

**BYLAWS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII  
AS AMENDED MAY 30, 2026**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

7	<b><u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u></b>	<b>1</b>
8	<b><u>ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP</u></b>	<b>3</b>
9	<u>Section 1. Membership Eligibility.</u>	3
10	<u>Section 2. Enrollment.</u>	3
11	<u>Section 3. Official Enrollment Card.</u>	6
12	<u>Section 4. Membership.</u>	6
13	<u>Section 5. Official Records.</u>	6
14	<u>Section 6. Termination.</u>	7
15	<u>Section 7. Expulsion, Suspension, Reprimand, or Censure.</u>	7
16	<b><u>ARTICLE II – PRECINCT CLUB</u></b>	<b>12</b>
17	<b><u>ARTICLE III – DISTRICT COUNCIL</u></b>	<b>13</b>
18	<u>Section 1. Officers.</u>	13
19	<u>Section 2. Meeting Notices, Attendance at Meetings.</u>	14
20	<u>Section 3. Quorum.</u>	15
21	<u>Section 4. Proxies.</u>	15
22	<u>Section 5. Committees.</u>	15
23	<u>Section 6. Biennial Election of District Council, Delegates and Alternates to the State</u>	
24	<u>Convention.</u>	15
25	<u>Section 7. Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention</u>	18
26	<u>Section 8. Notice of Meetings</u>	19
27	<b><u>ARTICLE IV – COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS</u></b>	<b>19</b>
28	<u>Section 1. Organization.</u>	19
29	<u>Section 2. Rules for the adoption of Respective County Organization Bylaws and Rules.</u>	20
30	<u>Section 3. Meetings, Notices, Attendance at Meetings.</u>	20
31	<b><u>ARTICLE V – STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b>20</b>
32	<u>Section 1. Apportionment.</u>	20
33	<u>Section 2. Nomination and Filing.</u>	20
34	<u>Section 3. Officers.</u>	22
35	<u>Section 4. Term of Office.</u>	23
36	<u>Section 5. Filling of Vacancies.</u>	23
37	<u>Section 6. Meetings.</u>	254
38	<u>Section 7. Proxies.</u>	25
39	<u>Section 8. Caucuses.</u>	25
40	<u>Section 9. Committees.</u>	26
41	<b><u>ARTICLE VI – STATE CONVENTION</u></b>	<b>30</b>
42	<u>Section 1. Time, Place, Notice.</u>	30

1	<a href="#"><u>Section 2. Composition.</u></a>	30
2	<a href="#"><u>Section 3. Purposes.</u></a>	31
3	<a href="#"><u>Section 4. Candidate’s Filing Fee.</u></a>	33
4	<a href="#"><u>Section 5. Delegate Registration Fee.</u></a>	34
5	<a href="#"><u>Section 6. Organization of the Convention.</u></a>	34
6	<a href="#"><u>Section 7. Prohibition Against Unit Rule.</u></a>	36
7	<a href="#"><u>Section 8. Report to the Convention.</u></a>	36
8	<a href="#"><u>Section 9. Convention Reports to the Delegates.</u></a>	36
9	<a href="#"><u>Section 10. Candidate Speeches.</u></a>	36
10	<a href="#"><u>Section 11. Electronic Voting</u></a>	36
11	<a href="#"><u>ARTICLE VII – REVENUES</u></a>	36
12	<a href="#"><u>Section 1. District Council Fund Raising.</u></a>	36
13	<a href="#"><u>Section 2. County Committee and State Central Committee Responsibility.</u></a>	37
14	<a href="#"><u>ARTICLE VIII – DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEADQUARTERS</u></a>	38
15	<a href="#"><u>Section 1. Establishment, Maintenance and Operation.</u></a>	38
16	<a href="#"><u>Section 2. Executive Director and Staff.</u></a>	38
17	<a href="#"><u>Section 3. Duty to Support All Democratic Party Organizations.</u></a>	38
18	<a href="#"><u>Section 4. Services to be Made Available to All Democats</u></a>	38
19	<a href="#"><u>ARTICLE IX – GENERAL PROVISIONS</u></a>	38
20	<a href="#"><u>Section 1. Candidate Support of Platform, Resolutions, Constitution and Bylaws.</u></a>	38
21	<a href="#"><u>Section 2. Party Sponsored Legislation.</u></a>	39
22	<a href="#"><u>Section 3. Availability of the Constitution and Bylaws.</u></a>	39
23	<a href="#"><u>Section 4. Responsibility for Filling Vacancies in Election Process.</u></a>	39
24	<a href="#"><u>Section 5. Process to Identify Candidates to Fill Midterm Vacancies.</u></a>	40
25	<a href="#"><u>Section 6. Smoking.</u></a>	41
26	<a href="#"><u>Section 7. Prior Consent.</u></a>	41
27	<a href="#"><u>Section 8. Elections.</u></a>	41
28	<a href="#"><u>Section 9. Impossibility Provision</u></a>	411
29		

1 **These Bylaws codify and ratify the rules of procedure and operation of the Democratic**  
2 **Party of Hawai‘i, consistent with the intent of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of**  
3 **Hawai‘i.**

4  
5 **ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP**  
6

7 **Section 1. Membership Eligibility.**

8 The following persons are eligible to become members of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i:

- 9
- 10 (1) Individuals who, at the time of application, are registered to vote in the State of  
11 Hawai‘i may become voting members of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; or  
12
  - 13 (2) Individuals who, at the time of application, are eligible but not registered to vote  
14 in the State of Hawai‘i may become nonvoting associate members of the  
15 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, and upon registration to vote in the State of  
16 Hawai‘i, may apply to become voting members of the Democratic Party of  
17 Hawai‘i; or  
18
  - 19 (3) Individuals who, at the time of application, are not eligible to register to vote in  
20 the State of Hawai‘i may become nonvoting associate members of the Democratic  
21 Party of Hawai‘i. If eligibility to register to vote in the State of Hawai‘i is later  
22 attained and the individual duly registers to vote, then the individual may apply to  
23 become a voting member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. Information  
24 provided by the applicant shall be recorded electronically and shall be available  
25 for appropriate Party uses.  
26

27 **Section 2. Enrollment.**

28 2A. The procedure for enrollment in the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall be as follows:

- 29
- 30 (1) The applicant shall fill out and submit a Democratic Party of Hawai‘i State  
31 Enrollment Card either on paper or online. The applicant may pay the annual  
32 voluntary membership donation dues of twenty-five dollars (\$25) and may submit  
33 an additional voluntary contribution.  
34
  - 35 (2) The enrollment card and any annual voluntary membership contribution of an  
36 applicant shall be hand-delivered, delivered by mail, transmitted by fax, or  
37 scanned and sent by electronic mail to Democratic Party of Hawai‘i (“Party”)  
38 Headquarters. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer of the State Central  
39 Committee to issue a receipt for cash contributions. Except as provided in this  
40 Article relating to candidates for public office and office-holders changing Party  
41 affiliation, the Secretary of the State Central Committee verifies eligibility for  
42 membership per this Article I and, if eligible, issues a membership card along  
43 with information about the member’s District Council and its officers, within  
44 thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the enrollment card. The contribution shall

1 remain with the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i to take care of the administrative  
2 expenses of maintaining a centralized membership records system. Information  
3 provided by the applicant shall be recorded electronically and shall be available  
4 for appropriate Party uses.  
5

6 (3) Except as provided in Article I of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of  
7 Hawai‘i and these Bylaws, the effective date of membership shall be the date a  
8 valid enrollment card is received by the Party. The new member, as of the date of  
9 Party membership, becomes a member of the Democratic District in the precinct  
10 in which the member is registered to vote and resides except as provided for in  
11 Article II, Section 3 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution. The District Council shall  
12 be notified at appropriate intervals of all new members enrolled by the Secretary  
13 of the State Central Committee. The new member shall be entitled to all the  
14 rights, privileges and obligations in the Party, except that they shall not be  
15 considered a member until they have been a member in good standing, as defined  
16 by Article IX, Section 4A of these Bylaws, for a period of at least six (6) months  
17 for the purposes of:  
18

19 (a) Appointment to fill a legislative vacancy pursuant to Article VIII of the  
20 Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, or

21 (b) Receiving Party support, defined by Party policy, as a candidate in a non-  
22 partisan race, and special elections held to fill a Congressional or County  
23 vacancy.

24 (4) If a member has resigned from the Party in the two (2) years prior to re-  
25 enrollment in the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, the re-enrolled member must be a  
26 member in good standing for at least two (2) years prior to serving on a County  
27 Committee, State Central Committee, or as National Committee Member, or as  
28 State Party Chairperson.  
29

30 (5) An individual who has completed and submitted a Democratic Party of Hawai‘i  
31 Enrollment Card at the biennial election meeting, but whose name does not  
32 appear on the voter registration list in the County in which that person resides,  
33 shall submit proof of their updated voter registration, or shall sign a voter  
34 registration form and handover to the designated Party official. The Secretary of  
35 the State Central Committee or their designee shall have the responsibility to  
36 verify that the Party member was eligible to register to vote in that House District  
37 within 30 calendar days after the biennial election meeting. If the Party member  
38 was not eligible to become a voter in the State, they will become an Associate  
39 Member and any office so obtained will be deemed vacant. If the individual  
40 seeking Party membership cannot submit proof of voter registration or refuses to  
41 submit a signed voter registration form, then they will not be allowed to vote or  
42 run for Party office.  
43

44 2B. Current or Former Elected Officials’ of Either a Partisan or Non-Partisan Office Request to

1 Switch from Another Party to the Democratic Party.  
2

3 (1) If a current or former elected public office-holder of either a partisan or non-  
4 partisan office applies for new Party membership as a change of Party affiliation,  
5 then the following procedure shall determine applicant's eligibility for Party  
6 membership:  
7

8 (a) Conveyance: The Secretary of the State Central Committee shall ensure  
9 the application is conveyed to the respective County Chair for public  
10 offices within the County or State Party Chair for State offices spanning  
11 two or more Counties and the offices of the United States Congress and  
12 Senate.  
13

14 (b) The applicant shall complete the Candidate Statement based on the  
15 Platform and Resolutions of the Party as provided in Article V of the  
16 Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and submit it to the  
17 respective County or State Executive Committee.  
18

19 (c) The Committee may invite the applicant and other persons to interview as  
20 it deems useful. Decisions regarding membership shall be communicated  
21 immediately to the Secretary of the State Central Committee, who shall  
22 immediately convey them to the full membership of the State Central  
23 Committee.  
24

25 (2) Deadlines:

26 (a) No deadline applies to applications to change Party affiliation by a current  
27 or former public office-holder of either a partisan or non-partisan office,  
28 except if application is submitted within six (6) months of candidate filing  
29 for an election, then deadlines described in this section shall apply.  
30

31 (b) The date of Party membership shall be eleven (11) calendar days after the  
32 Executive Committee's decision to accept the application unless the  
33 decision is called for review by the State Central Committee. A review  
34 shall not be called except upon written request of at least ten (10) State  
35 Central Committee members. If reviewed, the decision of the State Central  
36 Committee shall be final. If the application is accepted, the new member  
37 shall enjoy all rights and responsibilities of Party membership. The new  
38 member is subject to Section 2B, which provides for eligibility after six  
39 months of continuous membership without censure to file as a candidate  
40 for elected public office as a Democrat.  
41

42 (c) If the application for membership is rejected, the applicant is ineligible to  
43 appear as a candidate on any ballot as a Democrat, to claim in any  
44 campaign to be a Democratic Party candidate, to caucus as a Democrat, or

1 hold any public office or position reserved for a member of the  
2 Democratic Party, until such time as membership in “good standing” is  
3 attained in accord with this Constitution.

4 **Section 3. Official Enrollment Card.**

5 The form of the official enrollment card and membership card shall be as prescribed by the State  
6 Central Committee and shall include an option to join certified Party caucuses, provide voluntary  
7 demographic information, and the ability for a person to complete an electronic enrollment form  
8 on the official Democratic Party of Hawai‘i website.

9  
10 **Section 4. Membership.**

11 4A. Any member once enrolled in the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall, at the member’s  
12 option, continue to be a member except as provided by Article I of the Constitution of the  
13 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. The Party shall request payment of the annual voluntary  
14 membership donation dues of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and conduct fundraising appeals  
15 regularly.

16  
17 4B. Three dollars (\$3) of every ten dollars (\$10) collected in dues shall be remitted to the county  
18 from which the dues originated.

19  
20 4C. Annual voluntary membership donation dues shall be requested on or before February 28 of  
21 each year.

22  
23 4D. Where a record of prior membership cannot be located and membership is claimed, the  
24 claimant shall obtain the signatures of five (5) members of the Party and proof of voter  
25 registration. Upon the filing and validation of the signatures on a form specified by the State  
26 Central Committee, the Secretary of the State Central Committee shall be authorized to issue a  
27 duplicate membership card. An enrollment card shall be filled pursuant to Section 2, above,  
28 except that the card will bear the word “duplicate.” The above form certified by the Secretary of  
29 the State Central Committee will serve as proof of membership.

30  
31 **Section 5. Official Records.**

32 5A. The State Central Committee shall establish policies and procedures governing access to  
33 the computer membership records and the authority to make changes thereto. Access to the  
34 membership database shall be limited solely to duly authorized officers or staff who require such  
35 access to perform a legitimate Party function. The Secretary of the State Central Committee shall  
36 oversee the implementation of the State Central Committee’s policies and procedures regarding  
37 access to and use of the membership database. It shall be the duty of the Democratic Party of  
38 Hawai‘i to maintain an electronic file and an archival plan of all membership data from the  
39 enrollment cards pursuant to Section 2, above, and to record all changes and transfers of which  
40 notice is received. The Secretary of the State Central Committee shall notify the County  
41 Committee and the District Council of such changes.

42  
43 5B. It is the duty of each member to inform the Secretary of the State Central Committee of any  
44 changes in their mailing address. When a member is no longer registered to vote at the address

1 on the official mailing list, the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Headquarters is authorized to  
2 remove that name from the list.

3  
4 5C. Where a member is removed from a District Council official membership list, the record  
5 shall be filed in a permanent alphabetical suspense file until such time as the status of the  
6 member can be determined and the member is placed in the correct District Council or officially  
7 deleted from membership in the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

8  
9 5D. Data Security and Oversight. All electronic membership records shall be stored and  
10 maintained using reasonable and appropriate security measures, including, at a minimum,  
11 encryption and multi-factor authentication. The Secretary of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i  
12 shall provide an annual report to the State Central Committee describing the Party’s data security  
13 practices, access controls, and any material issues related to the protection of membership data.

14  
15 5E. Member Privacy Rights. The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i recognizes and affirms the  
16 privacy rights of its members.

- 17  
18 (1) Right to Access. Members shall have the right to know what personal information  
19 pertaining to them is maintained in the Party’s membership database. Right to  
20 Correction.  
21 (2) Members shall have the right to request correction of inaccurate or incomplete  
22 personal information contained in the Party’s membership database.  
23 (3) Right to Opt Out. Members shall have the right to opt out of electronic mail  
24 communications from the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, subject to reasonable  
25 exceptions for legally required or essential Party notices.  
26

27 **Section 6. Termination.**

28 It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the State Central Committee to remove enrollment cards  
29 from the active file and notify the respective Secretaries of the County Committee, and the  
30 District Council for any of the following reasons:

- 31  
32 (1) Death;  
33 (2) Assumption of a permanent residence outside of the State;  
34 (3) Disaffiliation from the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; or  
35 (4) Loss of civil rights or U.S. Citizenship.  
36

37 **Section 7. Expulsion, Suspension, Reprimand, or Censure.**

38 7A. Grounds for Expulsion, Suspension, or Reprimand:

- 39  
40 (1) Mandatory Expulsion. A member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall be  
41 automatically expelled from the Party for the following reasons:  
42  
43 (a) Membership with a political party other than the Democratic Party; or  
44

- 1 (b) Filing as a candidate of a political party other than the Democratic Party.
- 2
- 3 (c) Providing membership data to another political party or anyone outside of
- 4 the Democratic Party; or
- 5
- 6 (d) Making public or publishing, membership data.
- 7
- 8 (2) Permissive Expulsion, Suspension, or Reprimand. A member of the Democratic
- 9 Party of Hawai‘i may be expelled, suspended, or reprimanded for the following
- 10 reasons:
- 11
- 12 (a) Active support or promotion of a political party or any candidate(s) of a
- 13 political party other than the Democratic Party, except in nonpartisan races
- 14 in which there is no Democratic Party member as a candidate. Examples
- 15 of active support include, but are not limited to, making monetary or in-
- 16 kind contributions, accepting a position in an opposition campaign, sign-
- 17 waving, letter writing, appearance in campaign ads, resigning from the
- 18 Democratic Party to support another political party and rejoining the
- 19 Democratic Party.
- 20
- 21 (b) Failure of a candidate for an elective office or an elected official to follow
- 22 and abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of
- 23 Hawai‘i, and regulations of the Party campaign committees as approved
- 24 by the State Central Committee or respective County Committee.
- 25
- 26 (c) Violation of the Constitution or Bylaws of the Democratic Party of
- 27 Hawai‘i and/or platform of the Party.
- 28
- 29 (d) Violation of governmental ethics codes as adjudicated or determined by
- 30 the State Ethics Commission, the County Ethics Commission, the Office
- 31 of Disciplinary Counsel, the State House, the State Senate, or the courts.
- 32
- 33 (e) Conviction of criminal acts for which the member has been found
- 34 guilty by a federal or state court of law.
- 35
- 36 (f) Sexual Violation, Harassment, or Bullying
- 37
- 38 (g) Violations of the Data Protection and Privacy Policy
- 39

40 7B. Procedure. The procedures for expulsion, suspension, or reprimand are outlined below.

- 41
- 42 (1) Limitations. Any complaint charging a member with cause for expulsion,
- 43 suspension, or reprimand shall be made no later than one-hundred-eighty (180)

- 1 calendar days after the discovery of the violation, except for complaints based  
2 upon sexual violence, sexual harassment, or sexual assault, which have no time  
3 limitation.  
4
- 5 (2) Complaint. Any member of the Party may file a complaint. The complaint shall  
6 be in writing. The complaint shall state the rule(s) which have been violated, the  
7 activities alleged to have been committed, the date(s) of these activities. Each  
8 allegation shall be numbered. Each allegation shall be accompanied by evidence  
9 of such activities. The complaint shall be signed by one (1) Party member and  
10 endorsed by at least four (4) other Party members. The complaint shall be  
11 submitted to the County Secretary if the issue falls within the jurisdiction of the  
12 County and/or is made against an individual; otherwise, the complaint shall be  
13 filed with the Party Secretary. It is the responsibility of the complainant to  
14 provide evidence to support the expulsion, suspension, or reprimand. Attached to  
15 the complaint shall be a list of any witnesses and the evidence to which they can  
16 attest. Each witness will prepare an affidavit attesting to the evidence. The State  
17 Central Committee or the County Executive Committee, as applicable, may  
18 dismiss with prejudice any complaint submitted without the required evidence.  
19
- 20 (3) Sexual Violation, Harassment, or Bullying Complaint. The procedures for filing a  
21 complaint based on Sexual Violation, Harassment, or Bullying, shall be specified  
22 in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Policy Against Sexual Harassment & Bullying  
23 approved by the State Central Committee.  
24
- 25 (4) Notice. Written notice must be sent to the accused member by the County  
26 Secretary or Party Secretary, as applicable, within ten (10) calendar days of the  
27 receipt of a complaint.  
28
- 29 (5) Response. The accused member shall have thirty (30) calendar days from the date  
30 the notice was sent electronically to prepare a response. The accused member  
31 must respond to each allegation: admitted, denied, or denied in part. If an  
32 allegation is denied in part or in whole, the accused member shall provide any  
33 evidence supporting the denial. Attached to the response shall be a list of any  
34 witnesses and the evidence to which they can attest. Each witness shall prepare  
35 an affidavit attesting to the evidence.  
36
- 37 (6) Investigation. The County Chairperson shall refer each complaint to the County  
38 Rules Committee or a special committee to investigate the charges (the  
39 "Investigation Committee"). The State Party Secretary shall refer each complaint  
40 under the jurisdiction of the State Central Committee to the State Party Chair.  
41 Upon receipt of the complaint, the State Party Chair shall appoint an Investigation  
42 Committee. The referral of complaint shall be reported to the County Committee,  
43 or the State Central Committee, as applicable, at its next meeting and shall be  
44 recorded in the minutes. The Investigation Committee shall conduct a good faith

1 investigation to determine if a violation of the rules has occurred. The  
2 Investigation Committee shall interview the accused member, the complainant,  
3 and any witnesses. The credibility of the complainant, the accused member or  
4 any witness may be challenged during the investigation. The Investigation  
5 Committee shall gather other facts as necessary for its finding, and shall, within  
6 thirty (30) calendar days, submit a report and recommendation(s) to the County  
7 Chairperson, or the State Central Committee, as applicable. The Report shall  
8 include the Investigation Committee's findings for each allegation, including any  
9 adverse findings regarding credibility; in addition, the Investigation Committee  
10 may recommend specific sanctions.

11  
12 (7) Investigation Committee's Report. A copy of the Committee Report shall be  
13 provided to the accused member and the complainant, and to the County  
14 Committee, or the State Central Committee, as applicable. The report shall  
15 include the grounds upon which the expulsion, suspension, reprimand, or censure  
16 is sought, and the committee's findings and recommendations, and a list of  
17 County Committee members who are eligible to vote to accept, amend, or reject  
18 the committee's findings and recommendations.

19  
20 (8) Hearing. The County Committee, or the Executive Committee of the State  
21 Central Committee, shall place the complaint on the agenda at its next meeting  
22 following receipt of the Investigation Committee Report or by agreement with the  
23 accused member at some other time. Notice of the meeting shall be given to the  
24 member, the complainant, and the County Committee, or the Executive  
25 Committee of the State Central Committee, as applicable, at least seven (7)  
26 calendar days prior to the hearing. Members of the County Committee, or the  
27 Executive Committee of the State Central Committee, as applicable, shall be  
28 provided with a copy of the report at this time for their consideration prior to the  
29 meeting. The Investigation Committee shall present its report in a meeting open  
30 to any interested Party member. The complainant, the accused member, and any  
31 Party member shall be allowed to make a statement relating to the facts of the  
32 case or the committee's recommendation. The County Committee, or the  
33 Executive Committee of the State Central Committee, as applicable, shall decide  
34 by majority vote whether to accept, amend, or reject the Committee Report and  
35 any sanctions. The County Committee, or the Executive Committee of the State  
36 Central Committee, as applicable, shall give notice in writing of its decision to the  
37 Secretary of the State Central Committee, with a copy to the member and  
38 complainant within seven (7) calendar days. A copy of the committee's report  
39 and the County Committee's, or the Executive Committee of the State Central  
40 Committee's, decision shall be filed with the County Secretary and the Secretary  
41 of the State Central Committee and shall be available for inspection by Party  
42 members.

43  
44 (9) Appeal of a County Committee Decision. A member expelled, suspended,

1 reprimanded, or censured may appeal the decision of the County Committee to  
2 the State Central Committee by filing a written request with the Secretary of the  
3 State Central Committee within ten (10) calendar days of receiving the written  
4 decision of the County Committee. If no appeal is submitted within the ten (10)  
5 calendar days, the decision of the County Committee shall be final. If an appeal is  
6 submitted, a hearing shall be granted in an open meeting of the entire State  
7 Central Committee within thirty (30) calendar days. The State Central Committee  
8 shall review the Committee Report and accept comments from the County Chair,  
9 the Investigation Committee, the accused member, and members of the State  
10 Central Committee. The State Central Committee shall decide on the appeal by  
11 majority vote and shall transmit to the member a written notice of its decision  
12 within ten (10) calendar days. The decision of the State Central Committee shall  
13 be final.

- 14
- 15 (10) Appeal of a State Central Committee Executive Committee Decision. A member  
16 expelled, suspended, reprimanded, or censured may appeal the decision of the  
17 Executive Committee of the State Central Committee to the full State Central  
18 Committee by filing a written request with the Secretary of the State Central  
19 Committee within ten (10) calendar days or receiving the written decision of the  
20 Executive Committee of the State Central Committee. If no appeal is submitted  
21 within the ten (10) calendar days, the decision of the Executive Committee of the  
22 State Central Committee shall be final. If an appeal is submitted, a hearing shall  
23 be granted in an open meeting of the entire State Central Committee within thirty  
24 (30) calendar days. The State Central Committee shall review the Investigation  
25 Committee Report, the accused member's comments, and the decision of the  
26 Executive Committee of the State Central Committee. The State Central  
27 Committee shall decide on the appeal by majority vote and shall transmit to the  
28 member a written notice of its decision within ten (10) calendar days. The  
29 decision of the State Central Committee shall be final.

30

31 7C. Sanctions and Enforcement for Expulsion, Suspension, or Reprimand.

- 32
- 33 (1) Mandatory Expulsion. Expulsion shall be automatic and implemented by the  
34 Secretary of the State Central Committee. After expulsion, the expelled member  
35 is barred from enrolling for membership for five (5) years. The Party shall take all  
36 reasonable action to prevent such person from running for office as a Democrat,  
37 serving in public office, or holding an office in the Party during the five-year  
38 period.
- 39
- 40 (2) Permissive Expulsion. Expulsion shall be implemented by the Secretary of the  
41 State Central Committee. The Party shall take all reasonable action to prevent  
42 such person from participating in Party activities, running for public office as a  
43 Democrat, or serving in public office for the period provided in the decision of the  
44 County Committee or State Central Committee for at least three (3) years but not

1 more than five (5) years.

2  
3 (3) Suspension. Suspension shall be implemented by the Secretary of the State  
4 Central Committee. The individual shall be barred from participating in Party  
5 events or from serving in their elected or appointed capacity with the Party for the  
6 duration of the suspension. Any member who violates the terms of their  
7 suspension may face removal from their position or expulsion from the  
8 Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

9  
10 (4) Reprimand. The Party shall take all reasonable action to prevent such member  
11 from holding an office in the Party for up to three (3) years.

12  
13 (5) Censure. In the case of censure by a County, an official letter of censure shall be  
14 written by the County Chair. In the case of censure by the State Central  
15 Committee, an official letter of censure shall be written by the Party Chair. The  
16 letter shall be addressed to the accused member with a copy to the complainant  
17 and shall be available for inspection by Party members. No additional sanctions  
18 shall apply. No further action shall be taken on the complaint.

19  
20 (6) Voluntary Resignation. When a member has voluntarily resigned from the  
21 Democratic Party to engage in activities which are grounds for mandatory  
22 expulsion, the member shall be barred from re-enrolling for Party membership for  
23 at least three (3) years from the date of Resignation.

24  
25 7D. Censure and/or Removal from a Meeting.

26 (1) Censure. A motion to censure the behavior and or remarks of a member of the  
27 Party, which allows any of its County Committees, the State Central Committee,  
28 or Caucuses to express consternation and disapproval, may be adopted by two-  
29 thirds vote of the membership so long as the Party member to be censured has  
30 been notified of the substance of the alleged offense in writing thirty (30)  
31 calendar days in advance of the meeting, has at least seven (7) calendar days  
32 notice of the date and time of the meeting, and shall have the opportunity at the  
33 meeting to submit a written response or speak in defense.

34 (2) Removal from a Meeting. Nothing in these Bylaws shall prevent or restrict a  
35 presiding officer of the State Central Committee, a County Committee, Caucus,  
36 District Council or Precinct Club from ejecting for the duration of that meeting or  
37 session anyone who has committed an egregious or repeated breach of decorum.

38 **ARTICLE II – PRECINCT CLUB**

39  
40 Precinct Clubs are the purview of the County Committees per the Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
41 Constitution.

1  
2 **ARTICLE III – DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
3

4 **Section 1. Officers.**

5 1A. Nominations and elections for District Officers are open to any member residing in the  
6 District and shall occur at the biennial election meetings. Election shall be by Party members  
7 within the district.

8  
9 1B. The Order of the District Officer elections shall be: District Chairperson, First District Vice-  
10 chairperson, District Secretary, District Treasurer, and eleven (11) at-large Director positions.

11  
12 There needs to be a check after five (5) at-large Director positions are elected making sure every  
13 precinct has at least one (1) member elected. If that is not the case the remaining six (6) at-large  
14 Director positions nominations will be limited to members of the residents of the precincts that  
15 are not represented on the District Council, if there are members willing to run, until all precincts  
16 are represented, to the extent practicable.

17  
18 Only after the elections of the District Chairperson, First District Vice-Chairperson, District  
19 Secretary, District Treasurer, and eleven (11) at-large Directors can nominations be taken for 2nd  
20 & 3rd Vice-Chairpersons and 2nd Secretary.

21  
22 1C. The duties of the officers of the District Council shall be those usually pertaining to the  
23 office concerned and specifically include the following:

- 24  
25 (1) The District Chairperson shall have the power and duty to appoint chairpersons  
26 and members of all special and standing committees with the advice and consent  
27 of the majority of the members of the District Council. The Chairperson shall be  
28 responsible for the calling of all regular and special meetings of the District  
29 Council and the giving of proper notice and the arranging for meeting places for  
30 both special and regular meetings. The Chairperson shall also be responsible to  
31 arrange the meeting places for the biennial election meetings. The District  
32 Chairperson, with the assistance of the District Membership Director, shall be  
33 responsible for welcoming new members to their District and recruiting new  
34 Democrats within their District to the Democratic Party, and assisting in  
35 recruiting volunteers from their District to help with campaign activities for the  
36 General Election as well as helping find poll watchers for the General Election.  
37  
38 (2) The various Vice-Chairpersons of the District Council in the order of their  
39 respective designation shall have the power to perform the duties and functions of  
40 the District Chairperson in the absence or sickness of the District Chairperson or  
41 in the event the District Chairperson fails or neglects to perform such duties. The  
42 First Vice-Chairperson shall be responsible for assisting the State Secretary in  
43 gathering and updating the contact information for their District members.  
44

- 1 (a) In the event the District Chairperson permanently vacates or is unable to  
2 perform the duties and functions of the Chairperson, the First Vice-  
3 Chairperson shall become District Chairperson.  
4
- 5 (b) In the event the District Chairperson is temporarily unable to perform the  
6 duties and functions of the District Chairperson, the First Vice-  
7 Chairperson shall become District Chairperson for such time as the elected  
8 District Chairperson is incapacitated.  
9

10 (3) The Secretary shall be charged with keeping accurate minutes of all meetings of  
11 the District Council. These minutes shall be properly typewritten and entered  
12 along with all written reports of officers and committees in a book or file  
13 maintained for that purpose and turned over intact to the succeeding Secretary.  
14 The Secretary shall keep all records relating to the District and maintain and keep  
15 the membership list of the members of the Party for the District on a current basis  
16 with addresses and precinct designations.  
17

18 (4) The Treasurer shall be the District's representative on the State's Fundraising  
19 Committee. The Treasurer shall be primarily responsible for all fundraising  
20 activities within the District Council, shall collect funds, issue receipts, collect  
21 contributor information using a standard form provided by the County Committee  
22 Treasurer and promptly forward said funds and information to the County  
23 Committee Treasurer.  
24

25 The County Committee Treasurer will ensure compliance requirements are met  
26 and account for funds by designating line items for allocated funds set aside for  
27 the District Council(s).  
28

29 1D. Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is  
30 empowered to act for the District Council between its regular meetings; and shall have general  
31 supervision of the affairs of the District Council, fix the date, hours and place of meetings, make  
32 recommendations to the District Council, assure that all financial reports are submitted in a  
33 timely manner, and perform such other duties as may be necessary to support the Democratic  
34 Party of Hawai'i and/or County policies and activities. Meetings of the Executive Committee  
35 will be at the call of the District Chairperson or at the written request of any two members of the  
36 Executive Committee.  
37

38 **Section 2. Meeting Notices, Attendance at Meetings.**

39 District Council meetings may be held at any time by call of the Chairperson or upon a written  
40 request submitted to the Secretary or Chairperson by not less than twenty-five (25%) percent of  
41 the total membership of the District Council. Notice of the District Council meetings shall be  
42 given in person, by telephone, by facsimile, by electronic mail or by mailing such notice to the  
43 last known address of each member not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting.  
44

1 **Section 3. Quorum.**

2 Each District Council quorum shall not be less than thirty-four (34%) percent of the members of  
3 the District Council.

4  
5 **Section 4. Proxies.**

6 No proxies are allowed for District Council meetings including the biennial election meeting.  
7

8 **Section 5. Committees.**

9 The membership of the committees shall be restricted to members within the District. The  
10 Chairperson of the committees shall be appointed from the members of the District Council.  
11

12 **Section 6. Biennial Election of District Council, Delegates, and Alternates to the State  
13 Convention.**

14 6A. The official notice designating the time, place, and purpose of such meeting shall be given  
15 by the Secretary of the County Committee by other appropriate written communication to each  
16 Democratic Party of Hawai'i member not less than twenty (20) calendar days prior to the  
17 biennial election meeting of such year, through the following:  
18

19 (1) Use of the Party's email notification system and:  
20

21 (2) Publication at least once in one newspaper of general circulation in each of the Counties,  
22 where the Secretary may post a summary notice that directs readers to the Party's county  
23 and state internet websites; or  
24

25 Social media notifications as the Secretary may determine will be most likely to provide  
26 actual notice to the public; and use of the Party's email notification system  
27

28 (3) Provided, that in the County of Hawai'i, notice shall be published in both East and West  
29 Hawai'i, as follows:  
30

31 (a) By the first week of December of odd numbered years in order to facilitate the  
32 compilation of said list of biennial election meeting places, each County Chairperson  
33 shall be responsible to contact each District Chair who shall be responsible to secure a  
34 meeting place in order of preference: (a) polling place, (b) community center, or (c)  
35 other.  
36

37 (b) The District Chairperson is responsible for reporting to the County Chairperson with  
38 the meeting places by December 21. The County Chairperson must submit to the State  
39 Party Secretary a completed list of meeting places by January 5 of even-numbered years.  
40

41 (c) Locations will not be necessary if the State Central Committee decides that the  
42 biennial election meetings are to be held entirely online.  
43

1 6B. The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Headquarters shall issue a copy of the membership list of  
2 each District broken down by precinct to the District Council Chairpersons not later than thirty  
3 (30) calendar days before the regular elections for District officers, delegates and/or alternates  
4 by precinct, as follows:  
5

6 (1) The official list shall include only the names of those persons eligible to participate in  
7 the biennial elections. A copy of this list will be available to any interested Democrat  
8 at the County Office and District Council.  
9

10 (2) Members listed on the official membership list for that precinct and district shall be  
11 eligible to vote in that precinct for delegates and/or alternates and for the District  
12 officers. Others who do not appear on said list and who support the Democratic Party  
13 and wish to join it shall enroll in the Party as provided in the Bylaws of the  
14 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, and they will be eligible to vote in the biennial election.  
15

16 6C. Where a name has been omitted from the certified list and the member whose name was  
17 omitted produces at the precinct election meeting a dated membership card signed by a Secretary  
18 of a County Committee, County Chairperson, Secretary of the State Central Committee, or Party  
19 Chairperson showing membership or the form provided in Article I of the Constitution of the  
20 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, and proof of voter registration in that precinct, that name shall be  
21 added to the list noting the date of membership. The respective Secretaries of District Council,  
22 the County Committee and State Central Committee will be informed of the addition made to the  
23 certified list.  
24

25 6D. Within ten (10) calendar days after issuance of this certified list, any member may challenge  
26 any name appearing on the district list by submitting in writing reasons therefore to the Secretary  
27 of the District Council. These challenges shall be heard promptly by the Executive Committee  
28 of the District Council upon due notice to the parties of the time and place of the hearing and  
29 shall be disposed of prior to the election of precinct officers and delegates. The decision of the  
30 Executive Committee of the District Council shall be final and conclusive.  
31

32 6E. In the event that District Council holds a successful election at the biennial election meeting  
33 except that all positions are not filled, a District Council has until forty-five (45) calendar days  
34 from the biennial election meeting to hold additional election meetings to fill any vacancy  
35 subject to notifying members of the District of the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting  
36 by emailing all members, to the best of the Party’s ability, posting the meeting notification on the  
37 website of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and using other forms of communication. All  
38 members who reside in the District shall be eligible to vote to fill District Council positions.  
39 Only members who reside in a precinct shall be eligible to elect State Convention delegates  
40 allocated to that precinct.  
41

42 After forty-five (45) calendar days from the biennial election meeting, the District Council may  
43 fill District Councilmember, delegate, and alternate vacancies, by not later than fifteen (15)  
44 calendar days prior to the state convention, as follows:

1  
2 (1) Fill delegate vacancies by alternates elected at the biennial election meeting, with  
3 priority to alternates within the precinct; and then from other precincts within the  
4 District;

5  
6 (2) Fill alternate delegate vacancies by appointment of members who reside in the  
7 precinct who express an interest after the biennial election meeting.  
8

9 The District Council shall report any changes to fill a delegate or alternate vacancy within a  
10 precinct as a result of additional meetings held until forty-five (45) calendar days from the  
11 biennial election meeting [~~to the~~] to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i office. A report will be  
12 made within five (5) calendar days of the meeting. The District Council shall report any changes  
13 to fill a delegate or alternate vacancy within the District filled during the period from forty-five  
14 (45) calendar days from the biennial election meetings until fifteen (15) calendar days prior to  
15 the State Convention to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i office.  
16

17 Officers and delegates or alternates so elected shall have the same rights and privileges at a  
18 County or State Convention as if they were elected at the biennial election meeting, so long as  
19 they are elected at least fifteen (15) calendar days prior to such Convention.  
20

21 After the fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the State Convention, delegate and alternate  
22 vacancies will be filled as provided by Article III, Section 7, Delegates and Alternates to the  
23 State Convention. In the event the precinct has no more alternates, the District Chair may appoint  
24 an alternate from another precinct in the District to fill the delegate position. Vacancies must be  
25 filled by the deadline set in the Standing Rules adopted by the State Central Committee. No  
26 vacancies may be filled after the deadline.  
27

28 6G. The results of the District Council election shall be signed and certified by the District  
29 Chairperson and the Secretary of the District Council. The results shall be recorded upon a State  
30 Party-generated election form. Results shall be copied or photographed and submitted  
31 expeditiously by electronic means upon completion of the election to the State Party Secretary,  
32 State Party Chair, respective County Secretary and County Chair. The results of the election may  
33 be reviewed, copied or photographed by any member present at the meeting. They shall be  
34 delivered or postmarked within forty-eight (48) hours of the election to the State Central  
35 Committee, and the County Committee. Official forms for such certification shall be provided  
36 by the County Committee and shall include the following:  
37

- 38 (1) Time, place, and date of the meeting;  
39 (2) Names and addresses of eligible District members present and voting;  
40 (3) Names and addresses of the District officers elected; and  
41 (4) Names and addresses of the elected delegates and alternates elected.  
42

43 6H. The certified District Council election report forms shall be maintained on file at the County  
44 and State offices and shall be open to inspection by any registered member of the Party.

1  
2 6I. Challenges concerning the election of District Council officers shall be made to the District  
3 Council at its first meeting to be held on any day during the third week since the biennial election  
4 meetings. The meeting place, time, and purpose shall be given by the Secretary of the District  
5 Council pursuant to Article III of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and shall  
6 be announced at the Precinct Club election. The District Council shall, not later than the  
7 Tuesday of the fifth week since the biennial election meeting, rule on every challenge concerning  
8 a Precinct officer or concerning the validity of a vote on or the eligibility of a person voting on  
9 any question other than the election of State Convention delegates. An appeal from the decision  
10 of the District Council must be made to the County Committee not later than forty-five (45)  
11 calendar days from the biennial election meeting and can be made only after compliance with the  
12 procedures and requirements of this paragraph. Further appeal may be taken to the County  
13 Convention.

14  
15 6J. Challenges concerning delegates to the State Convention shall be submitted to the District  
16 Council at its meeting to be held on any day during the third week since the biennial election  
17 meeting for transmittal to the Convention Credentials Committee. In its transmittal to the  
18 Convention Credentials Committee, the District Council shall make recommendations after  
19 investigating the challenge and furnish all relevant information. The Convention Credentials  
20 Committee shall be appointed by the Party Chairperson and shall include four subcommittees,  
21 one for each County, to dispose of challenges within their respective Counties. The  
22 subcommittee for each County shall be composed of at least five (5) members from that  
23 County. The Convention Credentials Committee shall rule on each challenge at least two (2)  
24 calendar weeks before the State Convention. Further appeal may be taken to the State  
25 Convention.

26  
27 6K. Challenges concerning the election of District Council and delegates to the State  
28 Convention for precincts which held elections subsequent to the biennial election meetings shall  
29 be made no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the elections following the procedures in  
30 described in this Section.

31

32 **Section 7. Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention.**

33 7A. To provide every precinct representation at the State Convention, a precinct will elect  
34 alternate delegates equal to the number of delegates allocated to the precinct, provided that the  
35 official membership roster for their precinct, at the time of the biennial election meeting certified  
36 adequate membership for the precinct to elect an equal number of alternates, as follows:

- 37  
38 (1) Any member of the precinct may be elected to represent that precinct as a delegate or  
39 alternate at the State Convention. Alternates shall be elected in an order of  
40 succession to delegate status beginning with the number one (1). If a delegate is  
41 unable to attend the State Convention, the delegate may choose any alternate of that  
42 delegate’s same gender elected in the precinct to serve in that delegate’s stead. If no  
43 elected alternate of the same gender is available, the delegate may designate an  
44 elected alternate of a different gender in the delegate’s stead. However, no alternate

1 shall act for more than one (1) delegate. In the event a delegate fails to choose an  
2 elected alternate the succession of alternates to a delegate status shall be in the order  
3 of succession as designated by the precinct at its biennial election meeting.  
4

5 For in-person conventions only, an alternate, in order of succession, may be seated as  
6 a delegate if a delegate has not registered no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the  
7 published time of convening the Convention on the second day of the Convention.  
8

9 The provision for reseating a delegate to the Convention shall be by the attendance  
10 and in the following order of priority:  
11

- 12 (a) Elected Delegate.
- 13 (b) Elected Alternate of the same gender of the absent Delegate chosen by the absent  
14 Delegate.
- 15 (c) Elected Alternate of the same gender in the order of succession.
- 16 (d) Elected Alternate of a different gender of the absent Delegate chosen by the  
17 Absent Delegate.
- 18 (e) Elected Alternate of a different gender in the order of succession.  
19

20 7B. Precinct Presidential Poll During Presidential Election Years. The State Central Committee  
21 shall determine the date, time manner and place of the presidential preference poll in line with  
22 Democratic National Committee Regulations.  
23

### 24 **Section 8. Notice of Meetings.**

25 No biennial election meeting shall be duly called unless the Secretary of the County Committee  
26 provides notice to the entire membership by posting the meeting notification on the Democratic  
27 Party of Hawai'i website in accordance with the Affirmative Action Plan, at least five (5)  
28 calendar days prior to the date of the meeting. Notice may also be provided to the membership  
29 by telephone, electronic mail or personal or written notice mailed to the last known  
30 address. However, the notification requirements of this section shall be waived when a second  
31 attempt is made to hold a Biennial Election meeting for the purpose of electing District officers,  
32 delegates and/or alternates to the State Convention, provided that each member who attended the  
33 earlier attempted meeting is notified by telephone, electronic mail, or personal notice at least five  
34 (5) calendar days in advance of any subsequent meeting.  
35  
36

## 37 **ARTICLE IV – COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS**

38

### 39 **Section 1. Organization.**

40 Each County Committee shall make available to its respective delegates and alternates the final  
41 reports, including any and all recommendations and amendments proposed for adoption by the  
42 State Convention, submitted by all County appointed standing committees including those  
43 committees on Platform, Resolutions, Rules, Affirmative Action, at least twenty-four (24) hours  
44 prior to the convening of the County Convention.

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

The County Committee of each County Organization shall submit proposed bylaws to the State Central Committee within ninety (90) calendar days of adoption. The State Central Committee shall, within one-hundred-twenty (120) calendar days of receipt of the Bylaws changes, notify the County and rule on their acceptability. Upon the determination by the State Central Committee that the proposed rules or rule changes are consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i such County Committee rules, or rule changes shall become effective.

**Section 3. Meetings, Notices, Attendance at Meetings.**

3A. Regular meetings of the County Committee shall be held at least once every three (3) months at such time and place as the members may decide in accordance with their own rules. Notice of the County Committee meetings shall be given in person, by telephone, by facsimile, by electronic mail, or by mailing such notice to the last known address of each member not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting.

3B. Special meetings may be held at any time by call of the Chairperson or upon written request submitted to the Secretary or Chairperson by not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total membership. Notice of special meetings shall be given in person, by telephone, by electronic mail, by facsimile or by mailing such notice to the last known address of each member not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the meetings.

3C. In the event that a County Committee fails to hold its convention and/or fails to elect its County Chairperson and other officers as provided by its bylaws, the State Party Chair shall call and convene a special meeting of that county committee which shall fill whatever vacancies may be required to ensure that the county is fully represented at its county committee meetings and on the State Central Committee, the State Central Committee’s Executive Committee, and at the next State Convention. If this special meeting of the county committee fails to achieve quorum, the State Party Chair shall, after soliciting candidates from all the eligible party members of the county, appoint a member of the county to serve as County Chairperson, with the advice and consent of the SCC and the remaining vacant officer positions shall be by appointment of the County Chairperson.

**ARTICLE V – STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

**Section 1. Apportionment.**

The State Central Committee shall state the number of Committee persons for each Senatorial District in its proclamation calling for the State Convention, subject to Article VI of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

**Section 2. Nomination and Filing.**

2A. Any citizen resident in the State of Hawai‘i, who is or will be a member of the Democratic

1 Party of Hawai‘i for one (1) year before the next election shall be eligible to be a candidate for  
2 election to Party Chairperson. Any citizen residing in the State of Hawai‘i who wishes to  
3 become a candidate for election to Party Chairperson or for election to the State Central  
4 Committee shall file a nomination paper with the Secretary of said County or the State Central  
5 Committee at least twenty (20) calendar days prior to the State Convention, except that papers  
6 for the County Representative seats shall be filed at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the  
7 County Convention, and except that papers for the Caucus Representative seats shall be filed  
8 after certification by the Caucus, but at least twenty (20) calendar days prior to the State  
9 Convention. In the event that no papers have been filed by the filing deadline, the filing deadline  
10 shall be extended until ten (10) calendar days prior to the State Convention, but only if the voting  
11 is to be held in person at the Convention. However, no additional nomination papers shall be  
12 allowed for those positions for which papers had been filed by the filing deadline. If a member  
13 has resigned from the Party in the two (2) years prior to re-enrollment in the Democratic Party of  
14 Hawai‘i, the re-enrolled member must be a member in good standing for at least one (1) year  
15 before the next election prior to being elected Party Chairperson or for election to the State  
16 Central Committee.

17

18 2B. The nomination paper of a candidate for Party Chairperson, and National Committee  
19 Member shall be signed by not less than ten (10) certified members of the Democratic Party of  
20 Hawai‘i from at least two (2) County Organizations. Signatures may be electronic.

21

22 2C. The nomination paper of a candidate for Youth Representative shall be signed by not less  
23 than ten (10) certified members of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, all of whom are members of  
24 the Party who are thirty-five (35) years of age or younger.

25

26 2D. The nomination paper of a candidate for a State Central Committee Senate District  
27 Representative member shall be signed by not less than five (5) members of the Party from the  
28 nominee’s Senatorial District.

29

30 2E. The nomination paper of a candidate for a State Central Committee Caucus Representative  
31 member shall be signed by not less than five (5) members of the Party from the nominee’s  
32 Caucus.

33

34 2F. The nomination paper for a State Central Committee member filing as a County  
35 Representative shall be signed by not less than five (5) certified members of the Party from the  
36 nominee’s County.

37

38 2G. A copy of the nomination papers of candidates for the Youth Representative, Caucus  
39 Representatives, and County Committee representatives and their application fee shall be  
40 provided to the State Central Committee Secretary by the deadline established by Article V,  
41 Section 2A of these Bylaws.

42

43

44

1 (1) The elected Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties and functions of the  
2 Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall also  
3 perform other duties and functions as assigned by the Chairperson. The elected  
4 Vice-Chairperson shall also be charged with the responsibility of monitoring the  
5 activities of the standing committees.  
6

7 The elected Vice-Chairperson shall serve faithfully on behalf of the Democratic  
8 Party of Hawai'i as an active member of the Democratic National Committee  
9 (DNC) and the DNC's Association of State Democratic Chairs (ASDC) and is  
10 encouraged to attend each regular DNC and ASDC meeting.  
11

12 (2) The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Executive and State Central  
13 Committee meetings in a permanent Minutes book. The Secretary shall also have  
14 primary responsibility for the care and maintenance of the membership lists. The  
15 Secretary shall be responsible for seeing that such lists are available for inspection  
16 by interested Democrats at all reasonable times. The membership lists, certified  
17 as correct to the best of the Secretary's knowledge and belief, shall be turned over  
18 intact to the new Secretary at the end of the old Secretary's term of office. The  
19 Secretary shall also be responsible for issuing membership cards, in such form as  
20 may be prescribed by the State Central Committee, to all duly certified members  
21 of the Party with the County. The Secretary is responsible for providing annual  
22 notification to the Party members in writing, by electronic mail or by posting the  
23 notice on the Party's webpage that annual voluntary membership dues are  
24 requested.  
25

26 (3) The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in carrying on the various duties  
27 assigned to the Secretary and shall perform the duties, in the absence of the  
28 Secretary.  
29

30 (4) The Treasurer shall account for all moneys received by the Party and shall follow  
31 standard accounting procedures in recording receipt of moneys and the  
32 disbursement of funds. All disbursements shall be by check, bank draft, or debit  
33 card, signed by the Treasurer or in his/her absence the Assistant Treasurer and  
34 countersigned by either the Party Chairperson or the elected Vice-Chairperson, or  
35 in their absence, the Secretary or Assistant Secretary. All disbursements should  
36 be supported by a document, or an invoice approved through a prescribed  
37 procedure. Other duties and responsibilities include:  
38

39 (a) Provide a financial statement on its operations at each meeting of the  
40 Executive and State Central Committee.  
41

42 (b) To comply with all tax laws as it applies to the Party as an employer.  
43

44 (c) To determine and analyze the biennial budget at regular intervals and

1 report its findings to the finance committee.  
2

3 (d) To serve as an ex-officio member of all special projects where a subsidiary  
4 set of records is kept with an appointed Treasurer. These projects upon  
5 completion should be incorporated into the general books of the Party and  
6 filed as a part of the Treasurer's general record.  
7

8 (e) To receive funds, receipts, and contributor information on an ongoing  
9 basis from County, and District Treasurers as necessary to comply with  
10 any Federal or State laws governing political campaign contributions and  
11 expenditures.  
12

13 (f) To comply with, prepare reports or assist in the preparation of reports  
14 required by any Federal or State laws governing political campaign  
15 contributions and expenditures.

16 *(amended by the SCC on 12/2/2023)*  
17

18 (5) The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in carrying on the various duties  
19 assigned to the Treasurer and shall perform the duties, in absence of the  
20 Treasurer.  
21

22 **Section 4. Term of Office.**

23 The term of office of persons elected to the State Central Committee shall begin immediately  
24 after the adjournment of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i State Convention and end at the  
25 conclusion of the following Convention, unless otherwise specified in the bylaws of the County,  
26 Caucus, or Young Democrats concerning their State Central Committee representatives.  
27

28 **Section 5. Filling of Vacancies.**

29 5A. The vacancy in the office of the Party Chairperson shall be filled by the State Central  
30 Committee by election of an interim Party Chairperson. The elected Vice-Chairperson shall  
31 assume the office of Acting Party Chairperson for a period not to exceed forty-five (45) calendar  
32 days during which time the State Central Committee shall elect an interim Party Chairperson.  
33

34 5B. The vacancy in the office of the National Committee Member shall be filled by the Party  
35 Chairperson with the concurrence of the majority of the State Central Committee members  
36 present at the State Central Committee meeting where the position is filled, until the following  
37 Democratic State Convention. In a non-presidential year, the term of the new officer shall take  
38 effect upon conclusion of the State Convention. In a presidential year, the term of the committee  
39 member shall begin at the conclusion of the national convention.  
40

41 5C. Vacancy in the office of Youth Representative shall be filled by the Party Chairperson with  
42 the concurrence of the majority of the State Central Committee members present at the State  
43 Central Committee meeting where the position is filled and the Executive Board of the Young  
44 Democrats of Hawai'i.

1  
2 5D. Any vacancy in the office of the Committee Person from a Senatorial District or the County  
3 Representative shall be filled by the County Committee within which the past incumbent resided.  
4 The person filling the vacancy shall meet the requirements of the candidate for Committee  
5 Person.  
6

7 5E. Any vacancy in the office of Caucus Representative shall be filled by the Caucus as set forth  
8 in Caucus bylaws. A position is deemed vacant if a Caucus Representative no longer maintains  
9 Caucus membership or is otherwise ineligible according to approved Caucus bylaws. If the  
10 Caucus fails to fill the vacancy within forty-five (45) calendar days, it shall be filled by the Party  
11 Chairperson.  
12

13 5F. In the absence of a Secretary or an Assistant Secretary, the State Central Committee Chair  
14 may appoint a Secretary Pro Tem who does not need to be a member of the State Central  
15 Committee for a single meeting.  
16

17 5G. If vacancies are not filled within forty-five (45) calendar days, the State Central Committee  
18 shall fill the vacancies.  
19

20 **Section 6. Meetings.**

21 6A. To the extent possible, the place of the meeting of the State Central Committee or of the  
22 Executive Committee shall be rotated among the Counties; and, whenever possible, all or a  
23 portion of the cost of transportation of members from Counties other than the County in which  
24 the meeting is held shall be defrayed from the Party treasury.  
25

26 6B. Minutes of each meeting shall be kept and permanently filed by the Secretary in a book kept  
27 for such purposes, which book shall be turned over to the next succeeding Secretary of the State  
28 Central Committee. Copies of the minutes shall be made available to Party members upon  
29 request.  
30

31 6C. The State Central Committee is empowered to establish rules and procedures for  
32 participation in its meetings by telephonic or electronic means. Participation in meetings by such  
33 means shall be construed as attendance for purposes of quorum and voting.  
34

35 6D. Notice of regular meetings shall be given not less than ten (10) calendar days before the  
36 meeting and may be delivered by mail, fax, or electronic mail.  
37

38 6E. Notice of special meetings shall be given not less than five (5) calendar days before the  
39 meeting and may be delivered by mail, fax, or electronic mail.  
40

41 6F. Meetings of the State Central Committee shall normally be open to all Party members.  
42 Under exceptional circumstances, the State Central Committee may decide to go into Executive  
43 Session to deal with a matter. Any decision to go into Executive Session shall require a two-  
44 thirds vote of State Central Committee members in attendance.

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**Section 7. Proxies.**

7A. State Central Committee members unable to attend a State Central Committee meeting may give their proxy to another member. In no event shall a State Central Committee member carry more than one proxy.

7B. All proxies must be in writing in the form approved by the State Central Committee and shall be filed with the Secretary of the State Central Committee.

**Section 8. Caucuses.**

8A. Minimal criteria for certification of a caucus shall include:

- (1) Sufficient statewide membership. The State Central Committee may establish a minimum membership of not less than twenty (20) Caucus members from at least two (2) Counties, to apply for and to maintain certification.
- (2) Caucus Bylaws shall be consistent with the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. The Bylaws shall provide for democratic selection of officers and representatives to the State Central Committee, defined terms of office, membership that is open to all Party members who belong to the defined constituency, public notice of meetings, and quorum. The Caucus bylaws shall be filed with the Standing Rules Committee of the State Central Committee for review and comment and must be approved by the State Central Committee.
- (3) Application for certification as a Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Caucus shall include a record of meetings and activity that establishes the viability of the Caucus.
- (4) Certification shall be continuous until officially terminated by the State Central Committee due to:
  - (a) Action of Caucus substantially not in compliance with Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Constitution and Bylaws or the Caucus Bylaws, or
  - (b) At least twelve (12) consecutive months without meetings or required reports.

8B. New Caucus Representatives to the State Central Committee. Within forty-five (45) calendar days of certification of a new Caucus, the new Caucus shall nominate two (2) representatives of different genders, taking office immediately upon the advice and consent of a majority of the State Central Committee members present at the meeting at the time the nomination is presented. Vacancies shall be filled according to this Article.

8C. The following caucuses are recognized by the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i:

- (1) Hawaiian Affairs;

- 1 (2) Education;
- 2 (3) Environment;
- 3 (4) Kupuna;
- 4 (5) Stonewall;
- 5 (6) Labor;
- 6 (7) Veterans; and,
- 7 (8) Women.

8  
9 8D. Any name change to a Caucus must be initiated by the respective Caucus.

10  
11 8E. Reports and Certification. Each Caucus, to maintain its certification, shall make a written  
12 report to the State Central Committee at least twice a year and at such other times as may be  
13 necessary. Each Caucus must maintain a certified copy of its bylaws with the Democratic Party  
14 of Hawai‘i which shall be posted on the Party’s website. Caucuses shall also provide a current  
15 list of their officers to the State Central Committee by not later than July 1 every year.

16  
17 8F. Any Caucus that fails to meet any of the required steps listed in Sections 8A and 8E to  
18 maintain its certification will lose all access to use any of the Party assets, including but not  
19 limited to Party Headquarters, Database, Email service, copying machine, etc. Access will be  
20 restored once all the required steps have been completed. Failure to address any missing required  
21 steps within thirty (30) calendar days of notification by the Secretary of the Party shall open the  
22 Caucus to have its certification pulled by the State Central Committee.

23  
24 **Section 9. Committees.**

25 9A. Every special committee and standing committee shall make a report in writing to the State  
26 Central Committee or the Executive Committee if such committee was appointed by the  
27 Executive Committee upon the conclusion of its work and at such other times as may be  
28 required.

29  
30 Either the Chair or Vice Chair of each of the standing committees shall be a member of the State  
31 Central Committee. Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs shall be appointed by the Party  
32 Chairperson with advice and consent of the State Central Committee. Membership on the  
33 committees shall not be limited to State Central Committee members and shall include  
34 representation from all four counties.

35  
36 Outgoing members of the Party-Run Presidential Primary Committee, in presidential election  
37 years, and the Convention Committee shall continue to serve on their respective committees  
38 solely for the purpose of preparing and submitting final reports to the State Central Committee.

39  
40 9B. Every such report shall be filed by the Secretary of the State Central Committee in the  
41 Minute book of the Committee.

42  
43 9C. The Finance Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer and shall prepare the biennial  
44 budget in consultation with the Party Chairperson. Its membership shall include at least one (1)

1 member from each County. This budget shall be presented to the members of the State Central  
2 Committee at the meeting following the initial organizational meeting of the State Central  
3 Committee. In addition, the Finance Committee shall:

- 4  
5 (1) Review and analyze the approved budget at regular intervals and if necessary,  
6 submit the Committee's recommendation in regard to changes to the budget.  
7
- 8 (2) Submit written policies and procedures relative to the various accounting  
9 functions required to maintain proper financial records of the Party to the State  
10 Central Committee for its approval.  
11
- 12 (3) Oversee special fundraising projects undertaken in the name of the Democratic  
13 Party to ensure that proper accounting procedures are followed in conforming  
14 with the policies and procedures established in Article V of the Constitution of the  
15 Democratic Party of Hawai'i.  
16
- 17 (4) Review staff appointments made by the Party Chairperson and the amount of  
18 remuneration to be paid the staff member in conformance with the adopted  
19 budget. Review the appointment of individual contractors and the requirement for  
20 a formal contract to be signed by the Party Chairperson and the independent  
21 contractor. Review all contracts with independent contractors and contractor's  
22 remuneration levels for services to be rendered.  
23

24 9D. PLATFORM: The Platform Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and proposing  
25 updates to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's Platform and work to encourage support of the  
26 Platform. The Platform Committee shall also be responsible for formulation, distribution and  
27 collecting results of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform Survey as required for all  
28 candidates running as a member of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. The Platform Committee  
29 shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to it by  
30 the Chair and/or State Central Committee.  
31

32 9E. LEGISLATION: The Legislation Committee shall be responsible for preparing and  
33 promoting the passage of legislation consistent with the positions of the Democratic Party as  
34 expressed in the platform and resolutions adopted at the State Convention, or by a vote of the  
35 State Central Committee. The Legislation Committee shall prepare a plan for approval by the  
36 State Central Committee prior to each legislative session, shall provide timely reports to the State  
37 Central Committee during the session and shall be subject to oversight by the State Central  
38 Committee. The Legislation Committee shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as  
39 from time-to-time may be assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central Committee.  
40

41 9F. RULES: The Rules Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and proposing updates to  
42 the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Constitution and Bylaws, assisting in the development of the  
43 Standing Rules for the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, reviewing and determining the validity of  
44 changes submitted by the Counties and Caucuses Bylaws, reviewing requests for establishment

1 of new caucuses to assure eligibility requirements are met, making recommendations for  
2 certification, reviewing any allegations of rules violations and reporting its findings and  
3 recommendations to the State Central Committee, and interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws  
4 when called upon by the Chair or members of the State Central Committee. The Rules  
5 Committee shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be  
6 assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central Committee.

7  
8 9G. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: The Affirmative Action Committee shall be responsible for  
9 reviewing and proposing updates to the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s Affirmative Action plan,  
10 implementing the Affirmative Action Plan, assisting the Membership Committee in outreach to  
11 under-represented communities in the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, and ensuring that concerted  
12 efforts are made to reach those communities. The Affirmative Action Committee shall be  
13 responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to it by the  
14 Chair and/or State Central Committee.

15  
16 9H. MEMBERSHIP: The Membership Committee shall be responsible for coordinating  
17 recruitment of new members and membership drives, developing and maintaining on boarding  
18 procedures for new members, encouraging the registration of voters, as well as coordinating  
19 membership enhancements – i.e. talent management. The Membership Committee shall also be  
20 responsible for training materials. The Membership Committee shall be responsible for matters  
21 delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central  
22 Committee.

23  
24 9I. FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE. The Fundraising Committee shall be responsible for  
25 planning, organizing, and implementing statewide Democratic Party of Hawai‘i fundraising  
26 activities. The Fundraising Committee will also develop and offer training on fundraising  
27 requirements for the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. The Fundraising Committee shall be  
28 responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to it by the  
29 Chair and/or State Central Committee.

30  
31 9J. COMMUNICATIONS: The Communications Committee shall be responsible for  
32 establishing and maintaining the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s social media platforms as well  
33 as establishing and maintaining a member newsletter. It will also maintain a media outreach  
34 center. The Communications Committee shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as  
35 from time-to-time may be assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central Committee.

36  
37 9K. COMMUNITY RELATIONS: The Community Relations Committee shall be responsible  
38 for social services projects on behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, as well as developing a  
39 plan for building positive relationships with key community organizations that support the  
40 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i platform in the community. The Community Relations Committee  
41 shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to it by  
42 the Chair and/or State Central Committee.

43  
44 9L. CONVENTION: The Convention Committee shall be responsible for planning, organizing,

1 fundraising and implementing the biennial Democratic Party of Hawai‘i State Convention. By a  
2 date established by the State Central Committee, the Convention Committee shall recommend to  
3 the State Central Committee a Convention plan that will include the suggested theme for the  
4 Convention, the recommended location of the Convention, a recommended Convention budget, a  
5 fundraising plan, and the recommended State Convention Standing Rules. This information will  
6 be provided to State Central Committee members at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the  
7 meeting in which this information will be considered by the State Central Committee. The  
8 Convention Committee shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time  
9 may be assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central Committee.

10  
11 9M. CAMPAIGN: The Campaign Committee shall be responsible for training of members to run  
12 campaigns – candidates, volunteer coordinators, campaign managers, and campaign treasurers.  
13 The Campaign Committee shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-  
14 time may be assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central Committee.

15  
16 9N. COMPLIANCE REVIEW: The Compliance Review Committee shall be responsible for (1)  
17 ensuring an annual review of the financial records of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i for  
18 compliance with any federal, state, Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and Democratic National  
19 Committee requirements and proper authorized expenditures; (2) reviewing the system it uses to  
20 account for revenue and expenses; and (3) conducting an annual review of the Data Protection  
21 and Privacy Policy to ensure compliance and provide to the State Central Committee  
22 recommendations for any needed amendments to the Policy. The Compliance Review  
23 Committee shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be  
24 assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central Committee.

25  
26 9O. PARTY-RUN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY: The Party-run Presidential Primary  
27 Committee shall be responsible for:

- 28  
29 (1) Reviewing the requirements from the Democratic National Committee governing  
30 the drafting of the Delegate Selection Plan and Process to hold the PPP (year 1);  
31 (2) Assisting the Party Chair and Executive Director in drafting the Delegate  
32 Selection Plan for the Party and develop the program and fundraising strategy to  
33 implement the PPP (year 1);  
34 (3) Coordinating with the Party Chair, Treasurer, and the Fundraising Committee to  
35 integrate PPP related fundraising requirements and strategy into each biennial  
36 budget cycle (years 1-4);  
37 (4) Providing guidance to the Party Chair, Executive Director, County Chairs, and the  
38 Convention Committee (in presidential election year) in the implementation of the  
39 approved PPP plan (years 2-4);  
40 (5) Assisting the Fundraising Committee in implementing the PPP fundraising  
41 strategy (years 1-4); and  
42 (6) Within 3 months after the completion of the PPP, at the State Convention, the  
43 Committee will have reviewed the process used, including receiving feedback  
44 from the membership, to provide advice and recommendations in a report to the

1 State Central Committee to improve future planning and implementation of the  
2 PPP to encourage more members to participate in the process and vote. (year 4)  
3  
4

5 **ARTICLE VI – STATE CONVENTION**  
6

7 **Section 1. Time, Place, Notice.**

8 The State Convention will be called biennially in May of each even numbered year, or at such  
9 other times as may be determined by the State Central Committee. The date and place of the  
10 meeting shall be fixed by the State Central Committee. The place of the meeting may be rotated  
11 in non-Presidential Election years among the following three (3) counties in the state of Hawai‘i  
12 - Kaua‘i, Maui & Hawai‘i. In Presidential Election years, the Convention shall be held on O‘ahu,  
13 unless the State Central Committee decides to call an electronic Convention which may conduct  
14 business online as described in Standing Rules as it may adopt. Notice thereof shall be given by  
15 the methods as determined by the State Central Committee not less than ten (10) calendar days  
16 prior to the date of the biennial election meetings.  
17

18 **Section 2. Composition.**

19 2A. Incumbent Party Chairperson, National Committee Members, State Central Committee  
20 Members, Incumbent and Immediate Past County at-Large Representatives to the State Central  
21 Committee, District Chairpersons, Incumbent and Immediate Past County Chairpersons,  
22 including ex-officio members of the State Central Committee, former Democratic Governors,  
23 former Democratic Lieutenant Governors, and former Democratic Party Chairpersons.  
24

25 2B. Elected Federal, State and County Officials, or officials who may have been appointed to  
26 fill a vacant position of an elected official, which do not include members of the Neighborhood  
27 Boards, who meet the following requirements:  
28

- 29 (1) Be a member in good standing.  
30  
31 (2) Have attained their present office in an election as a Democrat or appointed to fill  
32 a vacant position of an elected official or have attained their present office in a  
33 nonpartisan election provided they are Democratic Party members in good  
34 standing.  
35  
36 (3) The rights and privileges granted in this paragraph are nontransferable.  
37

38 2C. The delegates in Section 2A and 2B above shall have all the rights and privileges of a  
39 delegate but shall not be allowed to vote in the National Convention Delegate Selection Process  
40 unless elected as a State Convention delegate in their respective biennial election meeting. In  
41 non-presidential years, those qualified to serve as automatic delegates shall not be eligible to  
42 hold an elected delegate slot. A delegate elected at a biennial election meeting shall  
43 automatically vacate that position upon election to an office entitling them to an automatic  
44 delegate seat.

1  
2 2D. The number of State Convention delegates allotted to each precinct shall be determined by  
3 the total number of votes cast for the Democratic candidate in the most recent gubernatorial or  
4 presidential election.

5  
6 (1) The number of delegates allotted to each precinct shall be determined by the total  
7 votes cast in each precinct for the Democratic gubernatorial or presidential  
8 candidate, divided by the total number of votes cast for the Democratic  
9 gubernatorial or presidential candidate, and the result multiplied by 1000.

10  
11 (2) If the result for any precinct is less than or equal to two (2) delegates, then that  
12 precinct shall elect two (2) delegates.

13  
14 (3) If there is less than one (1) registered voter in the precinct, then that precinct shall  
15 not be allotted the two (2) delegates.

16  
17 (4) If the result for any precinct is greater than two delegates and more than fifty  
18 percent (50%) rounded to the first decimal place of each additional delegate, that  
19 precinct shall be entitled to one additional delegate.

20  
21 2E. Precincts shall elect delegates and alternates reflecting gender diversity, making note of the  
22 history of under representation of women, other genders and those that do not adhere to the  
23 gender binary, except as provided below:

24  
25 (1) If the number of delegates allotted to a Precinct is an odd number, then the  
26 composition of that delegation may deviate by one (1), or

27  
28 (2) If the precinct lacks sufficient candidates of different gender to make a delegation  
29 of gender diversity, then the Precinct shall make reasonable attempts to comply  
30 with this subsection.

31  
32 **Section 3. Purposes.**

33 3A. To elect two (2) National Committee Members of different genders in every Presidential  
34 election year by the delegates voting at-large and to fill any vacancy in these positions in the  
35 non-Presidential election year. In the event there is a vacancy in the office of either National  
36 Committee Member due to death or to resignation, such vacancy shall be filled by the State  
37 Central Committee until the following Democratic State Convention.

38  
39 3B. To elect delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention in every  
40 Presidential election year. The number of delegates and alternates allotted to each State is  
41 determined by the Democratic National Convention (based on the Hawai'i National Delegate  
42 Selection Plan and Affirmative Action Plan).

43  
44 (1) The Delegate Selection Plan regarding the selection of delegates and alternates to

1 the Democratic National Convention shall be approved by the State Central  
2 Committee and published on the website of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i  
3 within thirty (30) calendar days of the approval of the plan by the Democratic  
4 National Committee.

5  
6 (2) Certification. The National Convention Delegates and Alternates shall be  
7 certified by the Party Chairperson and filed with the Secretary of the Democratic  
8 National Committee within ten (10) calendar days after selection.

9  
10 (3) Slate-Making. Any individual or group of Democrats may sponsor or endorse a  
11 slate of candidates for National Convention Delegates. But no slate may receive  
12 preferential treatment for a preferential place on a delegate selection ballot or be  
13 publicly identified on the ballot as the “official” slate. All slates must meet the  
14 same qualifying requirements set forth in this Article.

15  
16 3C. To elect Presidential Electors and Alternates, as prescribed by law, in every Presidential  
17 election year, by the delegates voting at-large. Candidates for Presidential Electors and  
18 Alternates shall be members of the Party in good standing for at least one (1) year.

19  
20 3D. To elect the Democratic Party Chairperson and members of the State Central Committee,  
21 except County Representatives elected at the County Convention, youth representatives elected  
22 by their members, and caucus representatives elected by their members as provided by their  
23 bylaws.

24 (1) The Chairperson of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, Caucus Representatives,  
25 and the Youth Representatives, shall be elected by the Convention delegates  
26 voting at-large.

27  
28 (2) The State Central Committee members, representing Senatorial Districts, shall be  
29 elected by the State Convention delegates from the respective Senatorial Districts;  
30 provided that two (2) representatives of different genders shall be elected from  
31 each County or a Senatorial District which covers more than one County. State  
32 Central Committee members, representing their Counties, shall be elected by their  
33 County Convention.

34  
35 (3) The elected or appointed Democratic officials or candidates running for elective  
36 public office, with the exception of those running for or elected as a delegate to  
37 the State Constitutional Convention, are not eligible to be Chairperson of the  
38 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

39  
40 (4) Election of the Party Chairperson shall include weighted votes, unless an in-  
41 person Convention cannot be held due to an emergency, and/or a mail or  
42 electronic ballot has been authorized by the State Central Committee.

43  
44 (a) Weighted votes are defined as those delegates not registered at the State

1 Convention. Weighted votes shall be permitted for members in Counties  
2 who need to travel to another County to participate in the State  
3 Convention. The total votes, including weighted votes, for any County  
4 shall not exceed their allocated total.  
5

6 (i) Weighted votes shall be applied automatically by the Elections  
7 Committee for a County, by County, in direct proportion to the  
8 votes cast for the various candidates by the registered delegates  
9 of that County.  
10

11 (ii) For mathematical computation, fractions shall be carried to two  
12 decimal places. Fractional votes of one-half or more shall  
13 increase to the next whole number, whereas less than one-half  
14 shall have the fraction dropped. Where mathematical  
15 computations cause the total County vote to exceed or decrease  
16 its total allocated count, a coin toss by the Credentials  
17 Chairperson, who shall be present in the Elections counting  
18 room, shall be implemented to offset the discrepancy.  
19

20 (5) All elections at the Convention shall be determined by a majority or the use of  
21 Ranked Choice Voting, whereby voters list their choices in order of preference,  
22 votes are tallied and if no candidate receives over 50% of votes cast, the candidate  
23 with the fewest votes is removed and the votes on the ballots cast for them are  
24 reassigned to the voters second choice. Rounds of vote tabulation continue until  
25 the number of candidates remaining is equal to the number of seats to be awarded.  
26

27  
28 3E. To adopt the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

29  
30 3F. To adopt the revisions, amendments, or alterations to the Constitution of the Democratic  
31 Party of Hawai'i.

32  
33 3G. To adopt Resolutions.

34  
35 3H. To consider such other business as may come before it.  
36

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

38 Any member of the Party wishing to be a candidate described in Article V of the Constitution of  
39 the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall file a nomination paper with the Secretary of the State  
40 Central Committee, signed by not less than ten (10) members of the Party for candidates for  
41 statewide office and by not less than five (5) members of the Party for all other offices, at least  
42 twenty (20) calendar days prior to the State Convention and pay to the Democratic Party of  
43 Hawai'i a fee of ten dollars (\$10), except that papers for the County Representative seats shall be  
44 filed at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the County Convention. In the event that no papers

1 have been filed by the filing deadline, the filing deadline shall be extended until ten (10) calendar  
2 days prior to the State Convention. However, no additional nomination papers shall be allowed  
3 for those positions for which papers had been filed by the filing deadline.  
4

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

6 The State Central Committee is responsible to ensure the budget for State Convention allows  
7 reasonable registration fees affordable to middle-and low-income delegates, and waivers to  
8 delegates unable to pay the registration fee.  
9

10 A request for waiver should be submitted in writing, by email, or on a form provided for this  
11 purpose and conveyed to the State Convention Credentials Committee, as follows:  
12

- 13 (1) The written request for waiver must be submitted within sixty (60) calendar days  
14 following the biennial election meeting and explain the reason for the request.  
15
- 16 (2) When reasonable circumstances justify a request for waiver submitted after the  
17 sixty (60) calendar day deadline, the Convention Credentials Committee shall  
18 consider whether circumstances justify the late request. Such circumstances may  
19 include alternates filling late-occurring delegate vacancies, or other reasonable  
20 cause for a delayed submittal.  
21
- 22 (3) A full or partial waiver shall be granted if the delegate is unable to pay the full  
23 registration fee.  
24

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

26 6A. The Party Chairperson shall appoint all Convention Committee Chairpersons not less than  
27 one-hundred-twenty (120) calendar days prior to the opening of the State Convention. The  
28 Party Chairperson shall appoint committee members to the Convention Committees not less than  
29 forty-five (45) calendar days prior to the opening of the State Convention. If committee  
30 vacancies exist, additional members shall be appointed up to seven (7) calendar days prior to the  
31 State Convention.  
32

33 The Convention Committee is a standing committee of the State Central Committee; other  
34 Convention committees appointed by the Party Chairperson include the following:  
35

- 36 (1) Convention Platform Committee: Responsible to receive proposals to amend or  
37 revise the Platform. Prepares a report of recommendations to the Convention.  
38
- 39 (2) Convention Rules Committee: Responsible to receive proposals to amend or  
40 revise the rules of the Party. Shall have the power to format, edit, combine  
41 proposed rules changes, and make substantive amendments that do not alter the  
42 intent of the proposed rule addition or change. Prepares a report of  
43 recommendations to the Convention.  
44

- 1 (3) Convention Resolutions Committee(s): Responsible to receive resolutions. Shall  
2 have the power to format, edit, combine resolutions of similar substance, and  
3 make substantive amendments that do not alter the intent of the resolving clauses.  
4 Prepares a report of recommendations to the Convention.  
5
- 6 (4) Convention Affirmative Action Committee: Responsible to receive  
7 recommendations concerning Affirmative Actions and to finalize  
8 recommendations to the Convention.  
9
- 10 (5) Convention Credentials Committee: Responsible to investigate and certify a  
11 temporary roll of delegates. The temporary roll as prepared by the Secretary of the  
12 State Central Committee will be accepted as prima-facie correct pending action  
13 by the duly appointed State Convention Credentials Committee.  
14
- 15 (a) The Convention Credentials Committee shall hold hearings to decide a  
16 contest with due notice to the parties.  
17
- 18 (b) The Credentials Committee shall, throughout the delegate registration  
19 period assess a member or members to the Registration Committee to verify  
20 and certify a delegate's or an alternate's status for seating as a delegate.  
21
- 22 6B. The Party Chairperson shall assure that all Convention Committees shall include members  
23 from each County in proportion to the ratio of delegates allocated to each County to the total  
24 number of delegates to the Convention. The Party Chairperson, with the concurrence of the  
25 State Central Committee, shall establish a process to ensure that appointments to the Convention  
26 Committees shall be fair, and that such committees shall in so far as practicable reflect the varied  
27 constituencies and diverse views of the Convention delegates. Each recognized Caucus and the  
28 Young Democrats may have a member on the Rules, Platform and Resolutions committees and  
29 each of these committees shall have a minimum of 41 members. In a presidential election year,  
30 efforts shall be made to appoint committees whose membership reflects the proportion of votes  
31 cast for the presidential candidates.  
32
- 33 6C. The Chairperson(s) of each Convention Committee shall notify committee members at least  
34 five (5) calendar days in advance of any Convention meetings.  
35
- 36 (1) On the opening day of the Convention, all Convention Committee members who  
37 are Convention delegates shall constitute the membership of the Convention  
38 Committee.  
39
- 40 (2) Only registered Convention delegates shall actively participate and vote on the  
41 issues before the committee.  
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- 43 (3) Authors of proposals before a committee may speak for the proposal in accord  
44 with committee procedure.

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(4) Convention Resolutions Committee(s) shall have the power to format, edit, combine resolutions of similar substance, and make substantive amendments. This committee will report to the assembled delegates only those resolutions it recommends for adoption.

6D. The Convention Standing Rules and the Convention Budget will be adopted by the State Central Committee not later than January of the year of the State Convention.

**Section 7. Prohibition Against Unit Rule.**

Unit Rule shall not be permitted in any vote at the State Convention. “Unit Rule,” as used in this section, means any agreement entered into by any delegation that a majority of the votes from the delegation on any issue or election will bind the total delegation vote on such issue or election, unless the agreement is entered into by unanimous vote.

**Section 8. Report to the Convention.**

The Party Chairperson shall be called upon to present a full report of the State Central Committee's activities. The Treasurer of the State Central Committee shall report and submit a financial statement on the financial status of the Party. Both reports shall be included in the Convention packet for all delegates.

**Section 9. Convention Reports to the Delegates.**

The Secretary of the State Central Committee shall publish on the website of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i the following documents at least five (5) calendar days prior to the date of the Convention: the proposed changes to the Party Platform, the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, and the Affirmative Action Plan; proposed resolutions; a list of all candidates and the positions they seek to be elected to at the State Convention; and the list of all proposed permanent Convention Committee members. Permanent Convention Committee members shall be posted to the website as they are appointed/confirmed. The above information shall be made available to all delegates via the website of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

**Section 10. Candidate Speeches.**

No candidate may be charged a fee to speak at the State Convention.

**Section 11. Electronic Voting.**

Electronic voting or balloting may be used to adopt any convention business or elect nominees to any position following procedures provided in the Convention Standing Rules adopted by the State Central Committee.

**ARTICLE VII – REVENUES**

**Section 1. District Council Fund Raising.**

Each District Council shall be entitled to raise such funds as it deems necessary for the conduct of its business and social affairs, and to meet assessments made by the County Committee. Such

1 funds shall be raised by assessments, dues or contributions, or by some specific business or  
2 social projects. Where the funds are to be raised by some method other than assessment, dues, or  
3 contributions, such method shall be coordinated by the County Committee. It shall be the  
4 function of the County Committee to prevent conflicts between various fundraising projects and  
5 similar projects on the County and State level.  
6

7 **Section 2. County Committee and State Central Committee Responsibility.**

8 It shall be the duty of the County Committee in each County and the State Central Committee to  
9 raise and maintain as large a fund as possible to help elect all Party candidates in the general  
10 election and to promote understanding and acceptance of the Party program in both the primary  
11 and general election.  
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1                                   **ARTICLE VIII – DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEADQUARTERS**

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3   **Section 1. Establishment, Maintenance and Operation.**

4   The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Headquarters shall be established, maintained, and operated by  
5   the State Central Committee.

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7   **Section 2. Executive Director and Staff.**

8   An Executive Director and staff for the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i may be appointed by the  
9   Chairperson of the State Central Committee with the approval of the State Central Committee.  
10   The Executive Director shall report to the Party Chairperson and assist in implementing the  
11   policies and plans of the State Central Committee. The compensation of the Executive Director  
12   and the budget for the staff shall be determined by the State Central Committee. Paid staff  
13   members, including the Executive Director and those under contract with the Party, shall not be  
14   voting members of the State Central Committee. Employees of the Party shall maintain  
15   neutrality towards political campaigns prior to the completion of the primary election as well as  
16   maintain neutrality in internal party elections above District Secretary.

17  
18   **Section 3. Duty to Support All Democratic Party Organizations.**

19   The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Headquarters shall serve all Democratic Party organizations in  
20   the active and effective performance of their respective duties and responsibilities.

21  
22   **Section 4. Services to be Made Available to All Democrats.**

23   The use of the facilities of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Headquarters and its services shall  
24   be made available to all Democrats under such rules as may be prescribed by the State Central  
25   Committee.

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28                                   **ARTICLE IX – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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30   **Section 1. Candidate Support of Platform, Resolutions, Constitution and Bylaws.**

31   The Secretary of the State Central Committee and the Secretary of each County Committee shall  
32   provide each Democratic candidate for elective office with a copy of the most recently approved  
33   State and County Party Platforms, Resolutions, Constitution, and the Bylaws within seven (7)  
34   calendar days after the legally established filing deadline. Said candidates shall submit  
35   Candidate Statement Forms provided by the State Central Committee indicating their agreement,  
36   disagreement, and/or reservations with the Platform of the State and County Party organizations  
37   within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of the blank forms to the State Central  
38   Committee. Should the candidate draw or pull nomination papers prior to the biennial State  
39   Convention, then two (2) sets of Candidate Statement Forms shall be sent, filled out, returned,  
40   and kept on file, one (1) set of forms relevant to the preceding biennial State Convention’s  
41   Resolutions and Platform and one (1) set of forms relevant to the current biennial State  
42   Convention’s Resolutions and Platform. These Candidate Statement Forms, in turn, will be kept  
43   for review by Democratic Party members at State Party Headquarters, and posted to the

1 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i website until the end of the General Election. Further, relevant  
2 copies of the Candidate Statement Forms shall be made available to the four County Party  
3 Chairpersons so that each inhabited island has one (1) copy of the Candidate Statement Forms  
4 for review by Democratic Party members, with the exception of Hawai‘i County, which shall  
5 have two (2), one (1) for East Hawai‘i and one (1) for West Hawai‘i. A candidate who is in  
6 agreement with the Platform of the State and Party organizations shall be eligible for Party  
7 support upon request. A candidate who fails to abide by these requirements shall not be eligible  
8 for Party support by the respective County Committees or the State Central Committee.  
9

10 **Section 2. Party Sponsored Legislation.**

11 All resolutions adopted at the State Convention that request legislation shall be drafted and  
12 introduced in a timely manner by Party leaders in the appropriate legislative body upon request  
13 by the Party Chairperson.  
14

15 **Section 3. Availability of the Constitution and Bylaws.**

16 Each member of the State Central Committee and the respective County Committees shall be  
17 notified by the Secretary of the State Central Committee that they may access an updated copy of  
18 the Constitution and or Bylaws on the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s website when it is posted.  
19 The updated Constitution and or Bylaws shall be posted on the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i  
20 website within sixty (60) calendar days of the conclusion of the State Convention, or in the case  
21 of an amendment within sixty (60) calendar days of the date such amendment was adopted by the  
22 State Central Committee. Any member may also receive a hard copy of this Constitution and  
23 Bylaws, upon requesting the same from the Secretary of the respective County Committee and  
24 upon payment of a reasonable fee to cover the cost of copies and postage.  
25

26 **Section 4. Responsibility for Filling Vacancies in Election Process.**

27 4A. The selection body, as defined in the Constitution, shall meet after proper notice to all  
28 members not later than 12:00 p.m. on the third (3rd) day after the vacancy occurs, but not later  
29 than 12:00 p.m. on the fiftieth (50th) day prior to the primary or special primary election or the  
30 fortieth (40th) day prior to a general, special, or special general election. The selection body  
31 shall forward the name of the replacement candidate to the Party Chairperson who shall transmit  
32 the name to the Chief Election Officer or clerk.  
33

34 The replacement candidate shall be a member in “good standing” which means the candidate  
35 shall have been a member of the Party for a minimum of six (6) months prior to the date the  
36 vacancy occurred provided that the candidate is not currently under reprimand pursuant to  
37 Article I of the Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. The replacement candidate shall  
38 meet all the qualifications for the office set by law for candidates who file to run in an election  
39 for that office.  
40

41 4B. If for any reason, the selection body most immediately affected by the vacancy is unable for  
42 whatever reason to fill the vacancy in a timely manner, the Party Chairperson may fill the  
43 vacancy.  
44

1 4C. If for any reason, the selection body most immediately affected by the vacancy is unable for  
2 whatever reason to fill the vacancy in a timely manner, the Party Chairperson may fill the  
3 vacancy.  
4

5 4D. Any meeting notice requirements may be waived by the selection body in order to meet the  
6 time requirements of this section.  
7

8 **Section 5. Process to Identify Candidates to Fill Midterm Vacancies.**

9 5A. For a State House or State Senate vacancy, the Party Chairperson shall notify the  
10 appropriate County Chair of the announced vacancy, who in turn shall notify the appropriate  
11 selection body as identified in Sections 9 (1) and 9 (2) of the Constitution of the Democratic  
12 Party of Hawai‘i. The selection body shall make a call for candidates who are members in “good  
13 standing.” A list of at least three (3) names shall be provided to the County Chair to transmit to  
14 the Party Chairperson within twenty-one (21) calendar days. The Party Chairperson shall  
15 transmit the list of names to the Governor’s Office within three (3) business days of receipt of  
16 names.  
17

18 A member in “good standing” means that the candidate shall have been a member of the Party or  
19 a minimum of six (6) months prior to either the date on which the event occurs that creates a  
20 vacancy during the term of the office or the public announcement of the office holder of their  
21 intent to vacate the office during the term, whichever is appropriate and that the candidate is not  
22 currently under reprimand or suspension pursuant to Article I of the Constitution of the  
23 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. No candidate shall be recommended who does not meet all the  
24 qualifications for office set by law for candidates who file to run in an election for the vacant  
25 office.  
26

27 *(amended by the SCC on 10/28/2023)*

28 5B. The selection process for a State House or State Senate vacancy shall be conducted in a place  
29 accessible to District Party members.  
30

31 Prospective candidates are to provide to the County Chair for dissemination to the appropriate  
32 selection body (as defined in Sections 9 (1) and 9 (2) of the Constitution of the Democratic Party  
33 of Hawai‘i) a written application including the following:  
34

- 35 (1) Credentials and reasons for consideration for appointment to the position;
- 36 (2) Evidence of party participation;
- 37 (3) Verified signatures of at least five (5) Party members within the District where the  
38 vacancy has occurred.  
39

40 5C. If for any reason, the body most immediately affected by the vacancy is unable to fill the  
41 vacancy within the stated timeframe, the County Chairperson may recommend the names for an  
42 office within the County or the Party Chairperson may recommend the names for a statewide  
43 office.  
44

1 **Section 6. Smoking.**

2 Smoking shall be prohibited at all Democratic Party events except in designated areas.

3  
4 **Section 7. Prior Consent.**

5 Any person who will be absent from their election meeting and is willing to serve an elected  
6 position shall submit their written consent for presentation at the meeting.

7  
8 **Section 8. Elections.**

9 8A. If unstated, whenever a winner cannot be determined in an election due to a tie, there shall  
10 be an action taken to break the tie with a coin toss or odd man out procedure.

11  
12 8B. Whenever secret ballots are used in an election, after the actual ballot count and election  
13 results have been publicly posted, said ballots shall be destroyed after thirty (30) calendar days of  
14 that posting. If a challenge arises, the appropriate governing body of that election may determine  
15 a later date for the destroying of ballots.

16  
17 **Section 9. Impossibility Provision.**

18 In the event of an emergency, such provisions of these bylaws as deemed necessary, may be  
19 suspended by the State Central Committee at a regular or special meeting. Any suspension under  
20 this provision must describe a compelling interest for the suspension and include specific dates  
21 when the suspension begins and ends.

22  
23 **Section 10. Policies**

24 10A. Written policies formally adopted by the State Central Committee shall remain in effect  
25 until amended or rescinded by the State Central Committee.

26  
27 10B. The State Central Committee shall adopt, maintain, and make publicly available written  
28 policies and procedures necessary for the effective, ethical, and lawful operation of the  
29 Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

30 10C. Data Protection and Privacy Policy. The State Central Committee shall adopt and publish a  
31 Data Protection and Privacy Policy governing the handling of membership and other personally  
32 identifiable information maintained by the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. At a minimum, the policy  
33 shall address the following:

34 (1) Data Collection, Retention, and Deletion. Standards governing the lawful and  
35 limited collection of personal data, defined retention periods, and secure  
36 procedures for the deletion or destruction of data no longer required for legitimate  
37 Party purposes.

38 (2) Data Security Protocols. Administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to  
39 protect data, including requirements for encryption, secure backups, access  
40 controls, and procedures for identifying, responding to, and mitigating data  
41 breaches or unauthorized disclosures.

*Accepted Amendments by the 2026 DPH Convention on May 30, 2026*

- 1           (3)     Training and Compliance. Required training for officers, employees, staff, and
- 2                     volunteers with authorized access to Party data to ensure understanding of data
- 3                     protection responsibilities and compliance with applicable laws and Party policies.
- 4           (4)     Enforcement and Sanctions. Procedures for investigating violations of the Data
- 5                     Protection and Privacy Policy and the imposition of appropriate sanctions for
- 6                     violations, which may include revocation of access, disciplinary action, or other
- 7                     remedies authorized under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of
- 8                     Hawai'i.