

May 10, 2022

Stephanie Ohigashi, Co-Chair  
Michael Golojuch, Jr., Co-Chair  
Democrat Party of Hawai'i 2022 Convention  
PO Box 2041  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96805

Re: Summary of Platform Committee meetings 2022

Dear Co-Chairs:

The Platform Committee was chaired by Jim Diegel (Maui) and supported by vice-chair, Margaret Wille (Hawai'i Island). Following an organizing orientation with convention co-chair, Michael Golojuch, Jr., four regular Zoom meetings of two hours each were scheduled on the following dates: April 8<sup>th</sup> (6-800p), April 16<sup>th</sup> (10a-noon), April 22<sup>nd</sup> (6-800p), and April 29<sup>th</sup> (6-800p). The April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting was extended for one hour until 900p. A fifth and final meeting was held on April 30<sup>th</sup> (noon – 200p and extended for one hour until 300p) at which time the committee concluded its deliberations. Robert's Rules of Order provided the framework for discussions and actions. All meetings were recorded. An assigned independent scribe was provided for the first three meetings, whereas two committee members served as scribes for the final two meetings. Where possible, consensus was sought, but frequent roll-call votes were called when acting on plank language recommendations. In general, all committee members maintained civility and decorum during spirited discussion and debate. No members were silenced by technological means. There was a technology interruption during the second meeting which made full participation by committee members a challenge; in retrospect, that meeting could have been suspended until the technology glitch was repaired.

The first meeting focused on protocols and introductions by each member on the committee. Meetings two – five focused solely on establishing the baseline document, which happened to be #17 in the documents folder. From that baseline, two additional series of amendments were submitted in between meetings. The process of consideration and debate on the various planks occurred sequentially throughout the baseline document discussing each of the proposed amendments to the individual subject planks. Each plank, in its final form, was then actioned through a motion and for the most call, a roll call vote.

The overarching goal of redrafted platform was to reduce the length and complexity of the document while not losing the essence of the pillars of the Democrat Party of Hawai'i. An honest attempt was made to keep the planks broad enough, thus allowing resolutions to flush out the detail of the platform's planks.

The final draft platform document included the following planks:

Preamble  
Agriculture  
Arts & Culture  
Disaster & Emergency Preparedness

Economic Justice and Labor  
Education  
Environment & Energy  
Government  
Health & Well-Being  
Housing  
Human and Civil Rights  
Kūpuna  
Native Hawaiians and Hawaiian Culture  
Technology & Digital Equity  
Transportation  
U.S. Military & Veterans' Affairs

One issue about which there was particularly heated debate was whether to include an individual labor/workers' rights plank with specific advocacy for a significant increase in the state minimum wage. Instead, the majority supported a more general economic sustainability plank - "Economic Justice and Labor."

Recognizing recent political developments – including the leaked draft of the upcoming Supreme Court ruling on *Roe v. Wade* – may precipitate further discussion and debate on whether additional planks and clarifications need to be made at the convention.

Margaret and I want to thank the Platform Committee members, the convention co-chairs, and Party Chair Dos Santos-Tam for their confidence and support of the committee's work.

In unity,

James (Jim) A. Diegel  
Margaret Wille

cc: Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair

Attachment:  
Proposed 2022 Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform

\*\*\*\*\*

**2022 DPH State Convention**  
**PLATFORM OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI‘I**

**PREAMBLE**

The abiding values of the Democratic Party are integrity, honesty, and transparency for all. At the heart of our party lies a fundamental conviction that Americans must not only be free, but they must live in a fair society. These values compel us to integrate democratic ideals in all aspects of economic, social, educational, and cultural life in our communities, our state and our nation. These principles must always be protected. As the party of the people, we Democrats commit ourselves to these values.

We are facing increased global challenges economically, ecologically, and socio-culturally. We therefore adopt a worldview that is sensitive to and addresses these challenges that is not based on short-term economic gains. This platform outlines guiding principles for all members of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

**AGRICULTURE**

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

We support responsible development of these resources to achieve food security and self-sufficiency, while ensuring the sustainability of these resources for future generations to come. We support regulations that ensure the ethical and safe production and consumption of all agricultural products. We support funding efforts to fight invasive species that threaten agricultural production in Hawai‘i.

**ARTS & CULTURE**

We believe all people should have access to opportunities to engage with the arts and pursue art and arts education. We support public funding of the arts, artists, arts education and cultural

organizations and initiatives in communities and schools. We believe that a well-balanced education includes exposure to art, culture and the humanities.

We support initiatives to preserve the history, culture and artistic contributions of Hawai'i's people. Hawai'i prospers when we protect and promote the unique artistic and cultural contributions of the artists who create and preserve Hawai'i's heritage.

## DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We demand the protection of the people of Hawai'i and their property against natural and man-made disasters. We believe that climate change is real, affirm human activity as its primary cause and main driver, and support emergency preparedness and planning efforts to mitigate its impacts, including development of early warning systems, emergency management and response systems, and emergency sheltering.

## ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LABOR

We believe that all people have the right to live a dignified life free from poverty and poor health. We believe in designing our economy so that it provides prosperity to all Hawai'i's people.

We support policies that circulate currency through our economy, helping businesses to thrive, including tax policy that lessens the tax burden of low- and middle-income earners and increases the tax burden of high-income earners and the wealthy. We support government investments of tax revenue in community development, government anti-poverty programs, and the transition to a sustainable, green economy. We support policies to diversify our economy so that it is no longer reliant on environmentally adverse industries such as tourism and the military. We support policies that foster entrepreneurship and innovation.

We believe all workers have the right to safe, dignified jobs that pay a living wage. We believe that the minimum wage should be a living wage on which a worker can not only survive, but thrive. We oppose all subminimum wage policies, including the tip credit.

We believe that all workers have the right to form a union to collectively bargain with employers on their behalf. We support the efforts of unions to protect and advocate for workers. We support anti-discrimination protections in the workplace. We support policies that reduce racial, gender, and other disparities in pay.

## EDUCATION

Provide an excellent, free public education for students at every level.

We believe that the future of our state as well as our country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support establishing a dedicated funding source to deliver a quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from preschool through higher education, including life-long learning.

Educational facilities must be maintained, renovated, and built to 21st century innovations so that our students learn in well-designed, safe environments. We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems.

Educators should be paid professional salaries to ensure that all children are taught by qualified teachers. Collective bargaining rights should be protected and strengthened for all educational employees, so that those employees may negotiate for fair compensation and work conditions. Educators and school staff should never be asked to increase their workload without being given the opportunity to negotiate for corresponding pay raises.

The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we preserve our health and rich cultural history. We are committed to ensuring that all educational curricula are culturally relevant, historically and scientifically accurate, and nondiscriminatory. To the greatest extent possible, school curricula should include content on the historical injustice and cultural subjugation faced by Native Hawaiians and other historically underrepresented populations.

A variety of learning strategies should be used. Standardized testing should be replaced with authentic assessments that promote real-world learning opportunities for students.

We support the constitutional separation of church and state in education which has been a cornerstone of democracy. We also believe that public funds should not be allocated for private educational programs at any level, including preschool. We firmly oppose all policies that allow private corporations to unduly influence the educational curricula and programs offered in public school settings.

We believe that gender equity is a fundamental principle for Hawaii's public education system. To that end, we support the enactment of gender-inclusive training for educators, sexual wellness

programs that advance LGBTQ+ rights and healthy relationships, and gender parity in the distribution of educational resources and construction of school facilities.

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Protect and preserve Hawai‘i’s environment and achieve energy sustainability. Advance measures to re-establish a healthy climate and environment for humans and fellow species, including actions to urgently address climate change. Work towards 100% renewable energy goals.

We believe that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment. We believe that the preservation of our natural environment and its ecological well being is essential to ensuring a safe, healthy, bountiful life for future generations in Hawai‘i. We support policies that create a more sustainable society. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of native ecosystems.

We believe in the resource management principles outlined in the Public Trust doctrine of the Hawai‘i State Constitution. We support policy that incorporates indigenous resource-management practices and technologies such as the Ahupua‘a System in modern urban planning and development to create an ecologically sustainable balance between the needs of the people and the rights of nature.

We believe that a key part of a sustainable and self-sufficient future for Hawai‘i lies in achieving energy independence through a transition to clean renewable energy sources. We support policy that eliminates our dependence on fossil fuels and other dirty energy sources. We support policies that expand access to public transportation and encourage transit-oriented development and walkable communities.

## GOVERNMENT

We believe that all people have the right to live in a free, open and democratic society free from oppression and tyranny. We believe that a government of, by and for the people should be accountable to the people. We believe that a democratic government functions best when it is accessible to all its people. We believe in checks and balances within government and oppose policies that limit human or civil rights.

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

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

We support the continued separation of Church and State, a foundational principle on which the Constitution of the United States of America was established and that guarantees religious freedom for all.

We urge expansion of early voting and vote-by-mail, implementing universal automatic voter registration, same-day voter registration, and we will continue to fight against discriminatory voter identification laws.

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

We believe all people have an inherent right to live a healthy life in a clean and safe environment. We believe all people have the right to access high quality healthcare regardless of ability to pay. We believe the wellbeing of all of Hawai'i's people is of the utmost importance. We support the creation of a universal healthcare system that values people over profit, and follows best practices and current research to deliver holistic care covering both physical and mental healthcare. We support a universal single-payer healthcare system similar to HR 1976, Expanded and Improved Medicare for All.

We support public funding to research and develop comprehensive public health solutions to the diseases and illnesses of today, as well as those of the future. We support public funding for reproductive healthcare. We support global health initiatives that prepare for and prevent the spread of infectious diseases around the world. We believe in harnessing the latest technology, including tele-health services, to remove barriers and increase access to care with a goal of reducing health disparities in Hawai'i's rural and underserved communities.

## HOUSING

We believe housing is a human right. We believe that each and every person should have access to safe, stable and adequate housing regardless of ability to pay. We support policies that deliver housing that is affordable to people at the bottom of the income scale where the need is greatest. We support policies that reduce barriers to the development of this housing, so long as these policies do not conflict with the tenets laid out in the ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY plank.

We support policies that reduce barriers to homeownership for residents. We support policies that preserve housing for residents and discourage real estate speculation.

We believe that houselessness is the symptom of an inequitable economic system that creates generational poverty and hardship. We believe this system must be changed. We support policy that gets people experiencing houselessness re-housed quickly and efficiently, and we support policy that delivers wrap-around services to recently re-housed individuals and families. We support adequate public funding for these initiatives.

## HUMAN & CIVIL RIGHTS

We believe that all humans have inherent rights to freedom, justice, dignity, and peace. We support the preservation of these human rights. We support the preservation of equal civil rights and liberties for all people. We believe all people have the right to self-determination and freedom from oppression. We support affirmative action, the full implementation of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1990, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. We believe in women's equality and the right to privacy. We believe in reproductive freedom and choice, with access to safe and legal abortion services. We support public funding of services for survivors of domestic violence. We believe in full equality before the law for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Agender, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) community.

We support legislation and policies that prioritize the safety, security and well-being of our foster and adopted children, the most vulnerable keiki in our community. We respect family and familial bonds, but reunification with every biological family is not always the safest, most secure or in the best interests of every child. Which is especially true in aggravated circumstances involving drug use history, physical abuse, sexual abuse or unstable housing. We strongly support the efforts of parents and all people to recover, but our ultimate concern must be for the safety and well-being of the foster and adopted children.

## KŪPUNA

We believe that a Hawai'i where the elderly can age in place and remain active members of the community is a Hawai'i that benefits immensely from the wisdom and experience of kūpuna. We support policies that make it easier to age in place and we support policies that make it easier for caregivers to provide quality care for kūpuna. We support policies that protect kūpuna from abuse. We support public funding for kūpuna and family care programs. We support aging with dignity including equal access to medical services with publicly supported long-term care that does not exhaust personal and family expenses.

## NATIVE HAWAIIANS & HAWAIIAN CULTURE

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

We support proactive actions by the federal and state governments to enhance Native Hawaiian culture, health (including traditional and customary medicinal treatment programs), language, housing, education, environment, agriculture, jobs, and economic development. We support reforming the criminal justice system to address the disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians, including bail reform and restorative justice which includes Ho‘oponopono.

## TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL EQUITY

Promote digital access as a critical and essential service for the functioning of and participation in our economy and community.

## TRANSPORTATION

Adopt transportation policies that improve our quality of life

We believe in the necessity of providing a safe, efficient transportation infrastructure. We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on imported fossil fuel and to support energy-efficient methods of transportation.

We support initiatives that will provide our state with more fuel-efficient vehicles, affordable mass transit and well-identified bike lanes. We support reducing and ultimately eliminating fossil fuel consumption through cleaner fuels, vehicle electrification and increasing the fuel efficiency of cars, boats, ships, and trucks. We support new investments in public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across our urban and suburban areas. We recognize the importance of integrating any new modes of mass transportation with existing and future public streets, highways, bike lanes, retail establishments, services, and affordable housing, while maintaining a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all future high-density developments.

We seek to achieve energy sustainability based on renewable energy sources. We encourage the use of clean alternative fuel sources, including in our public transportation systems. We support

incentives for use or adoption of public transit, telecommuting, carpooling, vanpooling, ridesharing, biking, and walking to effect the reduction of traffic congestion and air pollution. We support the urgent development of a variety of cost-effective energy improving systems, encourage transit-oriented development, and support tax incentives that encourage renewable energy initiatives.

## U.S. MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS

We believe in a foreign policy that relies on diplomacy, cooperation and the promotion of mutual prosperity.

We believe that the United States military should be used only as an absolute last resort and only in the defense of human rights and freedoms. We support worldwide reduction of militaries and nuclear arsenals. We support policies that promote disarmament and peace around the world. We support policy that reduces the immense size of the national security and military industrial complexes.

We believe that veterans of the United States Armed Forces should be honored and treated with dignity and respect. We support policies that provide veterans with the best possible care of both their physical and mental health.

We believe that the United States military has an obligation to protect the health and safety of the people of Hawai'i. We believe that the United States military has an obligation to protect the ecological health of the environment. We support policy that holds the United States military accountable for harm it causes to the people of Hawai'i and to the environment.