal data.

This plank can be improved by focusing more on affordability, since many families still cannot afford internet service or devices.

I would also expand workforce training in tech fields and better prepare students for digital careers.

Finally, I would strengthen support for kūpuna, rural, and low-income communities so no one is left behind in the digital transition.

18. TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation plank is important because it affects daily life—how people get to work, school, healthcare, and essential services in Hawai‘i.

I support expanding public transit, improving infrastructure for buses, bikes, and pedestrians, and moving toward cleaner transportation systems.

This plank can be improved by focusing more on reliability, frequency, and real-world usability of public transit.

I would also strengthen neighborhood connectivity, especially in urban areas like Honolulu and Chinatown, with safer and more walkable streets.

Finally, I would better integrate housing and transportation planning to reduce congestion and improve access to jobs and services.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The U.S. Military and Veterans' Affairs plank is important to me as a veteran of the U.S. Air Force because it reflects service, sacrifice, and responsibility.

I support honoring veterans, ensuring access to healthcare and mental health services, and holding the military accountable for its impacts on Hawaiians.

This plank can be improved by focusing more on the real transition challenges veterans face, especially delays in care and benefits access.

I would also expand support for veteran employment and housing programs to better reflect their skills and service.

Finally, I would strengthen early mental health support to address issues like PTSD and substance use before they become crises.

George Teva Lucas-Tadeo

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

Its commitment to anti-corruption, affordable housing, healthcare, renewable energy, public safety, labor rights, and Native Hawaiian justice aligns with the future Hawai'i needs.

My support is rooted in action, accountability, and delivering real results for the people.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

The platform plank I agree with most is Native Hawaiians and Hawaiian Culture.

Native Hawaiians have a unique and enduring connection to Hawai'i's land, culture, language, and history. Preserving and strengthening that connection should remain a priority for our state.

As Governor, I will support policies that expand Native Hawaiian housing opportunities, promote cultural and language programs, improve health and educational outcomes, and encourage responsible stewardship of the land. My goal is to help build a future where Native Hawaiians can thrive while preserving the traditions and values that make Hawai'i unique.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

The Housing plank can be improved by placing greater emphasis on both housing supply and homelessness solutions.

Housing and homelessness are interconnected challenges that require comprehensive action. I would support increased affordable housing construction, streamlined development processes, and expanded support services that help individuals and families transition into stable housing.

My goal would be to reduce homelessness, increase housing availability, and create a Hawai'i where everyone has access to a safe and stable place to live.

Greggor Ilagan

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Hawaii Democratic Party Platform because as a democrat we must uphold these values now more than ever. IMUA!

Ian Ross

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

Having reviewed the most recent version of the DPH Platform, I am in agreement with the positions that are listed in this document. I am happy to say that I am in support.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Though many of these planks are important to me, as reflected in my campaign's priorities, the most important is "Housing." This plank makes it clear that housing must be "affordable to people at the bottom of the income scale," which underlines our need for truly affordable housing, rather than focusing on luxury units. The second paragraph notes the importance of wrap around services, which are critical to transition unhoused people into stable living situations -- this is something that I have observed throughout my experience in public health and youth shelter services. If elected, I would work to meet our housing needs with Transit Oriented Development along the rail lines, to provide affordable housing which has easy access to high-speed transportation. I would also support a greater investment in mental health and substance abuse services.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

If it were up to me, I would probably make some additions to the "KŪPUNA" plank. As recent events have shown, federal funding for programs like Medicare and Medicaid may no longer be reliable. Also, my own experience, as both a family caregiver and a professional policy advocate in this subject area, causes several details to jump to mind. So though I do agree with what is currently written, I would prefer that the platform also mention:

- A commitment to filling any gaps in service caused by the federal government withdrawing its funding of major programs.
- A commitment to providing medical care and assisted living services to people living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.
- A commitment to having fully staffed healthcare in our state, especially in terms of nurses and physicians, so that we have the personnel to deliver all of these services.

(These could, in addition or alternatively, be inserted into the "HEALTH AND WELLBEING" plank).

5. AGRICULTURE

The most meaningful part is about fighting invasive species. In particular, this makes me think of the coconut rhinoceros beetle. No suggested changes.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

I am not active in the arts myself, but I do appreciate the support for Hawaiian artistic contributions and culture. As someone who was born and raised in Hawaii, I think it's important for people to know the history and culture of the place where they live. No suggested changes.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The most meaningful part, as currently written, would be the goal of "prevent[ing] crime by addressing root causes, especially systemic poverty and systemic racism." I would suggest adding a sentence about the importance of improving flood resiliency by protecting trees and mitigating erosion, since this is an important way to prepare for future severe weather events.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

The most important part is the last paragraph, which talks about unions and the importance of collective bargaining. I would suggest two new things: Firstly, a sentence about creating more accessible career pathways for young people. Secondly, a sentence about training people for jobs in a post-AI world, where many jobs are at risk of being eliminated.

9. EDUCATION

I most strongly agree with the part about paying teachers professional salaries. The underpayment of teachers is the biggest reason that we struggle to retain educators. I would suggest adding a sentence about providing accommodations to students with disabilities, especially learning disabilities (even if this is already sort of implied in the first paragraph).

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

The most impactful part talks about the reversal of human-caused climate change, as the second sentence of the first paragraph seems to imply that. I'm also happy to see Transit Oriented Development mentioned here. I would suggest a specific deadline be added for the attainment of our 100% renewable energy goal.

11. GOVERNMENT

I believe the most important part here is limiting the influence of money on policy. I would suggest adding that we should ban donations by relatives and employees of government contractors.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Please refer to my answer on the previous page. (The things I suggested regarding "KŪPUNA" could equally apply to this plank).

13. HOUSING

Please refer to my answer on the previous page.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

The most impactful part is mentioning that we support legal equality for transgender individuals, since this seems to be the demographic that is currently most at risk, both socially and politically. No suggested changes.

15. KŪPUNA

Please refer to my answer on the previous page.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Most important here is funding of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. There are many negative disparities that the Hawaiian community is dealing with, and it's important that the Hawaiian community receive support. I would suggest an additional sentence, which mentions efforts to repair existing DHHL residences, many of which are at risk of having the ground eroded away from under them.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

I use information technology every day, both personally and in the workplace. The most meaningful part here is probably the importance of technology training, due to its increasing importance for so many jobs and careers. I would suggest that everything which this plank currently says about training and regulations explicitly include AI as something which people must be educated about and which needs firm guardrails.

18. TRANSPORTATION

The most meaningful part is the recognition of Transit Oriented Development, since I believe this can be the key to solving many of our problems, including energy usage and housing. No suggested changes.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Most impactful here is that the United States military has an obligation to our health and safety. I say that particularly in light of the Red Hill situation. The military should practice good stewardship of our islands, particularly over land which has been leased to them. No suggested changes.

Ikaika Olds

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform with Reservations

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I have a few reservations.

Jackson D Sayama

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform with Reservations

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

Jake Takaya Morrow

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

My views and values align with the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Party Platform. At the root of the categories laid out, I sense a strong belief in the common decency and dignity of all people, and in promoting social, economic and political fairness and the well-being of Hawai'i. Like the Platform, I believe government has an active role to play in ensuring that no one is left behind who wants to part of our collective project. However, the Platform is merely aspirational when looking to our neighborhoods and communities. We have a lot of work to do in actualizing this Platform, and little time to waste.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

My top 3 would be: Energy and Environment, Economic Justice and Labor, and Education.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Education needs to be improved and I believe Hawai'i will never live to see its potential if it continues to be left to stagnate. If we truly value economic justice, we would invest in our public education system to ensure all keiki have access to quality education, regardless of how much money their parents have. I want to invest heavily in our teachers, offering them paid family leave and affordable housing allowances, and create K-3 literacy specialists to make sure no student gets left behind.

5. AGRICULTURE

I was a farmer on Kaua'i and worked in agricultural policy at the State Legislature for two sessions. I was there shortly after COVID, when lawmakers briefly woke up to our reliance on most of our food from the mainland. Since then, more urgent matters have been prioritized and as a legislator I will continue with my work with farmers to support operations, hiring, and local agricultural sustainability. I would also like to encourage organic and sustainable agriculture over conventional methods, for the sake of public and environmental health. I would offer tax credits to farms willing to make this transition and pioneer Hawai'i's organic certification.

6. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Not only do we need to rebuff our disaster and emergency preparedness, we need to adopt a long-term action plan based on the latest scientific consensus to protect ourselves against weather-related emergencies that will unavoidably confront us with increasing frequency, including more severe floods and fire risk.

7. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

I will fight to protect and preserve the middle class and the pathways to it. This means expanding programs like that child care subsidy and aloha quest care to middle income earners. Our system is outdated. It is now more difficult for many middle-class folks than some lower-income folks due to the lack of access to public services and programs.

8. EDUCATION

Education reform: heavily invest in teachers, higher teacher pay, reformed leadership structure - less administrators. Teachers should make more than managers. Literacy counselors/coaches to provide extra support in K-3 classrooms. Character education. Phone ban.

9. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

I worked in environmental policy at the legislature. We need to effectively combat invasive species and be aggressive in our policies for a renewable future. The state is no where near on target to making its 100% renewable goal by 2045. We still import and burn more fossil fuels than any other state. I want to put solar panels on every rooftop in the state-this is the kind of approach that this goal warrants. I want to enhance protections on the watersheds and coral reef systems to enhance our island security and sustainability.

10. GOVERNMENT

I will do what I can to reduce and restrict the influence of lobbyists, ban corporate lobbyists, increase transparency and accountability and stamp out corruption.

11. HOUSING

Government needs to step up and offer affordable housing for residents. Private industry is unable and disincentivized to do this well. I propose building homes on state lands to lease to state government workers, teachers, and other essential jobs as part of their hiring package.

12. KŪPUNA

Like young people and college students, Kupuna are disproportionately impacted by rising prices and inflation. I support policies that ensure Kupuna are able to live out their years without the stress and worry of paying for their bills.

13. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

We need to do more for the native Hawaiian community, including reducing the DHHL waitlist and enhancing legal protections.

James Logue

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Democratic Party of Hawaii Platform because I believe in protecting working families, defending individual rights, supporting organized labor, protecting access to healthcare, preserving our environment, and creating a more affordable Hawaii for local residents.

As former Secretary of the Oahu County Democratic Committee, I understand the importance of grassroots party involvement and engaging directly with party members. Too often, elected officials campaign as Democrats but rarely participate in the actual party process or advocate for the platform once in office. I believe elected officials should remain connected to the people and values they claim to represent.

Like many Democrats, there are areas where I may have policy differences or concerns about implementation, particularly when proposals create additional financial burdens on working families, seniors, or residents already struggling with Hawaii's high cost of living. I strongly believe government must prioritize accountability, reduce waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption, and ensure taxpayer dollars are used responsibly before asking residents to pay more through taxes or fees.

Overall, my values align closely with the platform's commitment to workers' rights, public education, healthcare access, environmental stewardship, civil rights, and economic fairness. My focus will always remain on improving quality of life for local families and ensuring Hawaii remains a safe, affordable, and sustainable place for future generations.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

The platform plank I agree with most is the commitment to supporting working families, organized labor, affordable healthcare, and economic fairness. Hawaii's working class is being crushed by the rising cost of living while many residents feel government has lost touch with everyday people. In office, I will fight against new taxes and fees on working families and seniors, support workers' rights and collective bargaining, push for government accountability, and work to reduce waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption so taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

One area of the platform I believe can be improved is how some policy goals are funded and implemented. While I support many of the platform's objectives, I believe government must do a better job prioritizing affordability and fiscal accountability. Too often, well-intentioned policies result in higher taxes, fees, or increased costs that hurt working families already struggling to stay in Hawaii. I would improve this by requiring stronger fiscal transparency, identifying wasteful spending before raising revenue, and ensuring legislation is evaluated based on both its goals and its impact on local residents' cost of living.

5. AGRICULTURE

The most meaningful part is supporting local food production and reducing Hawaii's dependence on imports. Hawaii should strengthen food security and support local farmers. I would improve this plank by focusing more on reducing regulatory burdens and costs that make it difficult for local farmers and agricultural businesses to survive.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

I strongly support preserving Hawaii's cultural identity and supporting local artists and creative industries. Having worked in Hawaii's film and television industry, I understand the economic and cultural value of the arts. I would improve this plank by placing greater emphasis on expanding local workforce opportunities in film, television, music, and digital media

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The most meaningful part is protecting communities and ensuring Hawaii is prepared before disasters occur. As a combat veteran and former Military Police officer, public safety is extremely important to me. I would improve this plank by strengthening mental health and addiction treatment systems to better address homelessness, crime, and emergency response challenges.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

I strongly support protecting workers' rights, collective bargaining, and fair wages. As a former HGEA Unit 3 State Director, I understand the importance of organized labor. I would improve this plank by placing greater focus on reducing taxes, fees, and the overall cost of living for working families and seniors.

9. EDUCATION

The most meaningful part is ensuring every child has access to opportunity and quality education. Through my work at the Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy, I've seen how

mentorship and structure can change lives. I would improve this plank by expanding career and technical education and alternative education pathways.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Protecting Hawaii's natural beauty for future generations is deeply important to me as a father. I support practical environmental protection and sustainability efforts. I would improve this plank by ensuring environmental policies are balanced with affordability and do not place excessive financial burdens on working families and small businesses.

11. GOVERNMENT

The most meaningful part is transparency and accountability in government. My background investigating fraud and abuse makes this issue personal to me. I would strengthen this plank by adding stronger anti-corruption measures, fiscal transparency requirements, and increased oversight of government spending.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Access to healthcare, mental health treatment, and addiction services is critical for Hawaii's future. I would improve this plank by placing greater focus on long-term mental health and addiction treatment facilities, workforce shortages, and reducing healthcare costs for working families.

13. HOUSING

The most meaningful part is making housing affordable for local residents. Too many families are leaving Hawaii because they cannot afford to stay. I would improve this plank by focusing more aggressively on reducing regulatory barriers, controlling infrastructure costs, and prioritizing housing for local residents over outside investors.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

I strongly support protecting individual rights, equal protection, women's rights, LGBTQIA rights, and civil liberties. Every person deserves dignity and respect under the law. I would improve this plank by emphasizing free speech protections and ensuring government respects individual constitutional rights.

15. KŪPUNA

Protecting seniors and residents on fixed incomes is one of my top priorities. Many kupuna are struggling with rising costs and housing insecurity. I would improve this plank by placing greater emphasis on preventing tax and fee increases that disproportionately hurt seniors.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Preserving Hawaiian culture, history, and traditions is essential to Hawaii's identity. I support protecting cultural resources and supporting Native Hawaiian communities. I would improve this plank by increasing focus on economic opportunity, education, and affordable housing for Native Hawaiian families.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Technology access is critical for education, healthcare, and economic opportunity. I support expanding digital access and workforce development. I would improve this plank by placing more emphasis on cybersecurity, government efficiency, and reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies through responsible technology modernization.

18. TRANSPORTATION

Reliable transportation affects affordability, jobs, and quality of life. I support improving infrastructure and reducing traffic congestion. I would improve this plank by requiring stronger financial accountability and oversight for major infrastructure projects to prevent waste, corruption, and cost overruns.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

As a combat veteran, supporting veterans and military families is deeply personal to me. Veterans deserve quality healthcare, housing support, mental health services, and employment opportunities. I would improve this plank by increasing focus on transition services, veteran homelessness prevention, and protecting veterans from bureaucratic delays and barriers.

Jarrett Keohokalole

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the platform of the Democratic Party of Hawaii without reservation.

Jeanné Kapela

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I believe in a Hawaii where all people thrive. This platform supports that, so I support the platform.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

My voting record aligns closely with the values outlined in this document, and I have worked every day to uphold those principles.

From fully funding our public schools to supporting working families through fair tax policies and initiatives like the Rx Kids bill I introduced, which provides critical support to parents and infants during one of the most vulnerable periods of a child's life, my focus has always been on putting people first.

I have also been a strong advocate for culture and the arts, working to identify sustainable and innovative funding mechanisms that expand access to arts education and cultural programs. As Chair of the House Committee on Culture and the Arts, I have introduced and advanced numerous measures to strengthen arts funding, and I remain committed to continuing that work.

These priorities reflect my belief that investing in our families, our keiki, our educators, and our cultural heritage creates stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities for everyone.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

While I strongly support the ag plank, but I believe it could be strengthened in three key areas: biosecurity, agricultural land use, and neighbor island infrastructure.

First, I would expand the plank's focus on invasive species and biosecurity. Protecting Hawai'i's agricultural future requires stronger investments in prevention, early detection, rapid response, and enforcement. Invasive pests, diseases, and species threaten not only agricultural production but also our native ecosystems, watersheds, and cultural resources. A stronger commitment to biosecurity is essential to protecting both our food systems and our environment.

Second, I would add language addressing agricultural land use. Hawai'i must do a better job of preserving prime agricultural lands for active agricultural production and ensuring that these lands are being utilized in ways that support food security and local farming. Clearer policies and stronger protections can help prevent the loss of productive agricultural lands while creating more opportunities for farmers and ranchers.

Finally, I would strengthen the plank's commitment to agricultural infrastructure and economic development, particularly on the neighbor islands. Investments in processing facilities, distribution networks, cold storage, water systems, and value-added agricultural enterprises can increase food security, improve resilience during supply chain disruptions, support local entrepreneurship, and diversify Hawai'i's economy. Building regional agricultural capacity will help keep more food production, jobs, and economic benefits within our communities.

Together, these improvements would move Hawai'i closer to a truly sustainable, resilient, and self-sufficient agricultural future.

Jenna W.Y.C Takenouchi

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform with Reservations

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

Portions of the current platform are too prescriptive for this type of document

Jennifer Margaret Booker

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I fully support the Party platform, and have explained my views and goals in detail here.
<https://socialsciencepapers.wordpress.com/2025/12/09/summary-of-idiot-proofing-democracy/>

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I am a huge proponent of human rights, and borrowed from the UN Declaration of Human Rights to seek out Rights that our existing Constitution omits, such as the right to heritage, which also feeds into Native Hawaiian culture rights.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I agree with the military platform, but would like to see more effort to reduce the military footprint on our sacred lands, and get the federal government to compensate Hawaii more for use of the land it does occupy.

5. AGRICULTURE

I'm not an expert on this area, and have no ideas for improvement. Self-sufficiency should be a huge goal because of our geographic vulnerability.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

I have long been a big supporter of the arts, and would like to see more specific ways in which party support for the arts should manifest. Are we talking about K-12 education, higher ed, state support for private arts organizations, etc.?

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

I volunteered for community emergency preparedness for over twenty years. Hawaii gun laws are relatively strict but no serious imposition on lawful citizens. I oppose the death penalty and torture. I believe that government support for minimal water, food, and shelter for all will help reduce police and healthcare costs, and restore dignity to thousands of people.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

I agree with higher tax rates for the wealthy. I support higher minimum wage and encourage more trade education. I have been a union member and fully support them. Increased energy diversity will help reduce our dependence on non-renewable resources.

9. EDUCATION

I support education through the first two years of higher or trade education. I have earned three engineering degrees and am a registered nurse, so I full understand the benefits and limitations of higher education. Teachers and professors need sustainable pay levels, which currently do not exist. There is a nursing shortage, but nurse educators are paid less than entry level positions. We need to push education in regional areas of expertise, such as ocean science and Pacific Islander cultures. I agree separation of church and state is mandatory, and support my LGBT... community.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Sustainability should be obvious, not a radical political position. Public transportation should be expanded, especially on Oahu where traffic is absurd for such a small population.

11. GOVERNMENT

My book Idiot-Proofing Democracy describes in detail how I wish to eliminate corporate personhood, define human personhood at live birth, and restore minimal standards for government officials. I propose requiring earned security clearances for executive and legislative branch officials, mandatory financial disclosure, and periodic objective examination of physical and mental health. I support elimination of PACs and strict limits on personal campaign donations. There is no voter fraud crisis, so voter ID laws are just voter suppression.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

I support universal healthcare for all, regardless of citizenship status. As a Registered Nurse I bring a basic medical understanding, in addition to my doctorate in biomedical engineering. We need healthcare policies based on peer-reviewed science, not random rumors and conspiracy theories. I fully support bodily autonomy, and healthcare choices made by people and their providers. As a transgender woman, I support age-appropriate healthcare for people who identify as LGBT.

13. HOUSING

As noted earlier, I support a minimal level of safe housing for all, including those with pets, children, and members of the LGBT community. Increased low income housing is desperately needed.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

As noted, my human rights positions are based on the UN Declaration of them. I proposed a greatly expanded version of the Equal Rights Amendment, some of which go beyond the Democratic platform. My paternal grandmother cared for the foster children no one else would take, including 30 years of 24/7 care for a woman who never got past maturity of a toddler. I have seen the incredible challenge of care for the most vulnerable.

15. KŪPUNA

I was a nurse at Lunalilo Home and saw the power of our kupuna. We need to ensure that long term care does not send anyone into bankruptcy.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Housing for all certainly includes a higher level of support for those waiting decades for Hawaiian Homes. I propose an end to jail for failure to make bail for non-violent offenses.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

I taught information systems and IT for twenty years, so I fully understand the impact of the digital divide. We need to provide a basic level of Internet connection not just at public libraries, but for all government-assisted housing. At this point in history, access to the Internet is as basic as potable water. We need to fight attempts to violate privacy, especially HIPAA, tax, and other critical personal data.

18. TRANSPORTATION

As noted earlier, I fully support renewable energy. Increased high efficiency vehicles and encouragement of bicycle use are wonderful. Reduced military presence will help alleviate Oahu transportation woes.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

I worked in the defense and aviation industries for fifteen years, so I know the capabilities of our military. I know a powerful military is needed, and should only be used when absolutely necessary. I support reducing our nuclear arsenal to 20% of present levels. We need to rebuild the ally relationships that have been trashed recently, including NATO and the UN. I proposed integrating the Veterans' Administration with the Department of Defense, because care of our Veterans should not be treated as an afterthought. It is our responsibility to support and encourage other democracies around the world, including Ukraine. We need to protect Hawaii and connect with our Pacific island territory neighbors for mutual support and defense. I proposed full House and Senate voting representation for all territories, so we stop abusing their taxation without representation.

Jordan K. Nakamura

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

The Platform articulates accurately my personal values and those expressed in my campaign. I'm excited to see that the Democratic Party continues to demonstrate consistent and thorough alignment of their values with my own in their expressed platform documents across a wide range of issues that have come up regularly in my district, ranging from agriculture, affordable housing, the protection of civil liberties, and kūpuna care.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Housing is a priority across the islands and I'm glad to see that immediately the Platform has identified that housing is not a commodity but a human right, and it is the duty of the government to ensure that this right is protected and delivered to each Hawai'i resident. I would help to champion policy like an empty second homes tax on off-island property owners who have luxury tier empty units sitting vacant. I would also work with my colleagues to close tax loopholes cutting into our potential city and state budget that benefit corporations and REITs, and use that money to help subsidize the creation of needed affordable public social housing as well as financially aiding low-income local renters struggling to make ends meet to avoid experiencing houselessness. I would support legislation amending Hawai'i's Qualified Allocation Plan to prioritize early loan repayment to create a more sustainable system for affordable well-designed housing projects for low to mixed income social housing.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I am supportive of the Platform's stance on agriculture but as a farmer and environmental educator I think it could be strengthened by highlighting a plan to focus our agricultural practice on a transition from industrial style agriculture to agroecological farming. This is the type of farming I'm primarily engaged in which is based on traditional Hawaiian farming history and practices. Recent FAO and UNEP backed assessments report around 30 - 49% gains in net farmer income. Moreover, this kind of farming increases biodiversity, improves soil health naturally, boosts climate resilience, and overall sees a higher rate of women's participation. Participation in agroecology supports disaster preparedness and women's empowerment, as well as creating a sustainable pathway to not only diversifying our economy, but also reducing the overall costs of imports. Agroecology and agroforestry support the natural reduction of pesticide use. This arena of farming is less susceptible to

the surveillance tech industry's incursions into the agricultural sectors across the nation, helping to support the party platform's stances on the protection of personal data as a right.

5. AGRICULTURE

I deeply resonate with the statement that "We support responsible development of these resources to achieve food security and self-sufficiency, while ensuring the sustainability of these resources for future generations to come." As residents of an island, we must preserve the ability for our people to be able to live here as the oil-fueled shipping infrastructure currently supplying 85-90% of our imports is clearly not sustainable. I believe we can improve the plank by including language highlighting plans for the protection of farmers and agricultural workers, housing subsidies for green sector workers to incentivize employment in agriculture as our current farmers near retirement and newer farmers need economic security.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

"We support public funding of the arts, artists, arts education and cultural organizations and initiatives in communities and schools." This section outlines how we as a party will commit to the cultural health, by funding what is often an overlooked aspect of our social fabric, often deemed extraneous. However, many of our issues in Hawai'i lead back to retention of residents, and often a vibrant art and cultural scene that is supported by artists and cultural practitioners who can remain here is an underrated essential aspect of the decision to remain in Hawai'i. If agreed upon, one improvement we could add is to list specifically which working policies we'd like to see implemented here, like one modeled after Ireland's basic income for the arts program.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

"We believe true public safety can only be achieved through strong, self-sufficient communities, economic stability, and access to good health." This is such a great, concise way to identify the root foundations of meaningful safety. One addition to the plank might be to include language addressing infrastructural improvements that mitigate avoidable disasters that are likely in extreme weather, such as the elimination of open electrical wires across the islands, and instead transitioning to a system where they aren't susceptible to the elements.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

"We support policies that circulate currency through our economy, helping businesses to thrive, including tax policy that lessens the tax burden of low- and middle-income earners and increases the tax burden of high-income earners and the wealthy." This is for me one of the most immediate steps we can take to creating a more just society in Hawai'i: tax fairness. I find this plank very thoroughly written.

9. EDUCATION

"We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems." I strongly agree with the plank that our social order and wellbeing depends on a well-educated public that can critically think and problem solve with emotional and social intelligence. Very little can get done if we are not building our public actively toward this horizon. This section is very well written and thought out.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

"We support policy that incorporates indigenous resource-management practices and technologies such as the Ahupua'a System in modern urban planning and development to create an ecologically sustainable balance between the needs of the people and the rights of nature." This section gets at the strategy behind any success we will see in achieving our ambitious energy goals, which is paying close attention to the unique needs of the geographic and ecological matrix of our island chain. Kūpuna for generations have applied their kilo and astute observation of these lifeways to intelligently provide solutions for the sustainable living habits and systems that brought us to this point, and we owe it to our keiki to adopt this site-specific wisdom. As for additions to the plank, I'd suggest language detailing that we support the autonomy, intended function, and necessary jurisdiction given to existing entities like the Public Utilities Commission and the Water Commission to carry out their duties effectively, as proposals roll in pertinent to the environment and energy goals.

11. GOVERNMENT

"We support full public-financing of elections." I'm glad this is in the plank as it would utterly strengthen the momentum gained from SB2471 to curb the influence of corporate dark money in our elections. Fully funded public financed elections would be a truly democratic system of elections in Hawai'i and help create an environment that incentivizes leaders with the most dedication and best ideas for the people, instead of those who have moneyed connections and a willingness to engage in pay-to-play politics. There could be language added that states we support the proper application and strengthening of the Sunshine Law for adequate public transparency of government affairs.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

"We support the creation of a universal healthcare system that values people over profit, and follows best practices and current research to deliver holistic care covering both physical and mental healthcare." This is perhaps the paramount goal of social health: quality coverage for every resident, regardless of employment status or any other qualification other than that health is a human right, and we are all better off when people are taken care of. We could include language specifying that we support the maintenance and expansion of quality healthcare facilities, clinics, and retention of local healthcare professionals. I'd also like to see the support for inclusion of coverage and legal legitimization for holistic and

other "non-western" medicine practices that sustain so many of our communities that have similar to greater efficacy in treatment that do not enjoy the same legal protections or financial support.

13. HOUSING

"We believe that houselessness is the symptom of an inequitable economic system that creates generational poverty and hardship. We believe this system must be changed." This cuts through the stigma of houselessness and diagnoses the systemic solutions we must address. A good addition to an already thorough plank here would be language detailing our commitment to stand against tax loopholes and subsidies that benefit predatory corporations currently infiltrating the real estate market.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

"We support the preservation of equal civil rights and liberties for all people. We believe all people have the right to self-determination and freedom from oppression." This is a good foundational statement for the creation of our policies, and I continue to be proud that we are standing up for human and civil rights especially in a time when so many are being threatened. I'd like to see language addressing our commitment to protect those in our communities, like the Black, Brown, and immigrant communities subject to long-held prejudices and violent policies that sometimes fall outside of the most famous legal provisions like the Civil Rights Act. It would also be good to see language affirming we support the right to protest, as federal abuses aim to take these liberties away.

15. KŪPUNA

"We support public funding for kūpuna and family care programs. We support aging with dignity including equal access to medical services with publicly supported long-term care that does not exhaust personal and family expenses." I believe as there are increased threats to Medicare with the current administration, we will need to consider more public funding for kūpuna and family care. Some language could be added to include other services and their increased accessibility to seniors that fall outside the realm of medical care, like tech recycling, bulky item pickup and waste removal.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

"We support Native Hawaiians in their efforts to secure justice from the federal and state governments to repair the harms suffered and endured by the Native Hawaiian people and 'āina, including fulfilling its Public Land Trust responsibilities which require that the revenue be provided annually to Native Hawaiians and funding of the Hawaiian Homes Commission budget and other housing programs to ensure that no Native Hawaiian is homeless, here in their homeland." It is crucial we all strive to support our Native Hawaiian ohana by ensuring they not only can stay housed in their homeland, but that there are pathways for the diaspora to return home.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

"We support access to high-quality internet and training to use technology for all of Hawai'i's residents, and support efforts to ensure their ability to use digital resources to be connected and successful in their lives." As a technology teacher for many years, I know that access to internet is the basis for being able to participate in all the services available through the web, as well as accessible training so people can be beneficiaries of these technologies and services. It would be great to see protections for citizens specifying the harms created by non-consensual AI technology and data mining, as well as the often forced establishment of data centers.

18. TRANSPORTATION

"We support new investments in public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across our urban and suburban areas." In the immediate future, I believe we can support clean, sustainable, and safe transportation through investing in our existing public transportation systems like our buses, as well as making Hawai'i more walkable and bikeable. I find this plank very thoroughly written.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

"We support worldwide reduction of militaries and nuclear arsenals." As the recent ongoing war in Iran has shown us, needless war as a result of arbitrary policies of forever wars has been disastrous for our planet and collective health as a species. I would love to see Hawai'i be on the forefront of demonstrating the benefits of adopting policies of peace and ecological innovation for mutual flourishing, instead of forcing countries to divert funding into arms races which benefit only weapons companies and defense contractors. I believe this plank is thorough.

Josh Green

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

In my first term in office, we delivered the biggest tax cut for the middle class in Hawaii state history, we doubled the earned income tax credit and the food tax credit, and increased the child and dependent care credit.

We are building new housing at a scale we haven't seen in decades, including 46,000 units of affordable housing — which will help bring housing costs down for everyone.

We have also made the largest investment in reducing homelessness in our state's history — we are building 30 *kauhale* villages statewide, communities of tiny homes that are getting people off the street permanently and helping them turn their lives around.

There is still more work to do on these challenges — that's why I am running for a second term as governor, and what I will continue to work on if elected.

Kahi Pacarro

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the platform and am grateful to have the opportunity to represent the Democratic Party of Hawaii.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

This is hard as there are many on the list that I will focus on, but first and foremost I would focus on: Reducing Income & Wealth Inequality — Progressive policies to close the income gap and expand access to opportunity. I would do this by focusing on the strategies that increase wages and make it more attractive for firms to grow in Hawaii and for firms outside of Hawaii to see the geographic advantage of our location and set up shop here. This will attract our locals to stay home or to come back if they moved away. Let's reverse the brain drain.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Government Transparency & Free/Fair Elections — Open, accountable government and electoral processes accessible to every voter.

We have too many politicians continuing to be more influenced by their large corporate donors than their constituents. This is unsettling and we need to address this head on as a party. I will lead by example by not taking corporate donations while also educating my fellow elected leaders why this is important to voters.

5. AGRICULTURE

End MonoCulture! We need to diversify and grow as much of our food here. End the pesticide laden crops. We are not a testing ground!

6. ARTS & CULTURE

Needs to be expanded.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We need to fund decentralized hubs that can act quickly. The community reacts substantially quicker than the gov't.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

The income disparity is ridiculous. We need to address this.

9. EDUCATION

Free Pre K, teach raises, reduce class sizes, and civic education!

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

No LNG, focus on green tech and end our reliance on fossil fuels.

11. GOVERNMENT

Corrupted by corporate influence. We need leaders that refuse to be influenced by money.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We need better healthcare. It is too expensive.

13. HOUSING

It's too damn expensive. Let's look for mechanisms to increase supply, not just through building but through also opening up the opportunity to all the vacant homes.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Watching what's happening around the world, we see the violation of human and civil rights non stop while our government continues to empower these actions. I will stand up against this.

15. KŪPUNA

Our Kūpuna deserve better. I want to figure out how we can better integrate them into our communities instead of being ignored and cared for by expensive caregivers. Nothing against the caregivers, but this financial drain takes away from generational transfer of wealth.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

We need to do more to include kanaka and the culture into our government. Many are angry and disenfranchised. Our approach is not working. It needs to change.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

AI is scary, flock cameras are just as bad. We are on the edge of a digital surveillance world and it doesn't seem like much is being done to address it. I will.

18. TRANSPORTATION

Let's work to get people out of cars and onto public transportation.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Our veterans deserve so much darn respect but I see our federal gov't turning their backs on them. I want to see them given the respect they deserve. We also need to draw down the existence of the military on our islands. We are not protected by the military, we are a target because of it.

Kalehua Kaopua

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

Economy works for everyone and the protection of our fundamental rights.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Support the rights of Native Hawaiians and Hawaiian culture.

I will champion legislation that protects our aina and language and our schools, especially Right now while we are under attack.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Native Hawaiians and Hawaiian culture.

Prioritize the protection of iwi kupuna and ensure that any development or content creation respects native Hawaiian rights and culture. Avoid fast-tracking development that might compromise these protections.

5. AGRICULTURE

The commitment to food security and self-sufficiency resonates most with me. Hawai'i imports over 85% of its food, and that dependence makes our families vulnerable.

I would add an explicit commitment to Native Hawaiian traditional farming practices — specifically the restoration of lo'i kalo and fishponds. These are not just cultural treasures; they are proven, sustainable food systems that fed these islands for centuries.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

The commitment to preserving the history, culture, and artistic contributions of Hawai'i's people means the most to me.

I would add an explicit commitment to funding Hawaiian language arts hula, mele, oli, and mo'olelo as their own category of public investment, separate from general arts funding. Right now, Native Hawaiian cultural arts compete for the same limited dollars as every other art form. They deserve dedicated, protected funding because they are the foundation of everything that makes Hawai'i unique.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The commitment to addressing root causes of crime through systemic poverty and racism resonates most with me.

I would add an explicit commitment to culturally grounded intervention programs for Native Hawaiians, expanding Ho'oponopono and other Indigenous restorative justice practices beyond just a mention in the Native Hawaiian plank. This plank talks about rehabilitation and community reintegration but does not name the tools that actually work for our people.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

Diversifying our economy away from tourism and the military.

Add a dedicated commitment to Native Hawaiian entrepreneurship, targeted funding and access to capital for Native Hawaiian-owned businesses. General pro-business policy is not enough. When our people own businesses rooted in our culture, wealth stays in our communities. Economic justice in Hawai'i must include economic sovereignty for its Indigenous people.

9. EDUCATION

The commitment to culturally relevant curricula and authentic assessments over standardized testing.

I would add a clear commitment to fully funding school facilities repair and maintenance. This plank calls for 21st century learning environments, but many of our public school buildings are crumbling, overcrowded, and unsafe. Fix the buildings, give them a strong foundation to learn from, create a space where they want to learn.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

The commitment to incorporating the Ahupua'a system and Indigenous resource management into modern planning is great.

I would add a commitment to community-based climate resilience funding. Right now, the benefits of clean energy go to those who can afford rooftop solar, while working families in Wai'ananae, Puna, and Molokai bear the worst impacts of climate change with the fewest resources to adapt.

11. GOVERNMENT

Government accountability and transparency.

Give our ethics commission real enforcement power. Right now it can investigate and report, but it cannot remove anyone. Transparency without consequences is just theater.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Universal healthcare regardless of ability to pay. No one in Hawai'i should go without care because of their bank account.

Add explicit support for traditional and cultural healing practices — including Native Hawaiian medicine, lā'au lapa'au, and other Indigenous and community-based approaches. The plank calls for holistic care but defines it only in Western terms.

13. HOUSING

Housing is a human right.

General housing policy alone will not fix a crisis rooted in dispossession. We must name who has been most harmed and commit to reaching them first.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

The protection of foster and adopted children.

Culturally grounded foster care for Native Hawaiian children. Native Hawaiian keiki are overrepresented in the foster system, and too many are placed in homes disconnected from their culture, language, and 'ohana.

15. KŪPUNA

Aging in place with dignity.

Add support for intergenerational programs that connect kūpuna with youth especially in Hawaiian language and cultural transmission. The plank focuses on care and protection, which is essential, but our kūpuna are also our greatest living resource , GET THEM IN THE SCHOOLS.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

The commitment to fulfilling Public Land Trust responsibilities and ensuring no Native Hawaiian is homeless in their own homeland. This is a matter of justice long overdue.

I would add explicit protection for iwi kupuna.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Digital equity for all residents, from keiki to kūpuna.

Add a commitment to prioritizing rural and Native Hawaiian communities in broadband expansion.

This language is too broad in this plank and rural communities are always last on the list.

18. TRANSPORTATION

The commitment to affordable mass transit and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

Add free or deeply subsidized public transit for low-income residents and kūpuna.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The commitment to holding the U.S. military accountable for harm caused to the people of Hawai'i and our environment.

Add an explicit commitment to requiring the military to obtain free, prior, and informed consent from Native Hawaiian communities before expanding operations or acquiring additional land.

Keoni Kuoha

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I completely support the Platform. Every item in the Platform aligns with the direction in which we should be moving.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I agree with all the planks, though many don't provide a clear policy direction. For me, it's a matter of strategy around which policies should be prioritized. I would improve Act 96, the Green Fee law. Here's what I'd do. 1) Focus Act 96 on hazard mitigation, infrastructure resilience, and environmental stewardship. 2) Create a Green Fee fund and allow creativity in finance mechanisms, including multi-year funding. 3) Strengthen the project evaluation process and enable incentive programs for property owners. 4) Empower the Administration (not the Legislature) to determine allocations. With these improvements, we can investment now in a better future.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

The government plank is too broad. There are important specifics that should be included. I would add term limits for legislators, open primaries where the top two vote-getters move to the general, and explore alternatives to the first-past-the-post voting system we currently have.

Ki'i Kaho'ohanohano

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I wholeheartedly support all aspects of this platform, and am committed to keeping politics pono, and being a true representative of the voices of our people and advocating for all things based on these principles set forth.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

It is difficult to choose one that I support the most, as each one is a crucial pillar of what we stand upon

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

In my district we are blessed with water and aina that is abundant, one thing that is crucial is to protect our green belt, and focus on regenerative and sustainable agriculture and non GMO crops to feed of people with less reliance on ships that may not come in.

5. AGRICULTURE

Expand as it should be a priority to regenerate and tap into our ability to farm and feed our people at home. Also there are so many ways to diversify our economy through agriculture

6. ARTS & CULTURE

I am a cultural practitioner and huge supporter of maintaining cultural integrity and continuing to support native Hawaiian education and programs. The disconnect from aina and culture is a basis for much of the disparities that we witness today.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

I will continue the good work that I have done through Covid, fires, and storms. Boots on the ground working with our government and community agencies to make sure we have the infrastructure and needs met to ensure better preparedness and continued healing

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

We need to give folks a living wage and opportunities that can help them not just survive but thrive in Hawai'i.

9. EDUCATION

We need to pay our teachers and administrators what they deserve as the backbone of our future generations. We need to feed our keiki healthy food at school and create more farm to table options, as well as composting/recycling programs to protect our limited resources and teach our keiki malama aina, naturally. We need to support Hawaiian Immersion programs as they grow and we see need for expansion.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

We have soooo much we can do to be self sustainable in Hawai'i! Let's be smart about how we create energy and balance taking care of our environment

11. GOVERNMENT

We need accountability and transparency in government

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We are a reflection of our land and waters, if we are taking care of our home we love, our people will be a reflection of that care. To be truly informed in the disparities and true history of Hawai'i faces, is fundamental in understanding what health and wellbeing means to people. Knowing where the pukas are and getting in there to create the solutions for our people to thrive.

13. HOUSING

We all deserve basic human right to housing. We also need infrastructure before we go there... build smart and recognize that we need to be smart with our water as well as it is a limited resource

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

I am a strong advocate for ALL human and civil rights. You will see that in all the work I have done in my life.

15. KŪPUNA

Kupuna are the gems that brought us here, taught us all we know, and cared for us unconditionally. We must make sure they too are cared for.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

We are in Hawai'i and should do everything in our power to honor the history, and people of Hawai'i. He Hawai'i au!

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Delicate balance, need to be smart about how we move forward

18. TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is sooo important so that folks have access to work, school, healthcare and many other services! Especially with so many rural areas

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Keep the military accountable and limited in its capacity In Hawai'i.

Kim Coco Iwamoto

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform with Reservations

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

My reservations are with the following statement from the DPH 2024 Platform: "We believe that our democracy cannot properly function so long as political power can be bought. The Democratic Party will work against corruption in all forms, including extortion and bribery, and do everything in its power to ensure a government that serves the people." The Democratic Party has no "worked against corruption in all forms." In fact, I would argue the DPH has lifted up Democratic leaders who facilitated a climate where corruption can thrive. While the DPH adopted an anti-corruption resolution, you did not publicly call out the many Democratic law makers who openly voted and acted contrary with the provisions of the anti-corruption reso. Furthermore, my reservations with the DPH platform is that it is woefully watered down compared to specific platforms of the National Democratic Party; for example the DNC platform includes specific lines in the sand and directions: 1) no one should pay more than one-third of their income for housing and 2) We should decrease the estate tax exemptions - just two of many incidences that demonstrate how far to the right DPH and elected Dems have drifted compared to DNC.

Kyle T Yamashita

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I Support these principle and commit to workable solutions.

Lauren Kapoliahiika Shim

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I choose to support the Platform.

Les Ihara Jr

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

Thank you for articulating our Party's values in the platform.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I support the goal of providing candidates the option of the constitutionally permissible public-financing of election campaigns. I will explain that the 1978 constitutional convention proposed such a program because we realized that the cost of election campaigns was so high that competitive candidates would have to solicit donations from the lobbyist stakeholder community.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I believe the housing goal should be to have forever homes, homes that can be passed along to future generations of workers, and not have government facilitate more affordable housing that eventually get sold in the open market that Hawai'i worker salaries cannot afford.

Linda Ichiyama

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the values in the Platform.

Lisa Marten Moonier

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

Great platform!

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I agree with all planks, but if I have the same Committee Chairmanship next session I will continue to work on Health and Wellbeing and Housing to try to protect Medicaid and SNAP benefits in the face of new federal rules around "community engagement" or work requirements and to expand housing for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness as that is the most important resource to maintain health or find a path towards regaining health. To provide a safety net is one of the primary roles of government.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I would add to the education plank: Make a kaiapuni education pathway available in every community so families can send their children to school where they live, and students can become fluent in Hawaiian while still having opportunities for sports, the arts and every other extra curricular program offered to English language students.

Loren Keola Doctolero

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform because it reflects many of the values that have guided my life and campaign: service, opportunity, strong public education, support for working families, respect for organized labor, environmental stewardship, and a commitment to helping local people build a future here in Hawai'i.

Throughout this campaign, I have focused on workforce development, community resilience, and creating opportunities for people to succeed. I believe government has a responsibility to serve people with integrity, transparency, and accountability, and to invest in the conditions that allow individuals, families, and communities to thrive.

While there may be individual policies where perspectives differ, I support the overall vision and values of the Democratic Party and am committed to working alongside fellow Democrats to improve the lives of the people we serve.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

The platform plank I identify with most is Economic Justice and Labor. Throughout this campaign, I have focused on workforce development because I believe creating pathways to stable careers is one of the most effective ways to help local families succeed and remain in Hawaii.

If elected, I will work to strengthen partnerships between education, labor, and industry to expand career pathways, apprenticeships, and workforce training opportunities. I will also support workers' rights and policies that help ensure people who work hard can build a future for themselves and their families here at home.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

The Housing plank could be strengthened by placing greater emphasis on the infrastructure needed to support growing communities. Housing is essential, but it must be planned alongside schools, transportation, utilities, parks, and other public services that families rely on every day.

I would strengthen the plank by encouraging a more integrated approach to housing

development that ensures communities grow in a way that is both affordable and sustainable for current and future residents.

5. AGRICULTURE

The most meaningful part of this plank is its commitment to food security and preserving productive agricultural lands. As a district with significant agricultural areas and continued development pressures, I believe we must be prepared to have thoughtful conversations about balancing housing needs, food production, water resources, and long-term sustainability.

6. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The most meaningful part of this plank is its emphasis on building prepared and resilient communities. As a district that faces flooding concerns, transportation vulnerabilities, and continued growth, I believe we must continue investing in infrastructure, mitigation, and community preparedness to better protect residents before disasters occur.

7. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

The most meaningful part of this plank is its commitment to ensuring that Hawaii's economy works for local families and workers. I believe economic opportunity should allow people not only to earn a living, but to build a future here in Hawaii.

I would strengthen this plank by placing greater emphasis on place-based and people-based investments in tourism. As we diversify our economy, we should continue investing in the communities and workforce that support one of Hawaii's most important industries while also creating new opportunities in other sectors.

8. EDUCATION

The most meaningful part of this plank is its commitment to providing quality education for every student. I believe education should prepare students for success in college, the skilled trades, military service, entrepreneurship, and the workforce. I would strengthen this plank by placing greater emphasis on career pathways and workforce readiness opportunities for students.

9. HOUSING

The most meaningful part of this plank is its commitment to ensuring that local residents have access to stable and attainable housing. I believe everyone should have the opportunity to build a life in Hawaii, whether that means renting, purchasing a first home, or aging in place. As we address our housing challenges, we must continue creating pathways that help local families remain in the communities they call home.

10. KŪPUNA

The most meaningful part of this plank is its focus on helping kūpuna age with dignity and remain in their communities. Many of the residents I have spoken with in Village Park and Honowai want to continue aging in place near their families, friends, and support networks. As more residents enter retirement and live on fixed incomes, we must ensure they have access to the services, support, and affordability needed to remain in the communities they call home.

11. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

The most meaningful part of this plank is its commitment to strengthening Native Hawaiian culture and well-being. Through my work at Bishop Museum and in the community, I have seen how culture, history, and identity connect people to place and to one another. I also believe it is important that we continue to support and adequately fund DHHL so more Native Hawaiian families have access to housing and opportunities here in Hawai'i.

Luke A. Evslin

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform because it reflects what I work for every day: an economy that lets working families afford to stay, strong protections for labor and Native Hawaiian rights, and a rapid transition to clean energy.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

The plank I agree with most is Housing — the belief that housing is a human right and that we must reduce the barriers to building it. That's been my life's work. As Chair of the House Committee on Housing, I've passed legislation to legalize two ADUs per lot, eliminate state impact fees, cut county fees for accessory units, fund \$20K cesspool-to-septic grants, and reduce barriers to converting commercial buildings into homes. In office, I'll keep going — passing conveyance tax reform to fund affordable housing and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands while discouraging speculation on luxury properties, legalizing manufactured housing, and reforming building codes to bring costs down. The goal is a Hawai'i where every working family can afford a safe, stable home.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I believe that the section on homelessness in the housing plank should reference the overwhelming data showing that homelessness is caused from a lack of housing.

Lynn Vasquez

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the platform.

3. AGRICULTURE

I support growing more of our own food and substantially improving our farming infrastructure to do so. I support food security and reducing our dependence on outside shipping logistics, and it is vital that we are able to feed our own people.

4. ARTS & CULTURE

I would continue to support the arts and culture, especially during these times when many institutions are being slashed. While I believe in responsible government and an efficient budget at all levels of government, I understand the importance of art and cultural education, especially in a state as culturally rich as Hawaii.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Kona low storms we experienced recently is a clear indication that there is much improvement to be made at the county and state level in disaster preparedness, disaster management, and also the state's response after the disaster occurred. Many agree that such natural disasters are more likely to occur and we must improve our readiness and ability to act during such disasters.

6. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

I am a pro-union candidate. I support empowering the working class, improving workplace safety and conditions, and overall addressing this affordability crises we are facing here in the islands, where we are faced with uniquely high costs of living. I will support robust reform and policies that seek to assist our working families and expand access to resources and medical communities.

7. EDUCATION

Public education is crucial to strengthening the economic positions of our local families and sustaining a robust workforce that can meet the needs of our island state. I support reform in our education system that closes the capital improvement and maintenance backlog at

the DOE and adopting stronger policies that lead to improved recruitment and retainment of qualified teachers.

8. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Our environment is a precious resource that we must continue to be good stewards of. I support protecting existing agriculture and preservation lands, and instead focusing on developing our urban core areas.

9. GOVERNMENT

We must restore trust in government. The public deserves transparency and openness, and also a seat at the table in a genuine and substantive way.

10. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

I support expanding access to affordable and quality healthcare for all citizens. Improving our healthcare workforce is a high priority and I would support policies that strengthen our healthcare infrastructure in order to keep our citizens healthier.

11. HOUSING

We are in a housing crisis. We must continue to add to the housing inventory and seek creative and innovative ways to keep our local families in Hawaii, which means helping them to afford and purchase homes, or alternatively find ways to keep rent at an affordable level.

12. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

I support a women's reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ rights, as well as civil rights in general. I also believe in social justice in all aspects of society.

13. KŪPUNA

Protecting our Kupuna is really important, especially from predatory scammers. I also support progressive tax incentives for food and medicine, two basic necessities that would be able to help our many seniors who are living on fixed incomes.

14. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

I support the right of indigenous self determination, and also the perpetuation and protection of cultural practices. I support Hawaiian history, cultural education, and language education in our schools.

15. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Ensuring that technology and internet are available to all communities would be a priority of mine, especially in this digital age.

16. TRANSPORTATION

I support mass/public transportation as well as its improvements. While maintenance of our roads and highways are important, I think its important for our society to encouraged public transportation which also serves to reduce our carbon footprint.

17. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

I support U.S. and Veteran's Affairs as I am a mother of three children who served in combat.

Mahina Poepoe

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the platform because I believe it provides a strong foundation for a direction that Hawai'i should be going in including protecting our natural resources, supporting working families, advancing healthcare and education, strengthening local food security, and promoting good governance.

Markus Owens

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I do support all issues stated in the Platform; however, I do support harsher penalties for the most severe, heinous crimes.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I most strongly support is housing. Every local family deserves a fair shot at safe, stable, and affordable housing. In the State Senate, I will fight to expand workforce and affordable housing, reduce unnecessary barriers that delay construction, protect housing for local residents, and invest in effective homelessness solutions that combine housing with the support services people need to succeed.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I strongly support the Democratic platform's commitment to transparent, accountable, and accessible government. I believe we can strengthen public trust by expanding voter access, increasing transparency, reducing the influence of money in politics, and establishing reasonable term limits for all state elected offices so that new ideas, fresh leadership, and greater accountability remain a constant part of our democracy.

5. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

After 33 years in public service, including the last 17 years working directly on environmental issues, I strongly support the Democratic Party's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's natural resources for future generations. I would strengthen this platform by establishing dedicated funding for watershed and coastal restoration projects and by accelerating investments in renewable energy and resilient infrastructure so Hawai'i can reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels while protecting our environment and economy.

Matthew Kanealii-Kleinfelder

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the platform of the Democratic Party. My reservations with the current Democratic Party and legislative members are the actions by the current party members. Candidates and elected officials representing the Democratic Party continuously shy from Party Platform. While its easy to sign up, oversight of elected officials adherence to the platform lacks. It has become clear to me that the while Democratic party values sell well to the voters, elected officials voting track record elucidate the reality of their chosen party.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Providing better education to our keiki and pay for our teachers. For years on the County Council, I pushed for Financial Literacy to be required in Hawaii School Systems. After 4 years, the BOE enacted the change. Paying teachers well and providing strong and progressive public education to our youth will begin to shift generational equity to the low and middle class.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Require Democratic Politicians to realize the platform through their votes.

5. AGRICULTURE

Local Food in local schools

6. ARTS & CULTURE

Art grants and more art exhibits in public spaces.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Increased mental health worker in Police Depts. Stronger County level emergency response plans for prone communities

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

Focus on providing real support for small, female owned businesses. Build economy & community through small grants and revolving loan programs to specific sectors in our Hawaii Communities.

9. EDUCATION

Increase teacher pay and provide better educational resources and stricter requirements for graduation.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Increase renewable energy. Consider stronger grading and grubbing, development impact fees. Green corridors, more parks, increased drip forests, preserve environment for future generations.

11. GOVERNMENT

Term Limits for State.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Universal Healthcare

13. HOUSING

Housing for local families. Focus on infrastructure; not less restrictions on development.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

People over profits and politics.

15. KŪPUNA

Heavily subsidized housing, more activities, strong community interactions, more Kupuna jobs in government, tax breaks. They have set incomes and increased bills. They deserve assistance more than the homeless.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

My keiki are native Hawaiian. Strongly consider reviewing DLNR leasehold activity and increase land and infrastructure improvements in DHHL lands to eliminate the waiting list. Blood quantum restrictions are going to negatively impact awards. Review entire system with Dept of Interior to provide Kanaka Maoli with the land, water, and public trust obligations held under State Law.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Interesting question given the Data Center impacts on the aina and Hawaii physical location and interaction with the Military!

18. TRANSPORTATION

Make Mass Transit Free. transition to Microtransit based on renewable energy. Build walkable communities

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Support our soldiers!

Matthias Kusch

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform with Reservations

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support some platforms and I don't support those that are conspiratorial or without a tangible solution. As an elected official, I cannot dwell in fringe algorithms; I am focused on tangible steps to improve the lives of our residents.

Maurice Morita

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

As I Democratic Party member, I support the Party's platform

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

No problem with any of the platforms

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

Will work with the Democratic Party to achieve platform goals

5. AGRICULTURE

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

6. ARTS & CULTURE

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

9. EDUCATION

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

11. GOVERNMENT

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

13. HOUSING

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

15. KŪPUNA

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

18. TRANSPORTATION

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Will study the platforms and work with the Democratic Party to achieve the platform goals

Micah C K Kalama

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform with Reservations

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the values and principles of the Hawai'i Democratic Party and believe its platform provides an important foundation for addressing the needs of our communities. I share its commitment to fairness, education, labor, healthcare, environmental stewardship, and opportunity for all.

At the same time, I believe Native Hawaiian rights and advocacy must remain a foremost priority. As the indigenous people of Hawai'i, Native Hawaiians have unique historical, cultural, and trust relationships that require continued attention and action. Strengthening Native Hawaiian communities through housing, health, education, cultural preservation, and mālama āina ultimately benefits all who call Hawai'i home.

While I support the platform overall, I believe our responsibility to the lāhui and the advancement of Native Hawaiian well-being should always remain at the forefront of our work.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

The platform planks I align with most are Native Hawaiians and Hawaiian Culture and Housing, because they are deeply connected. Native Hawaiians deserve justice, the fulfillment of trust responsibilities, and the opportunity to live, raise families, and thrive in their homeland. No Native Hawaiian should be forced to leave Hawai'i because of the high cost of living.

In office, I will fight to increase affordable and workforce housing, reduce barriers to homeownership for local residents, discourage speculative investment, and support fair wages that reflect the true cost of living in Hawai'i. I will also advocate for investments in Native Hawaiian housing, culture, education, health, and economic opportunities. By strengthening our lāhui and making Hawai'i more affordable, we can ensure that future generations have the opportunity to remain and prosper here at home.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I strongly support the Education plank, but I believe it can be improved by placing greater emphasis on teacher retention, accountability, and school infrastructure. Our keiki deserve

the best education possible, and that starts with investing in the people who make the greatest difference in the classroom: our teachers.

We need to ensure teachers are paid fair, professional wages that reflect Hawai'i's cost of living and strengthen our ability to recruit and retain quality educators. At the same time, we must hold educational leadership accountable for improving student outcomes and ensure resources are reaching classrooms, not just administration.

Our public school facilities are among the most outdated in the nation. We must make modernizing and maintaining schools a priority, with dedicated funding for safe, innovative learning environments. Investing in teachers and infrastructure is investing in our keiki, our workforce, and Hawai'i's future.

5. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

The Native Hawaiians and Hawaiian Culture plank is the most meaningful to me because Native Hawaiian culture, values, and ʻike passed down by our kūpuna are among the greatest strengths of Hawai'i. Long before modern science and technology, our ancestors successfully managed resources, fed communities, and lived sustainably through principles rooted in mālama ʻāina and the ahupuaʻa system. Their knowledge should not be viewed as history alone, but as wisdom that still has value today.

I believe this plank can be improved by placing greater emphasis on the integration of traditional Native Hawaiian knowledge and practices alongside modern science in resource management, education, health, and agriculture. Protecting our culture means more than preserving language and traditions—it means ensuring that the ʻike of our kūpuna continues to guide how we care for our people and our ʻāina. By strengthening Native Hawaiian self-determination and cultural stewardship, we strengthen Hawai'i for future generations.

Michael (Cov) Ratcliffe

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the values reflected in the platform.

Mike Gabbard

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform with Reservations

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Democratic Party of Hawai i Platform with reservations because, although it reflects many of the values that have guided my service in the Legislature, including supporting working families, protecting our environment, expanding opportunities through education, and strengthening our communities, but I'm opposed to abortion, and I support the death penalty,

3. AGRICULTURE

As the Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee, for the last 10 years, it's critical that we start growing more farmers, so we don't have to import 85-90% of our food. We have plenty of designated Ag Lands, so we need to recruit, and train a new generation of farmers who understand that farming is a noble profession, no less noble than being a doctor, lawyer, or business person.

Nadia Alves

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I wholeheartedly agree with the DPH platform. My only regret is that so many Democratic members of the State Legislature fail to live up to and fight for the ideas expressed in our platform.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

While I agree with all of the planks of the party platform, I believe that the root cause that prevents us from making progress on all of the different topics discussed in the platform is what was mentioned under the “Government” plank; the influence of money on our elections and policymaking. In order to deliver on the promises we make in our platform, we first need to break the stranglehold that large corporate special interests have over our electoral system. If I am elected, I will add my voice to the growing number of people at the legislature who want to do something about this. I would support the passage of a system of publicly financed elections that provides a viable pathway to election without having to raise large amounts of money from special interest groups. I would also support lowering the maximum allowable contribution amount for individual donors.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I would like to see the party take a stronger stance in opposing Artificial Intelligence. This issue touches on several planks of our platform, including arts and culture, environment and energy, technology and digital equity, and others. Generative AI is trained using artwork created by real humans without the consent of the artists. Certain media companies are now looking to use this technology to replace real artists, threatening their ability to make a livelihood from their art. Additionally, the recent push for AI is a man-made environmental disaster in and of itself. We should oppose the establishment of any AI data centers on our islands, which would have disastrous consequences for our fragile ecosystem and raise energy costs for our residents.

5. AGRICULTURE

I'm strongly in favor of expanding our local agricultural production. If there's anything that could be improved, it would be to make it clear that we want to support the development of

local, small farmers rather than big agricultural companies from the continent. I would also like to add something about providing more funding for programs meant to encourage young people to pursue agriculture as their profession.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

Art is incredibly important in bridging the gap between people, from culture to culture and from past generations to our present and future ones. As mentioned above, I would improve this plank by adding something about protecting artists and their craft against attempts to steal their talent and/or replace them with generative AI.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

I love everything about this plank. I particularly resonate with the part on community policing. One aspect of that that I would like to add to would be a commitment to improve our police force through efforts to recruit people from the communities that they are meant to serve and protect. By that, I don't just mean recruiting people who are from a certain area; I want to see more members of communities and identities that have historically been underrepresented in and often the subject of mistreatment by our police force, i.e. women, Native Hawaiians, our māhū and LGBTQIA+ ohana, etc. True understanding can only come if the people in charge of serving us reflect the diversity of our people.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

This is another plank where I am in vigorous agreement with everything said. Again, this is another section that I feel could be improved by including a reference to opposing the efforts of companies to replace workers with excessive automation and AI.

9. EDUCATION

As someone with a background as an educator, working with children in preschool as well as children with neurological and behavioral disorders, this plank is especially near to my heart. I particularly appreciate the inclusion of universal preschool and education for children without regard to their learning capacity. My only suggestion for improvement would be to be more explicit about our commitment to provide the resources needed to provide students with learning difficulties and disorders the type of education they deserve.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Man-made climate change is an existential threat to our continued survival on this planet, so I'm very pleased that our party platform acknowledges the urgency of our need to transition away from fossil fuels to renewable, sustainable energy sources. I would place more emphasis on the role that large corporate interests play in perpetuating and exacerbating the climate crisis, and I would like to see an acknowledgement of how the climate crisis disproportionately harms economically disadvantaged communities. Also, I would make it clear that our party opposes the establishment of AI data centers in Hawaii on the basis of the harmful impact that such centers would have on our environment.

11. GOVERNMENT

As mentioned, I believe that the corrupting influence of corporate money in our elections sits at the core of all of our problems and is what prevents us from making progress on the priorities articulated in our party platform, so the part dealing with this issue is the one that resonates most deeply with me. Something I might add is an expression of support for trying out new things and making changes to how our government works as a fundamental, progressive ideal that we embrace. Whether that be trying out new ways to elect our legislators, such as adopting ranked-choice voting, or moving to a year-round legislative session for our State Legislature, the DPH should not be shy about experimentation and innovation where the structure of our government is concerned.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

I strongly believe that we cannot afford to continue with our current system of healthcare where for-profit insurance companies make a fortune from denying essential healthcare from our working people. Here I would add a commitment to establishing a state-run universal healthcare system for Hawaii. The likelihood that the Federal government will get around to establishing a US-wide Medicare-for-All program is seeming less and less likely, so we should take matters into our own hands.

13. HOUSING

I share the assessment made in our platform that homelessness is primarily a symptom of an unjust economic system and I believe that any proposed solution needs to proceed from this starting-point. When we talk about how to solve this issue, I think we need to commit to a plan of action that imposes hefty taxes on property-owners who allow units to sit vacant for extended periods of time.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

As a first-generation immigrant to the US, this plank is especially important to me given the attacks on human and civil rights perpetrated on vulnerable minority communities by the Trump administration. I note, however, that our platform does not explicitly affirm our support for the rights of immigrants, regardless of their immigration status. This should be rectified.

15. KŪPUNA

Growing up in a multi-generational household, I deeply resonate with caring for our elders. This issue is of particular importance to lower-income families, such as the one I come from, where, as a result of a lack of resources provided for through our taxes, the responsibility of caring for elderly family members most often falls on their children and grandchildren. In the part about aging with dignity, I think it would be worth reiterating our support for elderly people to make end-of-life decisions in consultation with their healthcare

professionals. As a staunch believer in bodily autonomy, I believe that the right of everyone to a dignified end of their life, free of unnecessary suffering, should be safeguarded.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

As someone who spent the first 12 years of her life in a country that only recently gained its independence from its former colonial oppressor, I have deep sympathy for the plight of the Native Hawaiian people. The illegal and immoral overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii was an unspeakable injustice, the harm of which continues to impact the Native Hawaiian population to this day. We aren't close to making up for the damage done, and I support all efforts to support and preserve the unique cultural heritage of our Native Hawaiian community. I would go further than what is expressed in our platform by advocating for the rights of the Native Hawaiian community to self-determination and a greater say in how Hawaii is developed.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

The part of this plank that I appreciate the most is how it envisions access to technology and the internet as a public resource necessary for the health and success of our communities. As someone who spent my childhood in a very rural community with severely limited access to technology, I'm especially happy with our stated commitment to expand internet access to Hawaii's more underserved, rural communities. However, if we are to treat the internet like a public resource, similar in how we regard access to drinking water, then we should include a commitment to combatting the spread of misinformation on the web. As fake, AI generated images, footage, and text becomes more and more convincing, and with AI engines incorporating that misinformation in its training for future AI generation, we may soon be faced with a situation where it will be impossible to distinguish between what information is real and what isn't. If the internet is like water, then misinformation is like pollution, and we should start treating it as such.

18. TRANSPORTATION

I recognize that I am exceptionally privileged to be living within walking distance to my job, my neighborhood grocery store, and other local amenities, something that is far from the reality of everyone in Hawaii. When we plan for future development and infrastructure improvements, our focus should be in building communities where, preferably, we are able to meet the majority of our needs without the need for a car.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

I appreciate the support for the health and well-being of military service members expressed in our platform. On the other hand, I would go further than our platform does currently in its demand for accountability. The US military has had every opportunity over the past several decades to live up to their kuleana to treat the water and land of our islands with care and respect. Not only have they failed to live up to that responsibility, they have actively avoided being held to account for their actions. Given that history, I don't see how

we could trust the US military to change their behavior going forward. Our party should expressly oppose the renewal of military leases of Hawaiian lands unless they offer fair compensation for the damage already caused against Hawaiian lands, and include explicit and enforceable mechanisms to compel the US military to be better stewards of the land going forward.

Nani Brown

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the platform with the exception(although not mentioned specifically) importing LNG. I am inspired by the goals of our party and look forward to making them a reality.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

The current Federal Administration is systematically dismantling the Hawaiian identity and I will do whatever is necessary to fight back and also defend it here at home. If we need to adopt more state sovereignty laws or become a sovereign nation again, I am committed to defending Hawaiians and the people of Hawaii.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I don't think we need to improve any platform plank more than we need to improve messaging and enactment of them. The current political climate is as tribalized as ever and we need to make effective arguments and strategy to actually be the better party. This INCLUDES HOLDING OUR OWN ACCOUNTABLE.

5. AGRICULTURE

We need to be more specific and BAN TELONE-3 pesticides in particular as well as curb RUPs. Our food security and our biosecurity cannot include poisoning our 'āina and for sure increase ag checks and quarantine procedures and ESPECIALLY military.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

Preserving our Hawaiian culture and practices as we revive them from near extinction is of paramount importance. There is NO HAWAII or BIOSECURITY without KANAKA.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Maintaining our 'āina in ahupua'a systems and giving kuleana to people on the top to take care of the people below will be the change and preparedness we need. Encourage more community engagement in these practices and add more lo'i and lo'i kalo so that people can kokua all day and take home food will bring the connection we need for our land and people as well as help with food security.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

Earning a livable wage is the perfect foundation for growing a healthy living arrangement for all.

9. EDUCATION

Free and excellent education and access for all will raise us all up as a community.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

I do not support importing LNG but do support our renewables and would like to add possibly using corn to produce ethenol fuel as a means to clean our soil contaminated by the recent floods or whatever other crop we can use as that particular dual purpose.

11. GOVERNMENT

Continuing the support of the separation of Church and State is critical with this particular Federal admin.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

This is an area where Hawaii can be an example to the nation(yet again) If we expand to medicaid for all here, perhaps other states and the nation will follow.

13. HOUSING

In Hawaii, the cost of living has a direct correlation to our houseless population. By implementing our livable wages and delivering on our other tenants the barriers to housing will be reduced and beyond the financial barriers would be things like mental health or inability to work. The ability to work should not mean you cannot be a positive member of society and finding places where these people can add according to their abilities would help the overall goal.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

I support all of the tenants here because they are also a key personal belief.

15. KŪPUNA

My adoptive mother passed away 2 days ago, I am so grateful to my sister who bore the bulk of her care so not only do I believe and support this but I would like to provide other support, financial if possible for kūpuna to age with dignity with their ohana.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Securing justice from harm for our Native Hawaiian population should include stewardship programs for 'āina and them not to be deemed houseless if they steward the land they are on.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Digital equity should be achieved without compromising our environment ie data centers. I support access for internet for all.

18. TRANSPORTATION

My favorite part of this plank is adoption of safe and reliable transportation esp. by renewable sources. This allows us to achieve renewable energy goals, combat pollution and ease traffic congestion.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The US military has the obligation to protect the health and safety of the people of Hawaii as well as financial reparations to Hawaiians. NO building weapons here, NO MORE live fire training.

Nathan Kenichi Char

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

It is why I joined the Democratic Party to begin with. I have since participated in the process to amend and ratify the platform repeatedly because it matches my values.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I strongly believe in economic justice and labor. A rising tide raises all boats. In office, I intend to work with unions to bring them into our schools and create more opportunity for the kids to get connected with good, union jobs.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I believe the platform is great as it is; rather than improving the platform, if elected, I need to do better at implementing the platform.

5. AGRICULTURE

The most meaningful part is being sustainable and self-sufficient. Much of our food expense comes from having to import food to Hawai'i. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

As a fellow artist, I strongly believe Hawai'i will prosper when we protect and promote the unique artistic and cultural contributions of the artists who create and preserve Hawai'i's heritage. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

I strongly believe that members of the public have an inherent right to be safe in their homes, workplaces, and communities. Given that my neighborhood has very hazardous traffic conditions, I may consider changing the plank to mention traffic safety.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

I strongly believe in the efforts of unions to protect and advocate for workers; it is thanks to the unions that there are a number of well-established norms, including the 5-day work week, 8hr workday, overtime pay, and more. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

9. EDUCATION

I strongly believe we should provide an excellent, free public education for students at every level. Education is the basis of everything. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

We must become sustainable and self-sufficient to reduce costs in Hawai'i and be able to survive natural (or man-made) disasters. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

11. GOVERNMENT

I strongly believe that all people have the right to live in a free, open and democratic society free from oppression and tyranny; I strove to that end by significantly contributing to five of the last six O'ahu County Conventions. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

I support the creation of a universal health system that values people over profit. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

13. HOUSING

I strongly believe that each and every person should have access to safe, stable, and adequate housing regardless of ability to pay. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

I strongly believe that all humans have inherent rights to freedom, justice, dignity, and peace. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

15. KŪPUNA

I strongly support policies that make it easier to age in place and make it easier for caregivers to provide quality care to kūpuna. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

I strongly support proactive actions by the federal and state governments to enhance Native Hawai'ian culture, health, language, housing, education, environment, agriculture, jobs, and economic development. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Having been on the O'ahu County Digital Equity Committee, I demonstrated my firm belief that digital access is a critical and essential service necessary for many aspects of our economy and community life. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

18. TRANSPORTATION

Given the hazardous traffic conditions in my district 26, I strongly identify with the importance of integrating any new modes of mass transportation with existing and future public streets, highways, bike lanes, retail establishments, services, and affordable housing, while maintaining a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all future high-density developments. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Given my family participated in wars starting with World War I, particularly suffered the horrors of the Battle of Okinawa, died of decisions made in the Vietnam War. My friends came back changed from the Global War on Terror. I strongly believe in a foreign policy that relies on diplomacy, cooperation, and the promotion of mutual prosperity. I do not believe the plank can be improved.

Nicholas (Nick) Kiswanto

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I wholly support the platform because it represents a progressive vision for the people of Hawai'i. I especially applaud the details that are supported by scientific research and the breadth of the platform's considerations. I am proud to represent the platform as a member of the Democratic Party.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I most agree with the U.S. Military and Veterans' Affairs plank since that is so uniquely relevant to Hawai'i and yet so under-championed in the past. The Hawai'i's geography is critical to U.S. Military strategy, yet the people of the islands have been gaslit by the military into believing that we need the military more than the military needs us. To add further insult to injury the military gives its transient active duty members stationed in Hawai'i unfair economic advantages resulting in the deterioration of local well-being. If elected to Congress, I will address these historical wrongs by requesting my fellow representatives to make the military pay local property taxes on its local properties, make the military house all active duty members on said local properties-such as bases, and have independent measurement of the environmental impacts the military has on Hawai'i in order to enact full and proper restoration of damages.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I believe the Economic Justice and Labor plank could be improved by acknowledging that a person's value is not based on their economic output. I believe a "Kama 'Aina Dividend" similar to Alaska's Oil Wealth Fund should be part of the plank; with the dividend funded primarily by local property taxes paid by the military. Hawai'i's wealth is not measured in crude oil, its wealth comes from its unique geographic location, history, and culture. The Democratic Party must be leaders in helping people see value beyond the bottom line; for our sake and for humanity's sake. We can use aloha as a catalyst for global progression.

5. AGRICULTURE

"Providing Hawai'i's people with sufficient, healthy and affordable food in perpetuity" is the most meaningful part of this plank for me because this is a fundamental necessity for

human beings and is especially challenging in Hawai'i. The plank can be improved by calling out the responsibility that American farming corporations had in replacing Hawai'ians' natural agriculture and aquaculture system with cash crops, and highlighting the need for the justice of restoring the value that was exploited and exported from the 'aina.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

I find the very existence of this plank to be most meaningful to me because it is rather unexpected. I think most human beings exist to create arts & culture; we can see it in Hawai'i's strong artisan culture. I'm not sure if I fully believe in it yet, but perhaps this plank could be improved by declaring arts & culture as a human right. None of us chose to be born, yet we are stuck with the cost of living nonetheless; arts & culture (& play) make life worth living.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

"true public safety cannot be achieved only by policing communities" is the most meaningful part of this plank for me. Numerous studies have shown a correlation between crime and poverty and I am glad to see the Democratic Party of Hawaii acknowledge this. I feel like this plank can be improved by calling for zero tolerance to bad law enforcement actors because erosion of trust in law enforcement leads to erosion of trust in society itself. Additionally, calling for personal liability insurance for law enforcement officers would remove the cost that the rest of society bears for an individual officer's bad actions.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

"all people have the right to live a dignified life free from poverty and poor health" is the most meaningful part of this plank for me. Studies have shown that children born in poverty are more likely than not to grow up into impoverished adults. Whatever society feels about the actions the parents may have taken, every child born into poverty did not choose to be born that way and so if we like to think of ourselves as a civilized society that lives aloha, we have to take steps to give some sort of advantage to children born into poverty so that they can live a dignified life free from poverty and poor health. This plank can be improved by a fair criticism of the relationship between capital and labor.

9. EDUCATION

"Educators and school staff should never be asked to increase their workload without being given the opportunity to negotiate for corresponding pay raises" is the most meaningful part of the plank for me because it highlights an often overlooked detail in a fundamentally wrong prioritization of our tax money. Education increases the quality of life for everyone and we can see the negative effects of underfunding education all across America. Teachers should have competitive or better salaries so that excellent teachers do not make the rational decision to be good workers elsewhere. I believe the plank can be improved by including the importance of critical thinking skills. With misinformation at an all-time high,

it is more important than ever that people have the ability to make good decisions for themselves which adds up to good decisions for everyone.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

The inclusion of the importance of the ahupua'a system is most meaningful to me because it is a proven technique uniquely suited for the islands. There is no need to reinvent the wheel by importing ill-fitting foreign land management techniques. I feel this plank could be improved by pointing out the effect the U.S. military has in climate change and that any individual effort would be ineffective without the military significantly reducing its carbon footprint.

11. GOVERNMENT

I find the last paragraph, which supports increased voter turnout through a variety of means, to be most meaningful. The more people we have voting, the closer we "get it right" in terms of a government that works for the people. Voter suppression is and has been a strategy of the pro-slavery forces of America ever since its founding with the 3/5 Compromise. I feel this plank could be improved by expanding on limiting private money in elections because as everyone knows, when you pay for something you expect something in return.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Medicare for All resonates with me most because under the American health system, doctors' orders have been preempted by insurance companies' profit margins. Tying healthcare to employment also limits our freedom, notably with respect to entrepreneurship. I think this plank could be improved by addressing the danger of allowing pharmaceutical companies to advertise their product and also push said product through salespeople. Such actions are dangerous because it interferes with a doctor's impartiality when prescribing medicine, which could result in a less than optimal treatment.

13. HOUSING

I believe this plank could be improved by recognizing that real estate in Hawai'i is not like anywhere else in the world. Steps should be taken to discourage using real estate as an asset here because land is so scarce. The plank could also be improved by acknowledging the correlation between stable housing and good health. The part of this plank that resonates most with me is the acknowledgement that houselessness is the symptom of an inequitable economic system. That acknowledgement can even go into further detail by proposing policies such as taxing the main proponents of the inequitable system and using at least some of that money to fund the listed programs that aim to combat houselessness.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

The whole of this plank resonates with me because it goes back to the fact that no one can choose the circumstances of their birth and so to judge someone, diminish their worth, and

restrict their rights based on arbitrary qualities of how they were born is supremely unjust. I feel like this plank could be improved by explicitly denouncing hate and resolving to address the root causes of hate.

15. KŪPUNA

"Aging with dignity" resonates with me most. Our society and economy erroneously equates a person's worth with their economic output. Therefore, a kupuna who does not have enough income from social security and accrued savings to cover their cost of living has to work a job in order to survive. My heart breaks every time I see a kupuna working a minimum wage job. We must do a better job of ensuring that people who lived within their means do not turn into kupuna who have to take whatever job will take them. I feel like this plank can be improved by including the fact that "aging with dignity" is sometimes unavoidable in some conditions, and so, kupuna who wish to die with dignity have the right to do so after ample counseling.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Reforming the criminal justice system for Native Hawai'ians resonates most with me because it ties back to my broader views on societal justice. Prosperous people generally do not commit crime. Mainland colonizers extracted the wealth of the 'aina, hoarded it, exported it, and made the everyday lives of Hawai'ians more difficult. We need to take serious steps to rectify the damage done by entities such as the Big Five, who still exist today under different names but are still doing the same things their predecessors did, albeit in a less conspicuous manner. I feel like this plank could be improved by enshrining the will of the Hawai'ian people for things that might not necessarily align with modern economic views, such as the Thirty Meter Telescope.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

The acknowledgement of the need for net neutrality resonates most with me. As an elder millennial, I grew up with the promise of the internet as an open forum for thoughts and communication. The demise of net neutrality has the potential, if not already reality, for internet service providers to influence people's perceptions to suit their agenda. I feel this plank could be improved by declaring high speed internet to be a public good. Access to high speed internet is a necessity in today's world and we should not deprive those who could achieve great things due to the monopoly or duopoly of high speed internet companies.

18. TRANSPORTATION

"A high degree of open space" resonates most with me because I have come to the realization that the fewer parked cars are visible, the higher the feelings of well-being in people. Many cities around the world have extensive underground parking facilities that help to minimize at least the perception of car culture. Cars have commandeered land from pedestrians and we should at least make an effort of reducing parked cars on the surface to

reclaim some land for pedestrians. I feel like this plank could be improved by including the effectiveness of "walkable" neighborhoods; which could mean encouraging a cultural shift to work from home, localities that have most necessities and amenities grouped closely enough to walk or bike to, and restoring an effective network of light rail.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

"A foreign policy that relies on diplomacy, cooperation and the promotion of mutual prosperity" resonates with me most because as the commander of D-Day, President Eisenhower, said, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed". The Marshall Plan is widely considered America's most successful foreign policy, while the Vietnam War its lowest failure. War should be a last resort, and America should use its position as a global leader to forge bonds of peace, not intimidate others by threats of force. This plank could be improved by expanding on the debt that the military owes to Hawai'i and its people. For too long the military has harmed Hawai'i to further its agenda, all while using the lie of "protection" as the cost of the harm. Costs that not only include environmental ones, but on our infrastructure upon which they drive heavy vehicles tax-free, and also costs of our scarce land which drives affordability and housing issues. Our federal representatives must champion local interests and demand recompense and proper accounting of the cost of the military using Hawai'i as its base for Pacific and Indian Ocean operations.

Nicole Lowen

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

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Rahman, Inam Ikeda Perreira

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform because it promotes opportunity, fairness, affordable housing, quality healthcare, strong education, environmental stewardship, and accountable government. As a physician and community advocate, I am committed to advancing practical solutions that improve the lives of Hawai'i's families and communities.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

As a physician, I strongly support the Platform's commitment to accessible, affordable healthcare. In office, I will work to expand primary and preventive care, strengthen the healthcare workforce, improve mental health services, support telehealth, and promote policies that reduce healthcare costs while improving outcomes for Hawai'i's families.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

I support the Platform's housing goals but would strengthen it by placing greater emphasis on streamlining permitting, public-private partnerships, workforce housing, adaptive reuse of underutilized properties, and faster development of affordable housing on public lands. We must increase housing supply while protecting communities and the environment.

5. AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE

The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is strengthening Hawai'i's food security through increased local agricultural production. Hawai'i's dependence on imported food leaves us vulnerable to supply chain disruptions, natural disasters, and rising costs.

I believe this plank can be strengthened by expanding support for small and mid-sized farmers, climate-resilient agriculture, agricultural education, sustainable water management, and farm-to-school programs. As a physician, I also recognize the important connection between locally produced nutritious food, public health, and chronic disease prevention. Increasing local food production will improve food security, create jobs, protect

agricultural lands, and help keep food dollars circulating within Hawai'i's economy for the benefit of working families, kūpuna, and future generations.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is preserving and promoting Hawai'i's rich cultural heritage while supporting artistic expression and cultural education. Native Hawaiian culture is the foundation of Hawai'i's identity, and the traditions, languages, and contributions of the many communities that call Hawai'i home enrich our islands and strengthen our sense of belonging. Hawai'i's diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and our cultural traditions help define who we are as a people.

I believe this plank can be strengthened by increasing support for arts education, community cultural programs, local artists, and the preservation of Native Hawaiian language, history, and cultural practices. We should also expand opportunities for young people to learn about and participate in Hawai'i's cultural traditions. These investments strengthen community identity, enrich education, support economic opportunity through the creative arts and cultural sectors, and preserve Hawai'i's unique heritage for working families, kūpuna, and future generations.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Most meaningful: Building resilient communities that are prepared for natural disasters and public emergencies.

Improvement: Strengthen emergency communications, evacuation planning, community preparedness training, healthcare system readiness, resilient infrastructure, and disaster recovery coordination. We should also expand public education efforts so residents know how to prepare for and respond to emergencies before disaster strikes.

Why: As a physician and volunteer who assisted during the Maui wildfire response, I witnessed firsthand the importance of preparation, coordination, healthcare readiness, and resilient infrastructure. We must learn from those experiences and better protect our communities, particularly kūpuna, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations. Investing in preparedness today will save lives, reduce suffering, and strengthen Hawai'i's ability to recover from future emergencies.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

Most meaningful: Ensuring that working families can afford to live, work, raise their families, and retire in Hawai'i with dignity. Economic opportunity should be available to everyone, not just those who can afford Hawai'i's high cost of living.

Improvement: Place greater emphasis on reducing the cost of living through affordable housing, healthcare affordability, workforce development, support for small businesses, local job creation, and targeted tax relief for working families, kūpuna, and individuals with

disabilities. We should also expand pathways to homeownership for local residents, teachers, healthcare workers, and other essential workers.

Why: As a physician and community advocate, I have seen hardworking individuals and families struggle with rising housing costs, healthcare expenses, and everyday necessities despite working full-time. Too many local residents are being forced to leave Hawai'i in search of opportunity elsewhere. Economic growth should benefit local families, strengthen the middle class, support small businesses, and create opportunities that allow our children and future generations to build their lives here at home. A strong economy should work for everyone and ensure that prosperity is broadly shared throughout our communities.

9. EDUCATION

Most meaningful: The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education regardless of income, background, or geographic location. Education is one of the most important investments we can make in Hawai'i's future and provides the foundation for opportunity, economic mobility, and lifelong success.

Improvement: I believe this plank can be strengthened by increasing support for teacher recruitment and retention, expanding early childhood education, strengthening career and technical education, enhancing STEM programs, improving school facilities, and expanding school-based mental health services. We should also strengthen partnerships among schools, colleges, employers, and community organizations to better prepare students for future careers.

Why: Hawai'i's future depends on the success of its students. Strong schools create opportunity, strengthen communities, support economic growth, and help prepare young people for success in a rapidly changing world. As a physician, I also recognize that student health and mental well-being are essential to academic success and long-term achievement. By investing in educators, supporting student well-being, and creating pathways to meaningful careers, we can help more local students build successful futures in Hawai'i, strengthen our workforce, and contribute to the long-term prosperity of our state.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Most meaningful: The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is protecting Hawai'i's natural environment while building a sustainable and resilient energy future. Hawai'i's land, water, air, and natural resources are essential to our quality of life, public health, cultural heritage, and economic well-being.

Improvement: I believe this plank can be strengthened by placing greater emphasis on climate resilience, water resource protection, energy affordability, sustainable agriculture, and investments in renewable energy infrastructure. We should continue reducing our dependence on imported fossil fuels while supporting energy innovation, conservation, and responsible environmental stewardship.

Why: As a physician and community advocate, I understand the direct connection between environmental health and human health. Clean air, clean water, safe communities, and a stable climate contribute to better health outcomes and a higher quality of life. We must also protect drinking water sources and address emerging environmental threats such as PFAS contamination to safeguard public health. By investing in renewable energy, protecting our natural resources, and strengthening climate resilience, we can create a healthier, more sustainable Hawai'i for working families, kūpuna, and future generations while reducing long-term costs and increasing energy security.

11. GOVERNMENT

Most meaningful: The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is ensuring that government remains transparent, accountable, ethical, and responsive to the people it serves. Public trust is the foundation of effective government, and elected officials must be held to the highest standards of integrity, accountability, and public service.

Improvement: I believe this plank can be strengthened by increasing transparency in government decision-making, expanding public access to information, strengthening ethics and campaign finance laws, improving oversight and performance evaluation of government programs, and encouraging greater public participation in the legislative process. We should also continue modernizing government services to improve efficiency, accessibility, cybersecurity, and responsiveness while ensuring responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Why: As a physician, community advocate, and Democratic Party leader, I have seen how government decisions directly affect the health, safety, and economic well-being of our communities. Residents deserve a government that is open, accountable, fiscally responsible, and focused on delivering measurable results rather than serving special interests. By promoting transparency, ethical leadership, fiscal stewardship, meaningful public engagement, and accountability in government, we can strengthen public trust, improve government effectiveness, and ensure that government works for working families, kūpuna, and future generations throughout Hawai'i.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Most meaningful: The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is ensuring that every resident of Hawai'i has access to affordable, high-quality healthcare and the opportunity to live a healthy and productive life. Good health is fundamental to individual well-being, strong families, thriving communities, and a prosperous economy. Access to healthcare should not depend on a person's income, geographic location, or background.

Improvement: I believe this plank can be strengthened by placing greater emphasis on preventive care, chronic disease prevention, mental health services, healthcare workforce development, healthcare affordability, and access to care in underserved communities. We should continue investing in primary care, behavioral health services, telehealth, and programs that address the social determinants of health, including housing, nutrition,

transportation, and economic stability. Hawai'i must also strengthen efforts to recruit, train, and retain healthcare professionals to address workforce shortages and improve access to care statewide.

Why: As a physician, former President of the Hawai'i Medical Association, founder of The Diabetic Clinic, and community advocate, I have seen firsthand how access to quality healthcare can transform lives and improve community well-being. I have also seen the importance of early intervention, chronic disease prevention, and patient education in improving long-term health outcomes while reducing healthcare costs. Throughout my career, I have witnessed the challenges faced by patients struggling with chronic illness, mental health conditions, healthcare workforce shortages, and rising healthcare expenses. By strengthening our healthcare workforce, expanding access to preventive and behavioral healthcare, addressing health disparities, and tackling the factors that influence health beyond the clinic walls, we can improve health outcomes, reduce costs, and build a healthier Hawai'i for working families, kūpuna, and future generations.

13. HOUSING

Most meaningful: The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is ensuring that every resident of Hawai'i has access to safe, affordable, and stable housing. Housing is a basic human need and the foundation for healthy families, strong communities, economic opportunity, and overall well-being. Without affordable housing, many local families struggle to remain in the communities they call home.

Improvement: I believe this plank can be strengthened by placing greater emphasis on increasing the supply of affordable and workforce housing, expanding pathways to homeownership for local residents, utilizing appropriate public lands for housing development, encouraging transit-oriented development, and streamlining permitting processes while maintaining environmental protections and meaningful community input. We should also support housing opportunities for teachers, healthcare workers, first responders, and other essential workers who are increasingly being priced out of the communities they serve. In addition, we should expand first-time homebuyer programs and down-payment assistance opportunities to help more local families achieve homeownership and build long-term roots in Hawai'i.

Why: As a physician and community advocate, I have seen how housing instability affects physical health, mental health, educational outcomes, financial security, and quality of life. Too many working families, kūpuna, young adults, and essential workers are struggling with rising housing costs or are being forced to leave Hawai'i altogether. Housing affordability is one of the most important cost-of-living issues facing our state. Affordable housing is essential not only for economic stability but also for maintaining healthy families, vibrant communities, and a strong local workforce. By increasing housing supply, supporting responsible and sustainable housing development, reducing unnecessary

barriers to construction, expanding opportunities for homeownership, and helping first-time buyers enter the housing market, we can help more local residents remain in Hawai'i, strengthen our communities, support economic growth, and ensure that future generations have the opportunity to build their lives here at home.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Most meaningful: The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is protecting the dignity, equality, civil rights, and human rights of every person. Every resident of Hawai'i deserves to be treated with respect, fairness, and equal opportunity regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or other personal characteristics. Hawai'i's diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and protecting the rights and dignity of all people helps build stronger and more inclusive communities.

Improvement: I believe this plank can be strengthened by placing greater emphasis on equal access to healthcare, education, housing, employment, and public services while continuing to combat discrimination, bias, and barriers to opportunity. We should also strengthen efforts to ensure that individuals with disabilities, kūpuna, Native Hawaiians, immigrants, and other historically underserved communities can fully participate in civic, economic, and community life. Expanding cultural understanding, accessibility, and civic engagement can help ensure that equal rights are meaningful in practice as well as in principle.

Why: As a physician and community advocate, I have cared for people from many different backgrounds and have seen how unequal access to opportunities, services, and resources can affect health, well-being, and quality of life. I believe that protecting civil rights means more than preventing discrimination—it means ensuring that every person has a fair opportunity to succeed, contribute, and participate fully in society. By promoting equal opportunity, fairness, inclusion, accessibility, and respect for human dignity, we can strengthen public trust, reduce disparities, expand opportunity, and build a more just, compassionate, and prosperous Hawai'i for working families, kūpuna, and future generations.

15. KŪPUNA

Most meaningful: The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is ensuring that Hawai'i's kūpuna can age with dignity, independence, security, and access to the services they need to maintain their health and quality of life. Our kūpuna have contributed greatly to our communities, built the foundation upon which we stand today, and deserve our respect, gratitude, support, and care.

Improvement: I believe this plank can be strengthened by placing greater emphasis on affordable healthcare, caregiver support, aging-in-place services, affordable housing, transportation, food security, financial security, and programs that address social isolation and mental well-being. We should also expand access to home- and community-based

services, telehealth, respite care for family caregivers, and long-term care options that allow kūpuna to remain safely in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

Why: As a physician and community advocate, I have cared for many older adults and have seen firsthand the challenges they face, including rising healthcare costs, chronic illness, housing affordability, transportation barriers, caregiver shortages, social isolation, and the increasing financial pressures faced by many kūpuna living on fixed incomes. I believe that supporting kūpuna means more than providing services—it means ensuring that they can live with dignity, independence, financial security, and meaningful connections to their families and communities. As Hawai'i's population continues to age, we must invest in healthcare access, caregiver support, affordable housing, transportation, and programs that promote healthy aging, preventive care, and prevent isolation. By doing so, we can improve quality of life for our kūpuna while strengthening the families and communities that depend on their wisdom, experience, and lifelong contributions.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Most meaningful: The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is recognizing and honoring Native Hawaiians as the indigenous people of Hawai'i while preserving and perpetuating Hawaiian culture, language, traditions, and values for future generations. Native Hawaiian culture is the foundation of Hawai'i's identity, and its preservation enriches all who call Hawai'i home. Protecting and strengthening Hawaiian culture helps preserve the unique history, values, and sense of place that define our islands.

Improvement: I believe this plank can be strengthened by placing greater emphasis on improving educational, healthcare, housing, and economic opportunities for Native Hawaiians while continuing to support the preservation of Hawaiian language, cultural practices, traditional knowledge, and historically significant sites. We should strengthen efforts to address longstanding disparities and support initiatives that empower Native Hawaiian communities and expand opportunities for future generations. We should also support efforts to accelerate access to Hawaiian homestead lands, strengthen community-led solutions, and promote Native Hawaiian self-determination and long-term well-being. In addition, we should support the protection of culturally significant lands, waters, and natural resources that are integral to Native Hawaiian history, culture, and traditional practices.

Why: As a physician and community advocate, I have seen how access to healthcare, education, housing, and economic opportunity affects the health and well-being of individuals, families, and entire communities. Native Hawaiians continue to experience significant disparities in health outcomes, housing, educational attainment, and economic opportunity that deserve thoughtful and sustained attention. I believe that honoring Native Hawaiian culture means not only preserving traditions, language, and cultural practices, but also supporting the health, well-being, self-determination, and success of Native Hawaiian people. By investing in cultural preservation, education, healthcare, housing, homestead development, economic opportunity, and the protection of cultural and natural resources,

we can help build a healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous Hawai‘i while preserving the unique heritage and values that make our islands special for future generations.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Most meaningful: The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is ensuring that all residents of Hawai‘i have equitable access to technology, broadband connectivity, digital tools, and the skills needed to participate fully in modern society. Access to technology is no longer a luxury—it is essential for education, healthcare, employment, small business development, government services, civic engagement, and economic opportunity.

Improvement: I believe this plank can be strengthened by placing greater emphasis on expanding affordable high-speed internet access, improving digital literacy, supporting cybersecurity, promoting the responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence, and reducing technology gaps that affect rural, underserved, and low-income communities. We should also invest in modern technology infrastructure, workforce training, telehealth, digital government services, and educational programs that prepare students and workers for careers in an increasingly technology-driven economy. Expanding STEM and computer science education opportunities can help prepare students for future careers in technology and innovation. Strengthening Hawai‘i’s technology sector can also help diversify our economy and create high-quality local jobs.

Why: As a physician, former Chair of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Health Information Technology, and community advocate, I have seen firsthand how technology can improve access to healthcare, education, government services, and economic opportunity. I have also seen how telehealth, electronic health records, and digital communication tools can improve efficiency, access, and patient outcomes. At the same time, many individuals—particularly kūpuna, rural residents, people with disabilities, and low-income families—continue to face barriers to accessing digital resources and services. By expanding broadband access, strengthening digital literacy, modernizing government services, promoting responsible innovation, and ensuring equitable access to technology, we can reduce disparities, improve quality of life, strengthen our workforce, and build a more connected, innovative, and prosperous Hawai‘i for working families, kūpuna, and future generations.

18. TRANSPORTATION

Most meaningful: The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is ensuring that Hawai‘i has a safe, reliable, affordable, and efficient transportation system that connects people to jobs, education, healthcare, housing, and economic opportunity. Transportation is essential to quality of life and plays a critical role in reducing the cost of living, improving public safety, supporting economic growth, and strengthening our communities.

Improvement: I believe this plank can be strengthened by placing greater emphasis on reducing traffic congestion, improving public transportation, enhancing pedestrian and

bicycle safety, maintaining and modernizing transportation infrastructure, and expanding transportation options for rural communities, kūpuna, individuals with disabilities, and working families. We should continue investing in multimodal transportation systems, including public transit, complete streets, and emerging transportation technologies, while ensuring that transportation investments are environmentally sustainable and fiscally responsible. We should also improve transit connectivity, encourage transit-oriented development, and support transportation solutions that reduce commute times and improve access to employment centers and essential services. In addition, we should support reliable interisland transportation and freight systems that strengthen economic resilience, reduce supply chain disruptions, and improve access to essential goods and services throughout the state.

Why: As a physician and community advocate, I have seen how transportation affects access to healthcare, employment, education, housing, and other essential services. Long commute times, traffic congestion, inadequate transportation options, and unsafe road conditions place significant burdens on individuals, families, and businesses throughout Hawai'i, particularly in rapidly growing communities such as West O'ahu. Reliable transportation is especially important for kūpuna, people with disabilities, working families, and residents who depend on public transit. Reliable transportation is also critical for ensuring timely access to medical appointments, preventive care, and essential health services, particularly for kūpuna and individuals with chronic medical conditions. We should also continue pursuing transportation improvements in West O'ahu that reduce congestion, improve safety, and better connect residents to employment centers, schools, healthcare facilities, and public services. By improving transportation infrastructure, supporting public transit, enhancing safety, reducing congestion, expanding mobility options, and strengthening statewide transportation networks, we can improve quality of life, strengthen economic opportunity, lower transportation-related costs, and build a more connected, accessible, and sustainable Hawai'i for working families, kūpuna, and future generations.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Most meaningful: The part of this plank that is most meaningful to me is honoring the service and sacrifice of our military members, veterans, and their families while ensuring they have access to the healthcare, housing, education, employment, and support services they have earned through their service to our nation. Hawai'i has a longstanding relationship with the military, and many veterans continue to make invaluable contributions to our communities, workforce, and civic life after their service.

Improvement: I believe this plank can be strengthened by placing greater emphasis on expanding access to healthcare, mental health services, affordable housing, workforce development, educational opportunities, and caregiver support for veterans and military families. We should also improve coordination among federal, state, county, and community organizations to ensure veterans can more easily access available benefits and services. In addition, we should support programs that address homelessness, behavioral health needs, post-traumatic stress, substance use disorders, and successful transitions from military

service to civilian life. Special attention should be given to reducing barriers to care and expanding outreach to veterans who may not be aware of available resources. We should also support military spouses and children by expanding access to educational opportunities, workforce training, childcare, and family support services. In addition, we should continue improving services, accessibility, and community support for veterans living with service-connected disabilities to help ensure they can live independently and participate fully in community life.

Why: As a physician and community advocate, I have cared for veterans and military families throughout my career, including serving as an Emergency Room physician within the Veterans Affairs healthcare system. I have seen firsthand the physical and emotional challenges that some veterans face, including chronic medical conditions, mental health concerns, housing insecurity, disabilities, and difficulties accessing services. Many veterans carry both visible and invisible wounds from their service and deserve timely access to high-quality healthcare, mental health treatment, housing assistance, and economic opportunities. I believe we have a responsibility to honor their service not only with words but through meaningful action that improves their quality of life. By strengthening healthcare access, expanding housing and employment opportunities, supporting mental health services, assisting military families, improving support for veterans with disabilities, and ensuring veterans can fully access the benefits they have earned, we can help veterans and their families thrive while continuing to strengthen our communities, our economy, and our state.

Reno Abihai

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform because it reflects many of the values that have guided my life, community service, and campaign: creating opportunity for working families, strengthening public education, supporting organized labor, expanding access to affordable housing, protecting our environment, improving public safety, and ensuring that every resident has a fair chance to succeed.

Having grown up in Kalihi, experienced homelessness as a youth, and spent the last decade mentoring young people through community service, I understand firsthand the challenges many Hawai'i families face. My campaign is focused on addressing the cost of living, increasing affordable and workforce housing, supporting good-paying local jobs, improving public safety, and helping individuals struggling with homelessness, addiction, and mental health challenges.

I strongly believe in protecting workers' rights, supporting collective bargaining, investing in education, expanding economic opportunity, and ensuring government remains accountable and responsive to the people it serves. While reasonable people may differ on specific policies, I am committed to advancing the core Democratic values of fairness, opportunity, compassion, and respect for all people.

As State Representative for District 28, I will work collaboratively with community members, labor organizations, businesses, and government agencies to deliver practical solutions that improve the quality of life for the residents of Kalihi, Pālama, Liliha, Chinatown, Iwilei, and Sand Island.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

The platform plank I identify with most is the commitment to building strong, healthy communities where every resident has the opportunity to live safely, afford a home, earn a good living, and achieve a better future. For me, that begins with addressing homelessness and addiction, improving public safety, expanding affordable housing, and reducing the cost of living for working families.

Having experienced homelessness as a youth and spent years serving families throughout Kalihi, Palama, Liliha, Chinatown, and Iwilei, I understand firsthand the challenges many

residents face. I have seen how homelessness, addiction, untreated mental health issues, and crime impact individuals, families, businesses, and neighborhoods. These challenges are interconnected and require practical solutions that balance compassion, accountability, and public safety.

As a State Representative, I will prioritize increasing access to addiction treatment, behavioral health services, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and coordinated outreach programs that help people move from crisis to stability. I will also support stronger collaboration between state agencies, service providers, law enforcement, and community organizations to ensure resources are used effectively and people receive the help they need.

Public safety is essential to a strong community. I will support efforts to address repeat offenders, improve lighting and infrastructure in high-crime areas, secure abandoned properties that attract illegal activity, and expand youth mentorship, sports, and after-school programs that help prevent crime before it starts. Every resident should feel safe in their home, neighborhood, and public spaces.

I will work to expand affordable and workforce housing by streamlining responsible housing development, supporting public-private partnerships, and investing in housing solutions that allow local families to remain in Hawai'i. To address the high cost of living, I will support policies that create good-paying local jobs, strengthen organized labor, protect collective bargaining rights, expand apprenticeship opportunities, and provide greater economic opportunity for working families.

My goal is to bring people together to deliver practical solutions that reduce homelessness, improve public safety, expand housing opportunities, and make Hawai'i more affordable. By combining lived experience, professional leadership, and a long record of community service, I will work every day to improve the quality of life for the residents of District 28 and our state.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

One area of the platform that I believe could be strengthened is its approach to homelessness, addiction, mental health, and public safety. While I support the platform's commitment to helping vulnerable individuals and expanding access to housing and services, I believe greater emphasis should be placed on addressing these interconnected challenges through a more comprehensive, results-driven approach.

Having experienced homelessness as a youth and worked closely with families throughout Kalihi, Palama, Liliha, Chinatown, and Iwilei, I have seen firsthand how homelessness,

addiction, untreated mental illness, and public safety concerns affect both those in crisis and the broader community. These issues cannot be addressed in isolation.

I would improve this plank by placing a stronger focus on expanding addiction treatment and behavioral health services, increasing transitional and permanent supportive housing, improving coordination among service providers and government agencies, and investing in prevention programs for at-risk youth. I would also emphasize the importance of maintaining safe neighborhoods and public spaces through partnerships between community organizations, outreach workers, and law enforcement.

Addressing homelessness requires more than providing housing alone. It requires a balanced strategy that combines compassion, accountability, treatment, prevention, public safety, and long-term housing solutions. By strengthening this plank, we can better serve individuals in need while improving the quality of life for residents, families, and businesses throughout Hawai i.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Why it is meaningful to my platform:

Residents deserve to feel safe in their homes, businesses, parks, and neighborhoods. Public safety is consistently one of the top concerns raised by residents throughout Kalihi, Palama, Liliha, Chinatown, and Iwilei.

How it could be improved:

The platform should place greater emphasis on community-based crime prevention and addressing the root causes of crime.

What change I would make:

I would strengthen support for youth mentorship programs, after-school activities, sports programs, environmental design improvements such as lighting and securing abandoned properties, and partnerships between law enforcement, community organizations, and social service providers.

Why:

The most effective public safety strategies combine prevention, intervention, accountability, and community engagement.

6. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

Why it is meaningful to my platform:

Strong unions, apprenticeship programs, and good-paying jobs provide pathways to economic security for local families.

How it could be improved:

The platform should place greater emphasis on workforce development and connecting residents to careers that support a middle-class lifestyle.

What change I would make:

I would strengthen support for apprenticeship programs, career and technical education, prevailing wage protections, collective bargaining rights, and local hiring initiatives.

Why:

Economic opportunity is one of the most effective long-term solutions to poverty, housing insecurity, and social challenges.

7. EDUCATION

Why it is meaningful to my platform:

Education is one of the strongest tools we have to create opportunity and prevent future homelessness, crime, and poverty.

How it could be improved:

The platform should place greater emphasis on connecting education with mentorship, workforce development, and life skills.

What change I would make:

I would support expanded after-school programs, youth mentorship opportunities, career pathways, apprenticeship awareness, and partnerships between schools and community organizations.

Why:

Students need both academic preparation and real-world opportunities to succeed.

8. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Why it is meaningful to my platform:

Addressing homelessness, addiction, and mental health challenges is my highest priority because these issues impact individuals, families, businesses, and public safety throughout District 28.

How it could be improved:

The platform should more explicitly recognize the connection between homelessness, addiction, mental illness, and community safety.

What change I would make:

I would expand the platform's focus on addiction treatment, behavioral health services, crisis intervention, recovery programs, and coordinated outreach efforts that help individuals move from crisis to stability.

Why:

Housing alone is not enough for many individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Lasting solutions require treatment, recovery support, and coordinated services.

9. HOUSING

Why it is meaningful to my platform:

Affordable and workforce housing is one of my top priorities because housing costs are driving local families out of Hawai'i and contributing to homelessness. Residents in District 28 consistently identify housing affordability as one of their greatest concerns.

How it could be improved:

The platform should place greater emphasis on workforce housing and housing solutions for local residents who are employed but struggling to afford Hawai'i's housing market.

What change I would make:

I would strengthen the platform's focus on streamlining responsible housing development, expanding workforce housing opportunities, reducing barriers to affordable housing construction, and increasing housing support for individuals transitioning out of homelessness, treatment programs, or the foster care system.

Why:

Housing policy should not only address homelessness but also prevent it by helping working families remain housed and economically stable.

Sam Puleasi

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

As a battle-hardened ex-boss of OCC, I'm leading a zany crusade of transparency, wacky ideas, and daring disruption, convincing others to join the party for real change. When things get hairy, I'll rely on ancient proverbs to steer us through the craziness. And of course, I'll follow the Democratic Party rulebook, because someone has to be a grown-up. I fully support the platform as always unless otherwise. Mahalo

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

Economy and cost of living in Hawaii. By cultivating a diverse range of high-wage industries, expanding accessible housing options, strategically lowering living costs, and fortifying sustainable local food and energy systems, Hawaii can unlock new pathways to economic resilience and prosperity, ultimately breaking free from its longstanding reliance on tourism.

To enhance Hawaii's economic stability, it's crucial to reduce reliance on tourism by diversifying into high-wage sectors, improving affordable housing, lowering living costs, and strengthening local food and energy production.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

As a former ICE agent and union member, I've developed a deep understanding of navigating complex immigration laws, empowering me to support vulnerable populations while championing a balanced approach to border security that prioritizes both safety and compassion. Through witnessing unprofessional conduct and violent behavior, I've become even more convinced that calm, lawful resolve is the most effective path forward. My expertise extends to teaching immigration laws and training sessions for officials, equipping me to tackle border security challenges with insight and expertise. With this background, I'm poised to enhance our party's reputation by leveraging my unique skills to drive meaningful change. This is an opportunity for our party to showcase Hawaii's values of Aloha and demonstrate that our approach can be a model for other states, highlighting the potential for positive transformation. As a longtime chairman, I'm deeply committed to our party's mission and values, and I'm resolute in my dedication to advancing our principles.

5. AGRICULTURE

Agricultural planks revolutionize farming and crop management by unlocking opportunities in soil preparation, livestock housing, and sustainable building practices, empowering a new era of productivity and growth. Agricultural planks play a transformative role in farming and crop management, unlocking new possibilities in soil preparation, livestock housing, and sustainable building practices.

Scot Matayoshi

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

N/A

Sne Patel

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform with Reservations

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the Democratic Party platform and the values behind it; fairness, transparency, public safety, protecting working families, and making sure government works for the people.

My support is with reservations only because I believe every policy still needs to be looked at carefully and applied in a way that makes sense for our communities. West Maui is in a very different place right now. We are still recovering from the fires, families and businesses are trying to rebuild, and people want practical solutions, not just broad promises.

For me, supporting the platform means standing up for Democratic values while also asking the real questions: Does this help local families? Does it support workers and small businesses? Does it move Lahaina's recovery forward? Is the money being spent wisely and transparently?

That is the approach I would bring as a representative. I support the values of the platform, but I will always put the needs of West Maui first and look closely at the details of any policy before supporting it.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

The plank I agree with most is Public Safety and Disaster and Emergency Preparedness. After Lahaina, this is personal for West Maui. In office, I would push for better evacuation planning, stronger early warning systems, fire mitigation, reliable communications, backup power, and more coordination between state, county, utilities, first responders, schools, and the community. I would also fight for transparency in recovery spending so residents know where the money is going.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

A plank I believe can be improved is Agriculture. I support the goal of making Hawai'i more food secure, but the plank should be more practical about what farmers actually face: water, land access, labor, infrastructure, invasive species, shipping costs, and local market access. I

would improve it by tying agriculture policy to water planning, workforce training, farm worker housing, and stronger support for getting local food to local people.

5. AGRICULTURE

Most meaningful part is the focus on food security and self-sufficiency. Hawai'i needs to produce more of its own food and protect the land and marine resources that make that possible. I would improve this plank by adding more practical support for farmers around water, invasive species, workforce, transportation costs, and getting local food into local markets.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

The most meaningful part is preserving Hawai'i's history, culture, and artistic contributions. For future platform updates, I would suggest adding language recognizing the role of arts and culture in disaster recovery, healing, placekeeping, and supporting communities that have experienced displacement.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The most meaningful part is disaster preparedness and protecting people before, during, and after emergencies. For future platform updates, I would suggest adding language on evacuation route planning, utility accountability, wildfire mitigation, and transparent reporting of recovery funds.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

The most meaningful part is the belief that workers deserve safe, dignified jobs that pay a living wage. For future platform updates, I would suggest adding language that measures economic justice against Hawai'i's real cost of living, including housing, childcare, transportation, food, and healthcare.

9. EDUCATION

For me most meaningful part is the commitment to excellent public education from preschool through higher education and lifelong learning. For future platform updates, I would suggest adding language supporting stronger neighbor island access to higher education, including satellite campuses, hybrid learning, and local workforce pathways.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

The most meaningful part is protecting Hawai'i's environment while moving toward energy independence. For future platform updates, I would suggest adding language focused on climate adaptation infrastructure, including water reuse, grid resilience, wildfire prevention, coastal protection, and community-scale resilience projects.

11. GOVERNMENT

The most meaningful part is the commitment to ethics, transparency, and accountability. For future platform updates, I would suggest adding language requiring clearer public reporting on government spending, special funds, disaster recovery funds, and major decisions that affect local communities.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The most meaningful part is access to quality physical and mental healthcare. For future platform updates, I would suggest adding language around healthcare workforce shortages, neighbor island emergency care capacity, trauma-informed care after disasters, and long-term behavioral health support.

13. HOUSING

The most meaningful part is recognizing that safe, stable housing is a basic need. For future platform updates, I would suggest adding language about the infrastructure required to build housing, including water, wastewater, roads, schools, permitting capacity, and long-term affordability protections.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

The most meaningful part is protecting dignity, equality, safety, and civil rights for all people. For future platform updates, I would suggest adding language focused on making rights accessible in practice through language access, legal support, victim services, disability access, and clear implementation.

15. KŪPUNA

The most meaningful part is helping kūpuna age in place with dignity. For future platform updates, I would suggest adding language around caregiver burnout, home modification support, transportation to medical care, fraud prevention, and better access to services on neighbor islands.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Most meaningful part is the commitment to justice for Native Hawaiians and protection of culture, āina, language, housing, health, and education. For future platform updates, I would suggest adding language requiring early and meaningful Native Hawaiian consultation in land use, water, housing, disaster recovery, and cultural preservation decisions.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

The most meaningful part is recognizing digital access as an essential service. For future I would suggest adding language around emergency communications, cybersecurity, responsible use of artificial intelligence, and making sure rural communities are not left behind

18. TRANSPORTATION

The most meaningful part is safe, efficient transportation that improves quality of life. For future platform updates, I would suggest adding language around transportation resilience, evacuation routes, rural and neighbor island road needs, and keeping isolated communities connected during emergencies.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring veterans and ensuring they receive strong physical and mental healthcare stands out as a key priority. Additional updates could include language addressing veterans' housing, transition support, job training, neighbor island access to care, and support for military families.

Steven Haumschild

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

supporting local families and local business is key

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

support local business. create economic opportunities and not roadblocks.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

affordable housing. use bold economic policy

5. AGRICULTURE

food independence

6. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

protect these at all costs

7. GOVERNMENT

balanced and efficient government

8. HOUSING

create policy to support local families and discourage out of state/country ownership

9. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

no hawaii means no hawaii. protect and defend at all costs.

Steven W King

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

I believe that a key part of a sustainable and self-sufficient future for Hawaii is

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND LABOR (I believe in UBI to help Hawaii

5. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

I believe in better housing Using 3d Printing and allow it to be used

6. EDUCATION

Free college like Hawaii for years

7. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

MORE solar and wind power farms

8. HOUSING

Easy permitting for rural areas and more senior housing

9. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

I love Hawaii support civil rights for all people

10. KŪPUNA

As a Kupuna we need to give better economic justice

11. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

As a non native I support to greater funds and laws to Help Hawaii culture grow

12. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Rural fast internet maybe we can give starlink support

13. TRANSPORTATION

Great system but better hours for more buses

14. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

As past ROTC member as also my Dad Korean involvement I support ALL Veterans!

Terez Amato

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I fully support the democratic party and the platform and I'll never take a penny from any corporation or lobbyist.

Troy N. Hashimoto

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I am a longtime member of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and have a deep commitment to our shared values. Having served as a former Maui County Party Chair and currently serving as the Senate representative to the State Central Committee, I always try my best to support the party and its platform. This document reflects our collective vision for a fair and prosperous state, and I proudly support the principles it upholds for our communities.

3. Identify the platform plank you agree with most and say what you will do in office to achieve its goals.

The platform plank I agree with most is Housing. As Vice Chair of the Senate Housing Committee, I am deeply committed to the belief that each and every person should have access to safe, stable and adequate housing regardless of ability to pay. To achieve the goals of this plank in office, I will continue to focus on creating legislative proposals modeled after the 201H process to expedite Land Use Commission review timelines for affordable housing projects. By supporting critical infrastructure investments and implementing practical permitting reforms, we can reduce barriers to development and meaningfully increase our local affordable housing supply for our residents.

4. Identify a platform plank that you believe can be improved and say how you would improve it.

The Agriculture plank provides a strong foundation for food security, yet it could be improved by explicitly advocating for investments in agricultural technology and value-added enterprise support for local farmers. To truly achieve self-sufficiency and ensure the sustainability of these resources for future generations, we must ensure that multi-generational family farms remain economically viable. I would improve this plank by adding language that supports technological innovation in cultivation practices and provides targeted state resources to assist farmers in modernizing operations. Enhancing the viability of local producers is an essential step to building a robust agricultural sector.

5. AGRICULTURE

The commitment to food security is deeply meaningful, as I manage my family farm on Maui. This plank could be improved by explicitly supporting agricultural technology and modernization resources to keep multi-generational farms economically viable.

6. ARTS & CULTURE

Preserving our cultural history is vital to our community identity. I would improve this plank by explicitly supporting sub-national diplomacy programs, such as our Sister-State relationships, which strengthen our global connections and local arts.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency preparedness is critical for my Central Maui constituents. I would improve this plank by adding specific support for upgrading local shelter infrastructure and ensuring resilient community-level communication systems during natural disasters.

8. ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

I strongly agree with diversifying our economy to foster quality jobs. I would improve this plank by advocating for state-led economic zones and innovation hubs to attract sustainable investments and workforce development.

9. EDUCATION

As a member of the Education Committee, establishing dedicated funding for public education is a top priority. I would improve this plank by prioritizing competitive professional salaries for teachers and supporting affordable workforce housing near school communities.

10. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

The transition to clean renewable energy is a necessary goal for our future. I would strengthen this plank by emphasizing the integration of indigenous resource-management practices, such as the Ahupua'a System, for holistic land conservation.

11. GOVERNMENT

Serving on the Government Operations Committee reinforces my dedication to full transparency. I would improve this plank by adding support for modernizing government technology systems to improve public access and streamline constituent services.

12. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Reducing health disparities in rural communities is a paramount goal. I would improve this plank by strengthening the focus on behavioral health integration and building a sustainable healthcare workforce through partnerships with institutions like the University of Hawaii Maui College.

13. HOUSING

As Vice Chair of the Senate Housing Committee, reducing barriers to housing development is my primary focus. I would improve this plank by specifically advocating for proposals

modeled after the Chapter 201H process to expedite Land Use Commission review timelines.

14. HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Equal civil rights are foundational to our society. As Chair of the National Asian Pacific American Caucus of State Legislators, I would enhance this plank by adding a commitment to inclusive community support, including meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

15. KŪPUNA

Ensuring our elders can age in place is a deeply meaningful priority for Hawaii families. I would improve this plank by including robust support for family caregivers, such as expanded tax credits and respite care programs.

16. NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Funding the Hawaiian Homes Commission budget is a fundamental obligation. I would improve this plank by prioritizing the rapid deployment of infrastructure to Hawaiian Home Lands to ensure Native Hawaiians have immediate access to housing.

17. TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY

Achieving digital equity is vital for all residents to access essential services. I would improve this plank by supporting the ethical implementation of artificial intelligence tools in the public sector to improve legislative research and constituent communications.

18. TRANSPORTATION

As Chair of the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization, ensuring safe and efficient transportation infrastructure is my focus. I would strengthen this plank by adding language to support securing federal matching funds for local transit-oriented development projects.

19. U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Treating veterans with dignity and providing the best possible care is a clear societal obligation. I would improve this plank by adding specific policy goals to expand transitional housing and workforce integration programs for veterans returning to civilian life in Hawaii.

Tyson K. Miyake

1. Do you support the Platform?

Yes, I support the Platform

2. Please provide a statement explaining your choice to support, support with reservations or not to support the Platform.

I support the platform.