

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I AS ACCEPTED
ON MAY 30, 2026 at the 2026 Democratic Party of Hawai'i State Convention**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>	i
<u>ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP</u>	1
<u>Section 1. General.</u>	1
<u>Section 2. Enrollment.</u>	1
<u>Section 3. Candidates for Public Office and Current or Former Office Holders of Either a Partisan or Non-partisan Office Changing Party Affiliation.</u>	1
<u>Section 4. Official Records.</u>	1
<u>Section 5. Disciplinary Action.</u>	1
<u>ARTICLE II – PRECINCT CLUB</u>	1
<u>ARTICLE III – DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>	1
<u>Section 1. Organization and Definition.</u>	1
<u>Section 2. Officers.</u>	2
<u>Section 3. Term of Office.</u>	2
<u>Section 4. Meetings.</u>	2
<u>Section 5. Duties and Responsibilities of the District Council.</u>	2
<u>Section 6. Biennial Election of District Officers and Delegates to the State Convention.</u>	2
<u>Section 7. District Council Rules.</u>	3
<u>ARTICLE IV – COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS</u>	3
<u>Section 1. Organization.</u>	3
<u>Section 2. Rules for the Adoption of Respective County Organization Bylaws and Rules.</u>	3
<u>ARTICLE V – STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE</u>	4
<u>Section 1. Membership.</u>	4
<u>Section 2. Elections.</u>	4
<u>Section 3. Vacancies.</u>	6
<u>Section 4. Tenure-Interim.</u>	6
<u>Section 5. Power and Duties.</u>	6
<u>Section 6. Meetings.</u>	8
<u>Section 7. Caucuses.</u>	8
<u>Section 8. Committees.</u>	9
<u>Section 9. Executive Committee.</u>	9
<u>Section 10. Financial Reports.</u>	9
<u>ARTICLE VI – STATE CONVENTION</u>	10
<u>Section 1. Time.</u>	10
<u>Section 2. Composition and Election of Delegates and Alternates.</u>	10
<u>Section 3. Purposes.</u>	10
<u>Section 4. Candidate's Filing Fee.</u>	10

*Accepted Amendments to the 2026 DPH by the State Convention Rules Committee on May 30,
2026*

<u>Section 5. Delegate Registration Fee.</u>	10
<u>Section 6. Organization of the Convention.</u>	11
<u>Section 7. Officers.</u>	11
<u>ARTICLE VII – REVENUES</u>	11
<u>Section 1. Fundraising.</u>	11
<u>Section 2. Conflicts.</u>	11
<u>ARTICLE VIII – GENERAL PROVISIONS</u>	12
<u>Section 1. Representation of Women and Young People.</u>	12
<u>Section 2. Appeals.</u>	12
<u>Section 3. Candidate Support of Platform, Resolutions, Constitution, and Bylaws.</u>	12
<u>Section 4. Party Support of Democratic Party Candidates</u>	12
<u>Section 5. Ethical Campaign Practices..</u>	12
<u>Section 6. Parliamentary Authority.</u>	12
<u>Section 7. Interpretation of Constitution and Bylaws.</u>	13
<u>Section 8. Resolutions.</u>	13
<u>Section 9. Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action.</u>	13
<u>Section 10. Process to Identify Candidates to Fill Midterm Vacancies.</u>	13
<u>Section 11. Ethics and Potential Conflict of Interest Disclosures.</u>	14
<u>Section 12. Prohibition Against Unit Rule</u>	14
<u>Section 13. Use of the Name of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and Party Logo.</u>	14
<u>ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS</u>	14
<u>Section 1. Amendment of Constitution.</u>	14
<u>Section 2. Amendment of Bylaws.</u>	15
<u>Section 3. Changes to County Bylaws.</u>	15
<u>Section 4. Publication.</u>	15
<u>Section 5. Copies.</u>	15

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. General.

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

Section 2. Enrollment.

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

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

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

Section 4. Official Records.

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

Section 5. Disciplinary Action.

A member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall be subject to expulsion, suspension, reprimand, removal from a meeting, or censure for reasons and in keeping with procedures provided in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

ARTICLE II – PRECINCT CLUB

Section 1. Precinct Club.

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

Section 2. Restrictions.

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

No Precinct Club will be allowed to have a Precinct Treasurer.

ARTICLE III – DISTRICT COUNCIL

Section 1. Organization and Definition.

There shall be a District Council in each Representative District which shall consist of all the District Chairperson, District Vice-chairperson, District Secretary, District Treasurer, and eleven (11) at-large Directors, with at least every precinct having the opportunity for representation on

1 the District Council. State Central Committee Senate Representative that resides in the
2 Representative District shall be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the District Council and not
3 count towards quorum for District Council meetings.

4
5 1B. Definition: The District Council shall be the basic unit of the Party organization. There shall
6 be one District Council in each Representative District, as defined by law.

7
8 **Section 2. Officers.**

9 Officers of a District Council shall be a District Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, Secretary, and
10 a Treasurer. In addition, two (2) additional Vice-Chairpersons and one (1) additional Secretary
11 can be elected at the biennial election meeting or any subsequent District meeting where notice
12 was given to the entire District membership that nominations and voting were to occur to fill
13 these additional officer positions. The officers of the District Council shall constitute the
14 Executive Committee. Vacancies in any officer position shall be filled as provided in the Bylaws
15 of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

16
17 **Section 3. Term of Office.**

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

21
22 **Section 4. Meetings.**

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

25
26 **Section 5. Duties and Responsibilities of the District Council.**

27 5A. The District Council, at its first meeting to be held on any day during the third week after
28 the biennial elections, shall hear all challenges concerning the results of the biennial elections
29 that may be brought before it by any Party member residing in the District. The District Council
30 shall, not later than one (1) week after the first meeting, rule on every challenge concerning the
31 validity of a vote on, or the eligibility of a person voting on any question other than the election
32 of State Convention Delegates.

33
34 5B. The District Council shall consider challenges concerning delegates to the State Convention
35 as provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

36
37 5C. It shall be the duty of the District Council to establish and maintain an active and effective
38 Party organization within its district to inform Democrats within the District of Party policy and
39 activities, and to ensure as large a vote as possible for Party candidates in the election.

40
41 5D. To affect these ends, the District Council may adopt District platforms, consistent with the
42 Party Platform adopted by the State Convention and take such steps as are necessary to
43 encourage officials of the District elected or appointed in the name of the Party to observe the
44 Platform and Principles of the Party.

45
46 **Section 6. Biennial Election of District Officers and Delegates to the State Convention.**

1 Each District shall meet to elect District Officers, delegates, and alternates as provided for herein
2 and further provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, on the first
3 Wednesday of March in every even numbered year or at such other date and time as may be
4 determined by the State Central Committee (“the biennial election meeting”).
5

6 **Section 7. District Council Rules.**

7 7A. Each District Council may adopt rules for the proper conduct of its business not inconsistent
8 or in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i or the Bylaws
9 and Rules of the applicable County Committee.
10

11 7B. The rules and rules amendments of District Council shall first be ratified by the State Central
12 Committee. If the State Central Committee fails to certify the rules and/or rules amendments
13 proposed by District Council, the District Council may at the next State Convention appeal for
14 ratification of such rules and/or rules amendments by the Convention.
15

16 7C. Changes to the District Council rules are required to conform or comply with amendments to
17 the State Constitution and/or Bylaws may be affected and adopted by the District Council within
18 ninety (90) calendar days of adoption by the State Party, or, after that time, by the State Central
19 Committee.
20

21
22 **ARTICLE IV – COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS**
23

24 **Section 1. Organization.**

25 There shall be a County Organization in each County which will consist of all members of the
26 Party residing in that County. Between their respective County Conventions, the affairs of each
27 County shall be subject to a County Committee: O‘ahu County Committee, Hawai‘i County
28 Committee, Maui County Committee, and Kaua‘i County Committee.
29

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

31 2A. It is the purpose and intent of this rule to authorize and require the respective County
32 Organizations, consisting of all members of the Party residing in that County, to adopt their own
33 bylaws and rules to meet the desires and needs of the individual counties, so long as between
34 their respective County Conventions, the affairs of each County shall be subject to a County
35 Committee.
36

37 2B. The bylaws and bylaws amendments of a County Organization shall first be ratified by the
38 State Central Committee. If the State Central Committee fails to certify the bylaws and bylaws
39 amendments proposed by a County Committee, that County Committee may at the next State
40 Convention appeal for ratification of such Bylaws amendments by the Convention.
41

42 2C. Changes to the County Bylaws required to conform or comply with amendments to the State
43 Constitution and/or Bylaws may be affected and adopted by the County Committees within
44 ninety (90) calendar days of adoption by the State Party, or, after that time, by the State Central
45 Committee.
46

1
2 **ARTICLE V – STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**
3

4 **Section 1. Membership.**

5 1A. There shall be a State Central Committee consisting of elected and ex-officio members
6 apportioned as follows:
7

- 8 (1) Elected members-at-large:
9 (a) Party Chairperson;
10 (b) Two (2) National Committee Members of different genders;
11 (c) Youth Representatives, two (2) representatives of different genders,
12 between the ages of 18 and through age 35, inclusive; and
13 (d) Caucus Representatives, two (2) representatives of different genders for
14 each caucus certified by the State Central Committee.
15
16 (2) Elected members, two (2) representatives of different genders, from each
17 Senatorial District, with the exception of the Senatorial District(s) which cover
18 more than one County, but only in compliance with Section 1A(5) of this Article
19 and elected Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Caucus members, two (2)
20 representatives of different genders, as provided in Section 7 of this Article;
21
22 (3) Elected County Representatives from each County, two (2) representatives of
23 different genders;
24
25 (4) Ex-officio members:
26 (a) Immediate Past Party Chairperson, and
27 (b) County Chairpersons.
28
29 (5) Two (2) representatives of different genders elected from each County of a
30 Senatorial District which covers more than one County.
31
32 (6) One (1) Senator appointed by the Democratic Leader of the Senate and one (1)
33 Representative appointed by the Democratic Leader of the House (alternating
34 gender to maintain gender balance).
35

36 1B. Each elected, appointed, and ex-officio member of the State Central Committee or that
37 member's successor shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
38

39 **Section 2. Elections.**

40 2A. The members of the State Central Committee, except County, Caucus and Youth
41 Representatives on the State Central Committee, shall be elected at the Democratic State
42 Convention by the delegates as designated pursuant to the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of
43 Hawai‘i. The County Representatives on the State Central Committee shall be elected by the
44 Convention delegates from their respective County at the County Convention. The Caucus and
45 Youth Representatives on the State Central Committee shall be democratically elected by their
46 respective members as determined by their bylaws.

1
2 County committees may choose to elect all their representatives to the State Central Committee
3 at their County Conventions held in even-numbered years, provided that:

- 4
5 (1) The number of signatures required for nomination would be consistent with the
6 Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i;
7
8 (2) There would be a single deadline for the filing of nomination papers for all
9 County State Central Committee positions and it would be ten (10) calendar days
10 before the County Convention at which the elections would be held;
11
12 (3) The persons eligible to vote would be limited to those members of the Democratic
13 Party of Hawai‘i living in the Senate District or County that candidates are
14 seeking to represent; and
15
16 (4) The County Committee has amended its bylaws to reflect its choice.
17

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

- 20
21 (1) The number of signatures required for nomination would be consistent with the
22 Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i;
23
24 (2) The filing of nomination papers for all Caucuses and Youth Representatives will
25 be thirty (30) calendar_days before the meeting at which the elections will be held;
26
27 (3) The persons eligible to vote would be limited to those members of the Democratic
28 Party of Hawai‘i that are also members of the organization that they are seeking to
29 represent; and
30
31 (4) The organization has amended its bylaws to reflect its choice.
32

33 2B. In addition to the Party Chairperson, who shall also be the Chairperson of the State Central
34 Committee, the elected officers of the State Central Committee shall be a Vice-Chairperson, a
35 Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Assistant Treasurer. The foregoing
36 officers, excepting the Chairperson, shall be elected by the members of the State Central
37 Committee from its membership. They shall serve until their successors have been elected,
38 provided, however, that any officer may be removed for cause by the affirmative vote of two-
39 thirds of all the members of the State Central Committee, at a meeting called for that purpose.
40

41 No officer of the State Central Committee shall present themselves as a candidate as defined in
42 the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, or be a candidate for nomination or election to
43 any public office during their term of office. Additionally, no person serving as a Chairperson,
44 Treasurer, or Deputy Treasurer of any candidate campaign committee shall be eligible to serve as
45 an officer of the State Central Committee. Any officer of the State Central Committee who
46 violates this provision shall be conclusively presumed to have abandoned their office, and the

1 position shall be deemed vacant. For purposes of this section:

- 2
3 (1) "Candidate" shall mean any individual who has publicly declared their intention
4 to seek nomination or election to public office (County, State, and Federal office)
5 with the exception of neighborhood boards; filed nomination papers or other
6 required documents for ballot access; authorized any person to form or formed a
7 new candidate committee; solicited or accepted contributions for the purpose of
8 seeking public office; or otherwise taken affirmative action under applicable
9 election law to qualify for nomination or election to public office.
10 (2) "Publicly declared" means a person has made a clear, intentional, and observable
11 announcement of candidacy that is reasonably likely to inform the public. This
12 includes a campaign announcement published in a newspaper (print or verified
13 online), a public social media post from the person or an account clearly
14 representing them, or holding or publicly promoting a campaign fundraiser or
15 similar event. The statement must clearly indicate intent to run for a specific
16 office (ambiguous remarks like "thinking about running" do not qualify).
17 Communications behind paywalls or private messages generally do not qualify. A
18 single qualifying act establishes a public declaration unless retracted publicly and
19 clearly; authorized representatives' announcements count if presented as official.
20

21 2C. The Chairperson of the State Central Committee may appoint other Vice-Chairpersons from
22 the membership of the State Central Committee, as the Chairperson may deem necessary or
23 proper with the consent of the State Central Committee.
24

25 **Section 3. Vacancies.**

26 When the Party Chairperson files to run for or is appointed to elective public office, with the
27 exception of the State Constitutional Convention delegate, the Party office shall automatically be
28 deemed vacant. Vacancies in the membership of the State Central Committee shall be filled as
29 provided in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.
30

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

32 The tenure of the interim Party Chairperson shall be until a successor is elected at the next
33 succeeding State Convention.
34

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

36 The State Central Committee shall:

- 37
38 (1) Have general supervision over the affairs of the Party.
39
40 (2) Call all State Conventions and make the necessary arrangements therefore.
41
42 (3) Call all State Conventions and make the necessary arrangements therefore. It shall
43 adopt standing rules for the State Convention prior to the biennial election
44 meetings, subject to confirmation by a majority of the votes cast by Convention
45 delegates.
46

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

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

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

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

14
15 **Section 6. Meetings.**

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

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

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

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

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

33
34 6F. No member of the State Central Committee shall hold more than one proxy.

35
36 **Section 7. Caucuses.**

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

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

1
2 7C. Membership. Only active and associate Democratic Party of Hawai‘i members may
3 participate in a Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Caucus.
4

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

17 **Section 8. Committees.**

18 The State Central Committee shall appoint standing committees on Finance, Platform,
19 Legislation, Rules, Affirmative Action, Membership, Fundraising, Communications, Community
20 Relations, Convention, Campaign, [~~and~~] Compliance Review[-], and Party-run Presidential
21 Primary.
22

23 **Section 9. Executive Committee.**

24 9A. The elected and appointed officers as designated herein, the Bylaws of the Democratic Party
25 of Hawai‘i, and the two (2) National Committee Members of different genders and each County
26 Chairperson shall constitute the Executive Committee of the State Central Committee.
27

28 9B. The Executive Committee shall meet once each quarter at the call of its Chairperson or upon
29 written request of not less than five (5) members of the Executive Committee filed with the
30 Secretary of the Executive Committee. Notice of each meeting shall be given by the Secretary at
31 least three (3) calendar days before the date of the meeting.
32

33 9C. A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the
34 Executive Committee. No proxies may be used by any member of this Executive Committee.
35

36 9D. The Executive Committee shall have full charge of matters within the authority of the State
37 Central Committee between meetings of the State Central Committee.
38

39 **Section 10. Financial Reports.**

40 10A. All officers, and members of the State Central Committee, who in the name of the
41 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, engage in fundraising activities or have the responsibility of
42 making disbursements and receiving assessments, contributions, or gifts, shall be responsible for
43 a strict accounting of all funds received or disbursed. A full and complete report in writing shall
44 be submitted to the Executive Committee within a reasonable time after the completion of a
45 project or term or at the request of the Party Chairperson or the Treasurer or the Executive
46 Committee. This section shall apply to any other person appointed by this body. In addition,

1 any treasury function of the State Central Committee shall be subject to audit at anytime during
2 the year in which the State Central Committee is elected. Any and all auditor reports shall be
3 available at the State Convention, and at the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Headquarters for
4 inspection by any member of the Party.

5
6 10B. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the County Committees shall keep their
7 own financial records and shall be exempted from the audit described herein.
8
9

10 **ARTICLE VI – STATE CONVENTION**

11 **Section 1. Time.**

12 The convention will be called biennially in May of each even numbered year, or at such other
13 times as may be determined by the State Central Committee.
14
15

16 **Section 2. Composition and Election of Delegates and Alternates.**

17 2A. Composition: The assembly of voting delegates for any State Convention shall be composed
18 of members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i as provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic
19 Party of Hawai'i.
20

21 2B. Election of Delegates and Alternates: Each District shall elect delegates at the precinct level
22 to the State Convention as contained in the official Call of the Party, subject to the composition
23 requirements as provided for in the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. Election of
24 alternates should be subject to the composition requirements as provided for in the Bylaws of the
25 Democratic Party of Hawai'i. In the event the certified roster indicates insufficient membership
26 for an equal number of alternates, the members of the precinct shall decide the number of
27 alternates to be elected. Only members that reside in the precinct can vote for the
28 Delegates/Alternates representing their precinct, no person shall vote in a meeting of more than
29 one (1) precinct held for the purpose of electing delegates/alternates to the State Convention.
30

31 **Section 3. Purposes.**

32 The State Convention shall convene for the purposes provided for in the Bylaws of the
33 Democratic Party of Hawai'i.
34

35 **Section 4. Candidate's Filing Fee.**

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

40 **Section 5. Delegate Registration Fee.**

41 5A. All delegates and alternates in attendance, registered at the State Convention, shall be
42 assessed a registration fee that is determined by the State Central Committee to defray the cost of
43 the Convention. Any excess shall be realization to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.
44

45 5B. Where a State Convention delegate is unable to pay the designated registration fee, a written
46 request for waiver should be submitted to the State Convention Credentials Committee as

1 prescribed by the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. No person duly elected as a
2 delegate or alternate delegate to the State Convention shall be excluded as a delegate or alternate
3 due to inability to pay the registration fee.
4

5 5C. In compliance with the Democratic National Committee Rules, no person shall be excluded
6 from any stage of the national delegate selection process for failure to pay the registration fee.
7

8 **Section 6. Organization of the Convention.**

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

- 14 (1) Convention Platform Committee.
 - 15 (2) Convention Rules Committee.
 - 16 (3) Convention Resolutions Committee(s).
 - 17 (4) Convention Affirmative Action Committee.
 - 18 (5) Convention Credentials Committee.
- 19

20 **Section 7. Officers.**

21 The Convention shall be convened by the Party Chairperson, or in the absence of the Party
22 Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson of the State Central Committee. The Secretary of the State
23 Central Committee or in the absence of the Secretary, such other person as may be appointed
24 shall keep the Minute book of the Convention until the permanent Convention Secretary is
25 appointed.
26
27

28 **ARTICLE VII – REVENUES**

29

30 **Section 1. Fundraising.**

31 Subject to the provisions of this Article, Party funds may be raised by the Precinct Clubs (if their
32 formation is authorized by the County Committee), by the District Councils, by the County
33 Committees and by the State Central Committee, in addition to specially endorsed projects of the
34 State Central Committee. All money so raised shall be promptly submitted to the State or
35 County Treasurer. No bank accounts shall be opened or held at the Caucus, District or Precinct
36 level. State and County Treasurers will designate line items for allocated funds set aside for
37 Caucuses, District, Precinct, or specially endorsed projects. Receipts shall be given for all cash
38 contributions. Required contributor information shall be collected for all contributions. Receipts
39 and contributor information shall be promptly forwarded to the State or County Treasurer for
40 proper compliance reporting as required in Federal and State statutes, laws, rules and regulations.
41

42 **Section 2. Conflicts.**

43 Where a fundraising activity is staged by the State Central Committee, it shall be the duty of all
44 other branches of the Party to cooperate in such activity.
45
46

ARTICLE VIII – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Representation of Women and Young People.

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

Section 2. Appeals.

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

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

Every Democratic Party candidate for election to office, whether Federal, State or County, and every member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall support the Party Platform.

Section 4: Party Support of Democratic Party Candidates.

Every member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall support candidates who request the Party’s support in the general, special, or nonpartisan elections. To be eligible for such support, the candidate must be a member in good standing and must have completed the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Candidate Statement Form.

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

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

Section 5. Ethical Campaign Practices.

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

Section 6. Parliamentary Authority.

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern

1 all Precinct Club meetings (if their formation is authorized by the County Committee), Caucus
2 Meetings, District Council meetings, County meetings and conventions, and State Conventions
3 in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the
4 Constitution, Bylaws, or special rules of order adopted by the Democratic Party of Hawai'i or the
5 Bylaws and Rules of the applicable County Committee.
6

7 **Section 7. Interpretation of Constitution and Bylaws.**

8 The State Central Committee shall be empowered to make final decisions on the interpretation of
9 this Constitution and the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.
10

11 **Section 8. Resolutions.**

12 8. The resolving clauses of resolutions, except for those clauses that refer to a specific date,
13 event, or legislative session, once adopted by delegates at a convention of the Democratic Party
14 of Hawai'i shall represent the official policies of the Party and shall remain in force and effect
15 until rescinded or amended by the delegates at an annual or special convention.
16

17 8B. Copies of resolutions of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i still in force and effect, including
18 their preamble and transmission clauses, shall be made available online.
19

20 **Section 9. Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action.**

21 9A. In order that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at all levels be an open Party which includes
22 rather than excludes people from participation, a program of effective affirmative action is
23 hereby adopted.
24

25 9B. Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender
26 expression, age, color, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, disability, or economic status in
27 the conduct of the business of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i is prohibited.
28

29 9C. Any vacancy in the election process as defined by Section 11-118, Hawai'i Revised
30 Statutes, because of death, withdrawal, disqualification, or any other cause shall be filled as
31 follows, except that no vacancy shall be filled if following the vacancy one or more Democrats
32 remained on the ballot.
33

- 34 (1) By the respective District Council if the vacancy is at the District level.
35 (2) By the respective County Committee if the vacancy is for an office covering a
36 geographic area larger than a District, including all County government offices.
37 (3) By the State Central Committee if the vacancy is for an office covering a
38 geographic area larger than a County.
39

40 **Section 10. Process to Identify Candidates to Fill Midterm Vacancies.**

41 When any vacancy occurs in the United States Senate, State Senate or State House that is held by
42 a Democrat, the following process shall be followed to identify candidates who may be
43 recommended to the Governor to fill the vacant office:
44

- 45 (1) The District Council shall select candidates if the vacancy is for an office
46 representing a State Representative District.

1 (2) The respective officers of the Precinct Clubs and District Councils affected shall
2 select the candidates if the vacancy is for an office representing a State Senate
3 District.

4 (3) The State Central Committee shall select the candidates if the vacancy is for an
5 office representing the entire State.
6

7 The governor shall recuse themselves from voting in the selection process to identify 3
8 candidates.
9

10 **Section 11. Ethics and Potential Conflict of Interest Disclosures.**

11 Any member of the State Central Committee or a County Committee who engages in activity
12 defined as “lobbying” under Hawai‘i Revised Statutes shall file a written disclosure with the
13 respective Committee Secretary stating for whom they are lobbying and on what matters.
14 Candidates for the State Chair, County Chair or the State Central Committee shall file such a
15 disclosure within seven (7) calendar days after filing to run for the office. Such disclosures shall
16 be available for inspection by Party members.
17

18 **Section 12. Prohibition Against Unit Rule.**

19 No member shall be bound to cast their vote by instructions from any party unit or organization,
20 except that pledged delegates to the national convention shall be bound to cast their vote on the
21 first round for the candidate they were elected to support, unless released by their candidate, and
22 presidential electors shall be bound on the first round to vote for the presidential candidate who
23 is the nominee of the Democratic Party.
24

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

26 No District Council, Precinct Club or combination of Precinct Clubs (if their formation is
27 authorized by the County Committee), or District Councils or members of clubs, committees, or
28 Caucuses shall be permitted to use the name of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and/or the Party
29 logo, without first obtaining express and specific consent and authority of the Party Chair and/or
30 the appropriate County Committee or State Central Committee.
31

32 **Section 14. Party Member Privacy and Data Protection.**

33 The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall safeguard the personal information of its members.
34 Membership data shall be collected, maintained, and used solely for Party purposes and in
35 compliance with all applicable state and federal privacy and data protection laws. Any
36 unauthorized access, disclosure, or use of such data is prohibited and shall be grounds for
37 disciplinary action.
38
39

40 **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**
41

42 **Section 1. Amendment of Constitution.**

43 This Constitution may be amended or revised by delegates at the State Convention by a majority
44 vote. The effective date of such amendments shall be immediately upon adjournment of the State
45 Convention at which the amendments were adopted.
46

1 **Section 2. Amendment of Bylaws.**

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

7
8 **Section 3. Changes to County Bylaws.**

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

13
14 **Section 4. Publication.**

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

17
18 **Section 5. Copies.**

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