

**BYLAWS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
AS AMENDED MAY 18, 2024**

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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
45 remain with the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i to take care of the administrative

1 expenses of maintaining a centralized membership records system. Information
2 provided by the applicant shall be recorded electronically and shall be available
3 for appropriate Party uses.
4

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

17
18 (a) Appointment to fill a legislative vacancy pursuant to Article VIII of the
19 Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, or

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

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

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

43 2B. Current or Former Elected Officials’ of Either a Partisan or Non-Partisan Office Request to
44 Switch from Another Party to the Democratic Party.
45

- 1 (1) If a current or former elected public office-holder of either a partisan or non-
2 partisan office applies for new Party membership as a change of Party affiliation,
3 then the following procedure shall determine applicant’s eligibility for Party
4 membership:
5
- 6 (a) Conveyance: The Secretary of the State Central Committee shall ensure
7 the application is conveyed to the respective County Chair for public
8 offices within the County or State Party Chair for State offices spanning
9 two or more Counties and the offices of the United States Congress and
10 Senate.
11
- 12 (b) The applicant shall complete the Candidate Statement based on the
13 Platform and Resolutions of the Party as provided in Article V of the
14 Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and submit it to the
15 respective County or State Executive Committee.
16
- 17 (c) The Committee may invite the applicant and other persons to interview as
18 it deems useful. Decisions regarding membership shall be communicated
19 immediately to the Secretary of the State Central Committee, who shall
20 immediately convey them to the full membership of the State Central
21 Committee.
22
- 23 (2) Deadlines:
24
- 25 (a) No deadline applies to applications to change Party affiliation by a current
26 or former public office-holder of either a partisan or non-partisan office,
27 except if application is submitted within six (6) months of candidate filing
28 for an election, then deadlines described in this section shall apply.
- 29 (b) The date of Party membership shall be eleven (11) calendar days after the
30 Executive Committee’s decision to accept the application unless the
31 decision is called for review by the State Central Committee. A review
32 shall not be called except upon written request of at least ten (10) State
33 Central Committee members. If reviewed, the decision of the State Central
34 Committee shall be final. If the application is accepted, the new member
35 shall enjoy all rights and responsibilities of Party membership. The new
36 member is subject to Section 2B, which provides for eligibility after six
37 months of continuous membership without censure to file as a candidate
38 for elected public office as a Democrat.
39
- 40 (c) If the application for membership is rejected, the applicant is ineligible to
41 appear as a candidate on any ballot as a Democrat, to claim in any
42 campaign to be a Democratic Party candidate, to caucus as a Democrat, or
43 hold any public office or position reserved for a member of the
44 Democratic Party, until such time as membership in “good standing” is
45 attained in accord with this Constitution.

1 **Section 3. Official Enrollment Card.**

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

7 **Section 4. Membership.**

8 4A. Any member once enrolled in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall, at the member's
9 option, continue to be a member except as provided by Article I of the Constitution of the
10 Democratic Party of Hawai'i. The Party shall request payment of the annual voluntary
11 membership donation dues of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and conduct fundraising appeals
12 regularly.
13

14 4B. Three dollars (\$3) of every ten dollars (\$10) collected in dues shall be remitted to the county
15 from which the dues originated.
16

17 4C. Annual voluntary membership donation dues shall be requested on or before February 28 of
18 each year.
19

20 4D. Where a record of prior membership cannot be located and membership is claimed, the
21 claimant shall obtain the signatures of five (5) members of the Party and proof of voter
22 registration. Upon the filing and validation of the signatures on a form specified by the State
23 Central Committee, the Secretary of the State Central Committee shall be authorized to issue a
24 duplicate membership card. An enrollment card shall be filled pursuant to Section 2, above,
25 except that the card will bear the word "duplicate." The above form certified by the Secretary of
26 the State Central Committee will serve as proof of membership.
27

28 **Section 5. Official Records.**

29 5A. The State Central Committee shall establish the policy of who has access to the computer
30 membership records and who may make changes thereto and the Secretary of the State Central
31 Committee shall oversee the implementation of the State Central Committee policy regarding
32 access to the membership database. It shall be the duty of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i to
33 maintain an electronic file as well as an archival plan of all membership data from the enrollment
34 cards pursuant to Section 2, above, as well as record all changes and transfers of which notice is
35 received. The Secretary of the State Central Committee shall notify the County Committee and
36 the District Council of such changes.
37

38 5B. It is the duty of each member to inform the Secretary of the State Central Committee of any
39 changes in his or her mailing address. When a member is no longer registered to vote at the
40 address on the official mailing list, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Headquarters is authorized
41 to remove that name from the list. The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Headquarters shall at
42 regular intervals send a copy of all changes made to the official membership list to each County
43 Secretary.
44

45 5C. Where a member is removed from a District Council official membership list, it shall be

1 filed in a permanent alphabetical suspense file until such time as the status of the member can be
2 determined and placed in the correct District Council or officially deleted from membership in
3 the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

4
5 **Section 6. Termination.**

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

- 9
10 (1) Death;
11 (2) Assumption of a permanent residence outside of the State;
12 (3) Disaffiliation from the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; or
13 (4) Loss of civil rights or U.S. Citizenship.

14
15 **Section 7. Expulsion, Suspension, Reprimand, or Censure.**

16 7A. Grounds for Expulsion, Suspension, or Reprimand:

- 17
18 (1) **Mandatory Expulsion.** A member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall be
19 automatically expelled from the Party for the following reasons:
20
21 (a) Membership with a political party other than the Democratic Party; or
22
23 (b) Filing as a candidate of a political party other than the Democratic Party.
24
25 (2) **Permissive Expulsion, Suspension, or Reprimand.** A member of the Democratic
26 Party of Hawai‘i may be expelled, suspended, or reprimanded for the following
27 reasons:
28
29 (a) Active support or promotion of a political party or any candidate(s) of a
30 political party other than the Democratic Party, except in nonpartisan races
31 in which there is no Democratic Party member as a candidate. Examples
32 of active support include, but are not limited to, making monetary or in-
33 kind contributions, accepting a position in an opposition campaign, sign-
34 waving, letter writing, appearance in campaign ads, resigning from the
35 Democratic Party to support another political party and rejoining the
36 Democratic Party.
37
38 (b) Failure of a candidate for an elective office or an elected official to follow
39 and abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of
40 Hawai‘i, and regulations of the Party campaign committees as approved
41 by the State Central Committee or respective County Committee.
42
43 (c) Violation of the Constitution or Bylaws of the Democratic Party of
44 Hawai‘i and/or platform of the Party.
45

- 1 (d) Violation of governmental ethics codes as adjudicated or determined by
- 2 the State Ethics Commission, the County Ethics Commission, the Office
- 3 of Disciplinary Counsel, the State House, the State Senate, or the courts.
- 4
- 5 (e) Conviction of criminal acts for which the member has been found
- 6 guilty by a federal or state court of law.
- 7
- 8 (f) Sexual Violation, Harassment, or Bullying
- 9

10 7B. Procedure. The procedures for expulsion, suspension, or reprimand are outlined below.

- 11
- 12 (1) Limitations. Any complaint charging a member with cause for expulsion,
- 13 suspension, or reprimand shall be made no later than one-hundred-eighty (180)
- 14 calendar days after the discovery of the violation, except for complaints based
- 15 upon sexual violence, sexual harassment, or sexual assault, which have no time
- 16 limitation.
- 17
- 18 (2) Complaint. Any member of the Party may file a complaint. The complaint shall
- 19 be in writing. The complaint shall state the rule(s) which have been violated, the
- 20 activities alleged to have been committed, the date(s) of these activities. Each
- 21 allegation shall be numbered. Each allegation shall be accompanied by evidence
- 22 of such activities. The complaint shall be signed by one (1) Party member and
- 23 endorsed by at least four (4) other Party members. The complaint shall be
- 24 submitted to the County Secretary if the issue falls within the jurisdiction of the
- 25 County and/or is made against an individual; otherwise, the complaint shall be
- 26 filed with the Party Secretary. It is the responsibility of the complainant to
- 27 provide evidence to support the expulsion, suspension, or reprimand. Attached to
- 28 the complaint shall be a list of any witnesses and the evidence to which they can
- 29 attest. Each witness will prepare an affidavit attesting to the evidence. The State
- 30 Central Committee or the County Executive Committee, as applicable, may
- 31 dismiss with prejudice any complaint submitted without the required evidence.
- 32
- 33 (3) Sexual Violation, Harassment, or Bullying Complaint. The procedures for filing a
- 34 complaint based on Sexual Violation, Harassment, or Bullying, shall be specified
- 35 in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Policy Against Sexual Harassment & Bullying
- 36 approved by the State Central Committee.
- 37
- 38 (4) Notice. Written notice must be sent to the accused member by the County
- 39 Secretary or Party Secretary, as applicable, within ten (10) calendar days of the
- 40 receipt of a complaint.
- 41
- 42 (5) Response. The accused member shall have thirty (30) calendar days from the date
- 43 the notice was sent electronically to prepare a response. The accused member
- 44 must respond to each allegation: admitted, denied, or denied in part. If an
- 45 allegation is denied in part or in whole, the accused member shall provide any

1 evidence supporting the denial. Attached to the response shall be a list of any
2 witnesses and the evidence to which they can attest. Each witness shall prepare
3 an affidavit attesting to the evidence.
4

5 (6) Investigation. The County Chairperson shall refer each complaint to the County
6 Rules Committee or a special committee to investigate the charges (the
7 “Investigation Committee”). The State Party Secretary shall refer each complaint
8 under the jurisdiction of the State Central Committee to the State Party Chair.
9 Upon receipt of the complaint, the State Party Chair shall appoint an Investigation
10 Committee. The referral of complaint shall be reported to the County Committee,
11 or the State Central Committee, as applicable, at its next meeting and shall be
12 recorded in the minutes. The Investigation Committee shall conduct a good faith
13 investigation to determine if a violation of the rules has occurred. The
14 Investigation Committee shall interview the accused member, the complainant,
15 and any witnesses. The credibility of the complainant, the accused member or
16 any witness may be challenged during the investigation. The Investigation
17 Committee shall gather other facts as necessary for its finding, and shall, within
18 thirty (30) calendar days, submit a report and recommendation(s) to the County
19 Chairperson, or the State Central Committee, as applicable. The Report shall
20 include the Investigation Committee’s findings for each allegation, including any
21 adverse findings regarding credibility; in addition, the Investigation Committee
22 may recommend specific sanctions.
23

24 (1) Investigation Committee’s Report. A copy of the Committee Report shall be
25 provided to the accused member and the complainant, and to the County
26 Committee, or the State Central Committee, as applicable. The report shall
27 include the grounds upon which the expulsion, suspension, reprimand, or censure
28 is sought, and the committee’s findings and recommendations, and a list of
29 County Committee members who are eligible to vote to accept, amend, or reject
30 the committee’s findings and recommendations.
31

32 (2) Hearing. The County Committee, or the Executive Committee of the State
33 Central Committee, shall place the complaint on the agenda at its next meeting
34 following receipt of the Investigation Committee Report or by agreement with the
35 accused member at some other time. Notice of the meeting shall be given to the
36 member, the complainant, and the County Committee, or the Executive
37 Committee of the State Central Committee, as applicable, at least seven (7)
38 calendar days prior to the hearing. Members of the County Committee, or the
39 Executive Committee of the State Central Committee, as applicable, shall be
40 provided with a copy of the report at this time for their consideration prior to the
41 meeting. The Investigation Committee shall present its report in a meeting open
42 to any interested Party member. The complainant, the accused member, and any
43 Party member shall be allowed to make a statement relating to the facts of the
44 case or the committee’s recommendation. The County Committee, or the
45 Executive Committee of the State Central Committee, as applicable, shall decide

1 by majority vote whether to accept, amend, or reject the Committee Report and
2 any sanctions. The County Committee, or the Executive Committee of the State
3 Central Committee, as applicable, shall give notice in writing of its decision to the
4 Secretary of the State Central Committee, with a copy to the member and
5 complainant within seven (7) calendar days. A copy of the committee's report
6 and the County Committee's, or the Executive Committee of the State Central
7 Committee's, decision shall be filed with the County Secretary and the Secretary
8 of the State Central Committee and shall be available for inspection by Party
9 members.

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

25
26 (10) Appeal of a State Central Committee Executive Committee Decision. A member
27 expelled, suspended, reprimanded, or censured may appeal the decision of the
28 Executive Committee of the State Central Committee to the full State Central
29 Committee by filing a written request with the Secretary of the State Central
30 Committee within ten (10) calendar days or receiving the written decision of the
31 Executive Committee of the State Central Committee. If no appeal is submitted
32 within the ten (10) calendar days, the decision of the Executive Committee of the
33 State Central Committee shall be final. If an appeal is submitted, a hearing shall
34 be granted in an open meeting of the entire State Central Committee within thirty
35 (30) calendar days. The State Central Committee shall review the Investigation
36 Committee Report, the accused member's comments, and the decision of the
37 Executive Committee of the State Central Committee. The State Central
38 Committee shall decide on the appeal by majority vote and shall transmit to the
39 member a written notice of its decision within ten (10) calendar days. The
40 decision of the State Central Committee shall be final.

41
42 7C. Sanctions and Enforcement for Expulsion, Suspension, or Reprimand.

43
44 (1) Mandatory Expulsion. Expulsion shall be automatic and implemented by the
45 Secretary of the State Central Committee. After expulsion, the expelled member

1 is barred from enrolling for membership for five (5) years. The Party shall take all
2 reasonable action to prevent such person from running for office as a Democrat,
3 serving in public office, or holding an office in the Party during the five-year
4 period.

5
6 (2) Permissive Expulsion. Expulsion shall be implemented by the Secretary of the
7 State Central Committee. The Party shall take all reasonable action to prevent
8 such person from participating in Party activities, running for public office as a
9 Democrat, or serving in public office for the period provided in the decision of the
10 County Committee or State Central Committee for at least three (3) years but not
11 more than five (5) years.

12
13 (3) Suspension. Suspension shall be implemented by the Secretary of the State
14 Central Committee. The individual shall be barred from participating in Party
15 events or from serving in their elected or appointed capacity with the Party for the
16 duration of the suspension. Any member who violates the terms of their
17 suspension may face removal from their position or expulsion from the
18 Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

19
20 (4) Reprimand. The Party shall take all reasonable action to prevent such member
21 from holding an office in the Party for up to three (3) years.

22
23 (5) Censure. In the case of censure by a County, an official letter of censure shall be
24 written by the County Chair. In the case of censure by the State Central
25 Committee, an official letter of censure shall be written by the Party Chair. The
26 letter shall be addressed to the accused member with a copy to the complainant
27 and shall be available for inspection by Party members. No additional sanctions
28 shall apply. No further action shall be taken on the complaint.

29
30 (6) Voluntary Resignation. When a member has voluntarily resigned from the
31 Democratic Party to engage in activities which are grounds for mandatory
32 expulsion, the member shall be barred from re-enrolling for Party membership for
33 at least three (3) years from the date of Resignation.

34
35 7D. Censure and/or Removal from a Meeting.

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

1 General Election as well as helping find poll watchers for the General Election.

2
3 (2) The various Vice-Chairpersons of the District Council in the order of their
4 respective designation shall have the power to perform the duties and functions of
5 the District Chairperson in the absence or sickness of the District Chairperson or
6 in the event the District Chairperson fails or neglects to perform such duties. The
7 First Vice-Chairperson shall be responsible for assisting the State Secretary in
8 gathering and updating the contact information for their District members.

9
10 (a) In the event the District Chairperson permanently vacates or is unable to
11 perform the duties and functions of the Chairperson, the First Vice-
12 Chairperson shall become District Chairperson.

13
14 (b) In the event the District Chairperson is temporarily unable to perform the
15 duties and functions of the District Chairperson, the First Vice-
16 Chairperson shall become District Chairperson for such time as the elected
17 District Chairperson is incapacitated.

18
19 (3) The Secretary shall be charged with keeping accurate minutes of all meetings of
20 the District Council. These minutes shall be properly typewritten and entered
21 along with all written reports of officers and committees in a book or file
22 maintained for that purpose and turned over intact to the succeeding Secretary.
23 The Secretary shall keep all records relating to the District and maintain and keep
24 the membership list of the members of the Party for the District on a current basis
25 with addresses and precinct designations.

26
27 (4) The Treasurer shall be the District's representative on the State's Fundraising
28 Committee. The Treasurer shall be primarily responsible for all fundraising
29 activities within the District Council, shall collect funds, issue receipts, collect
30 contributor information using a standard form provided by the County Committee
31 Treasurer and promptly forward said funds and information to the County
32 Committee Treasurer.

33
34 The County Committee Treasurer will ensure compliance requirements are met
35 and account for funds by designating line items for allocated funds set aside for
36 the District Council(s).

37
38 1D. Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is
39 empowered to act for the District Council between its regular meetings; and shall have general
40 supervision of the affairs of the District Council, fix the date, hours and place of meetings, make
41 recommendations to the District Council, assure that all financial reports are submitted in a
42 timely manner, and perform such other duties as may be necessary to support the Democratic
43 Party of Hawai'i and/or County policies and activities. Meetings of the Executive Committee
44 will be at the call of the District Chairperson or at the written request of any two members of the
45 Executive Committee.

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Section 2. Meeting Notices, Attendance at Meetings.

District Council meetings may be held at any time by call of the Chairperson or upon a written request submitted to the Secretary or Chairperson by not less than twenty-five (25%) percent of the total membership of the District Council. Notice of the District Council 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.

Section 3. Quorum.

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

Section 4. Proxies.

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

Section 5. Committees.

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

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

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

- (1) Use of the Party’s email notification system and:
- (2) Publication at least once in one newspaper of general circulation in each of the Counties, where the Secretary may post a summary notice that directs readers to the Party’s county and state internet websites; or

Social media notifications as the Secretary may determine will be most likely to provide actual notice to the public; and use of the Party’s email notification system
- (3) Provided, that in the County of Hawai‘i, notice shall be published in both East and West Hawai‘i, as follows:
 - (a) By the first week of December of odd numbered years in order to facilitate the compilation of said list of biennial election meeting places, each County Chairperson shall be responsible to contact each District Chair who shall be responsible to secure a meeting place in order of preference: (a) polling place, (b) community center, or (c) other.
 - (b) The District Chairperson is responsible for reporting to the County Chairperson with

1 the meeting places by December 21. The County Chairperson must submit to the State
2 Party Secretary a completed list of meeting places by January 5 of even-numbered years.

3
4 (c) Locations will not be necessary if the State Central Committee decides that the
5 biennial election meetings are to be held entirely online.
6

7 6B. The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Headquarters shall issue a copy of the membership list of
8 each District broken down by precinct to the District Council Chairpersons not later than thirty
9 (30) calendar days before the regular elections for District officers, delegates and/or alternates
10 by precinct, as follows:

11
12 (1) The official list shall include only the names of those persons eligible to participate in
13 the biennial elections. A copy of this list will be available to any interested Democrat
14 at the County Office and District Council.
15

16 (2) Members listed on the official membership list for that precinct and district shall be
17 eligible to vote in that precinct for delegates and/or alternates and for the District
18 officers. Others who do not appear on said list and who support the Democratic Party
19 and wish to join it shall enroll in the Party as provided in the Bylaws of the
20 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, and they will be eligible to vote in the biennial election.
21

22 6C. Where a name has been omitted from the certified list and the member whose name was
23 omitted produces at the precinct election meeting a dated membership card signed by a Secretary
24 of a County Committee, County Chairperson, Secretary of the State Central Committee, or Party
25 Chairperson showing membership or the form provided in Article I of the Constitution of the
26 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, and proof of voter registration in that precinct, that name shall be
27 added to the list noting the date of membership. The respective Secretaries of District Council,
28 the County Committee and State Central Committee will be informed of the addition made to the
29 certified list.
30

31 6D. Within ten (10) calendar days after issuance of this certified list, any member may challenge
32 any name appearing on the district list by submitting in writing reasons therefore to the Secretary
33 of the District Council. These challenges shall be heard promptly by the Executive Committee
34 of the District Council upon due notice to the parties of the time and place of the hearing and
35 shall be disposed of prior to the election of precinct officers and delegates. The decision of the
36 Executive Committee of the District Council shall be final and conclusive.
37

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

1 Only members who reside in a precinct shall be eligible to elect State Convention delegates
2 allocated to that precinct.

3
4 After forty-five (45) calendar days from the biennial election meeting, the District Council may
5 fill District Councilmember, delegate, and alternate vacancies, by not later than fifteen (15)
6 calendar days prior to the state convention, as follows:

7
8 (1) Fill delegate vacancies by alternates elected at the biennial election meeting, with
9 priority to alternates within the precinct; and then from other precincts within the
10 District;

11
12 (2) Fill alternate delegate vacancies by appointment of members who reside in the
13 precinct who express an interest after the biennial election meeting.

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

22
23 Officers and delegates or alternates so elected shall have the same rights and privileges at a
24 County or State Convention as if they were elected at the biennial election meeting, so long as
25 they are elected at least fifteen (15) calendar days prior to such Convention.

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

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

43
44 (1) Time, place, and date of the meeting;

45 (2) Names and addresses of eligible District members present and voting;

1 (3) Names and addresses of the District officers elected; and

2 (4) Names and addresses of the elected delegates and alternates elected.

3
4 6H. The certified District Council election report forms shall be maintained on file at the County
5 and State offices and shall be open to inspection by any registered member of the Party.

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

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

31
32 6K. Challenges concerning the election of District Council and delegates to the State
33 Convention for precincts which held elections subsequent to the biennial election meetings shall
34 be made no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the elections following the procedures in
35 described in this Section.

36
37 **Section 7. Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention.**

38 7A. To provide every precinct representation at the State Convention, a precinct will elect
39 alternate delegates equal to the number of delegates allocated to the precinct, provided that the
40 official membership roster for their precinct, at the time of the biennial election meeting certified
41 adequate membership for the precinct to elect an equal number of alternates, as follows:

- 42
43 (1) Any member of the precinct may be elected to represent that precinct as a delegate or
44 alternate at the State Convention. Alternates shall be elected in an order of
45 succession to delegate status beginning with the number one (1). If a delegate is

1 unable to attend the State Convention, the delegate may choose any alternate of that
2 delegate's same gender elected in the precinct to serve in that delegate's stead. If no
3 elected alternate of the same gender is available, the delegate may designate an
4 elected alternate of a different gender in the delegate's stead. However, no alternate
5 shall act for more than one (1) delegate. In the event a delegate fails to choose an
6 elected alternate the succession of alternates to a delegate status shall be in the order
7 of succession as designated by the precinct at its biennial election meeting.
8

9 For in-person conventions only, an alternate, in order of succession, may be seated as
10 a delegate if a delegate has not registered no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the
11 published time of convening the Convention on the second day of the Convention.
12

13 The provision for reseating a delegate to the Convention shall be by the attendance
14 and in the following order of priority:
15

- 16 (a) Elected Delegate.
- 17 (b) Elected Alternate of the same gender of the absent Delegate chosen by the absent
18 Delegate.
- 19 (c) Elected Alternate of the same gender in the order of succession.
- 20 (d) Elected Alternate of a different gender of the absent Delegate chosen by the
21 Absent Delegate.
- 22 (e) Elected Alternate of a different gender in the order of succession.
23

24 7B. Precinct Presidential Poll During Presidential Election Years. The State Central Committee
25 shall determine the date, time manner and place of the presidential preference poll in line with
26 Democratic National Committee Regulations.
27

28 **Section 8. Notice of Meetings.**

29 No biennial election meeting shall be duly called unless the Secretary of the County Committee
30 provides notice to the entire membership by posting the meeting notification on the Democratic
31 Party of Hawai'i website in accordance with the Affirmative Action Plan, at least five (5)
32 calendar days prior to the date of the meeting. Notice may also be provided to the membership
33 by telephone, electronic mail or personal or written notice mailed to the last known
34 address. However, the notification requirements of this section shall be waived when a second
35 attempt is made to hold a Biennial Election meeting for the purpose of electing District officers,
36 delegates and/or alternates to the State Convention, provided that each member who attended the
37 earlier attempted meeting is notified by telephone, electronic mail, or personal notice at least five
38 (5) calendar days in advance of any subsequent meeting.
39
40

41 **ARTICLE IV – COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS**

42

43 **Section 1. Organization.**

44 Each County Committee shall make available to its respective delegates and alternates the final
45 reports, including any and all recommendations and amendments proposed for adoption by the

1 State Convention, submitted by all County appointed standing committees including those
2 committees on Platform, Resolutions, Rules, Affirmative Action, at least twenty-four (24) hours
3 prior to the convening of the County Convention.
4

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

6 The County Committee of each County Organization shall submit proposed bylaws to the State
7 Central Committee within ninety (90) calendar days of adoption. The State Central Committee
8 shall, within one-hundred-twenty (120) calendar days of receipt of the Bylaws changes, notify
9 the County and rule on their acceptability. Upon the determination by the State Central
10 Committee that the proposed rules or rule changes are consistent with the Constitution and
11 Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i such County Committee rules, or rule changes shall
12 become effective.
13

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

15 3A. Regular meetings of the County Committee shall be held at least once every three (3)
16 months at such time and place as the members may decide in accordance with their own rules.
17 Notice of the County Committee meetings shall be given in person, by telephone, by facsimile,
18 by electronic mail, or by mailing such notice to the last known address of each member not less
19 than five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting.
20

21 3B. Special meetings may be held at any time by call of the Chairperson or upon written request
22 submitted to the Secretary or Chairperson by not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total
23 membership. Notice of special meetings shall be given in person, by telephone, by electronic
24 mail, by facsimile or by mailing such notice to the last known address of each member not less
25 than five (5) calendar days prior to the meetings.
26

27 3C. In the event that a County Committee fails to hold its convention and/or fails to elect its
28 County Chairperson and other officers as provided by its bylaws, the State Party Chair shall call
29 and convene a special meeting of that county committee which shall fill whatever vacancies may
30 be required to ensure that the county is fully represented at its county committee meetings and on
31 the State Central Committee, the State Central Committee's Executive Committee, and at the
32 next State Convention. If this special meeting of the county committee fails to achieve quorum,
33 the State Party Chair shall, after soliciting candidates from all the eligible party members of the
34 county, appoint a member of the county to serve as County Chairperson, with the advice and
35 consent of the SCC and the remaining vacant officer positions shall be by appointment of the
36 County Chairperson.
37

38
39 **ARTICLE V – STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**
40

41 **Section 1. Apportionment.**

42 The State Central Committee shall state the number of Committee persons for each Senatorial
43 District in its proclamation calling for the State Convention, subject to Article VI of the
44 Constitution of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.
45

1 **Section 2. Nomination and Filing.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44

1 **Section 3. Officers.**

2 The duties of the Officers of the State Central Committee shall be those usually pertaining to the
3 office concerned and specifically include any duties imposed as follows:
4

- 5 (1) The Party Chairperson shall serve as chairperson of the State Central Committee
6 and appoint chairpersons of all special and standing committees with the advice
7 and consent of the State Central Committee. Vacancies may be filled on an
8 interim basis until confirmed by the State Central Committee at its next meeting.
9 The Chairperson shall call all regular and special meetings of the Executive and
10 State Central Committee. The Chairperson shall submit an operating budget for
11 the biennium following the initial organization meeting of the State Central
12 Committee.
13

14 The Chairperson shall serve faithfully on behalf of the Democratic Party of
15 Hawai'i as an active member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and
16 the DNC's Association of State Democratic Chairs (ASDC) and is encouraged to
17 attend each regular DNC and ASDC meeting.
18

- 19 (2) The elected Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties and functions of the
20 Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall also
21 perform other duties and functions as assigned by the Chairperson. The elected
22 Vice-Chairperson shall also be charged with the responsibility of monitoring the
23 activities of the standing committees.
24

25 The elected Vice-Chairperson shall serve faithfully on behalf of the Democratic
26 Party of Hawai'i as an active member of the Democratic National Committee
27 (DNC) and the DNC's Association of State Democratic Chairs (ASDC) and is
28 encouraged to attend each regular DNC and ASDC meeting.
29

- 30 (3) The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Executive and State Central
31 Committee meetings in a permanent Minutes book. The Secretary shall also have
32 primary responsibility for the care and maintenance of the membership lists. The
33 Secretary shall be responsible for seeing that such lists are available for inspection
34 by interested Democrats at all reasonable times. The membership lists, certified
35 as correct to the best of the Secretary's knowledge and belief, shall be turned over
36 intact to the new Secretary at the end of the old Secretary's term of office. The
37 Secretary shall also be responsible for issuing membership cards, in such form as
38 may be prescribed by the State Central Committee, to all duly certified members
39 of the Party with the County. The Secretary is responsible for providing annual
40 notification to the Party members in writing, by electronic mail or by posting the
41 notice on the Party's webpage that annual voluntary membership dues are
42 requested.
43

- 44 (4) The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in carrying on the various duties
45 assigned to the Secretary and shall perform the duties, in the absence of the

1 Secretary.

2
3 (5) The Treasurer shall account for all moneys received by the Party and shall follow
4 standard accounting procedures in recording receipt of moneys and the
5 disbursement of funds. All disbursements shall be by check, bank draft, or debit
6 card, signed by the Treasurer or in his/her absence the Assistant Treasurer and
7 countersigned by either the Party Chairperson or the elected Vice-Chairperson, or
8 in their absence, the Secretary or Assistant Secretary. All disbursements should
9 be supported by a document, or an invoice approved through a prescribed
10 procedure. Other duties and responsibilities include:

11
12 (a) Provide a financial statement on its operations at each meeting of the
13 Executive and State Central Committee.

14
15 (b) To comply with all tax laws as it applies to the Party as an employer.

16
17 (c) To determine and analyze the biennial budget at regular intervals and
18 report its findings to the finance committee.

19
20 (d) To serve as an ex-officio member of all special projects where a subsidiary
21 set of records is kept with an appointed Treasurer. These projects upon
22 completion should be incorporated into the general books of the Party and
23 filed as a part of the Treasurer's general record.

24
25 (e) To receive funds, receipts, and contributor information on an ongoing
26 basis from County, and District Treasurers as necessary to comply with
27 any Federal or State laws governing political campaign contributions and
28 expenditures.

29
30 (f) To comply with, prepare reports or assist in the preparation of reports
31 required by any Federal or State laws governing political campaign
32 contributions and expenditures.

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

34
35 (6) The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in carrying on the various duties
36 assigned to the Treasurer and shall perform the duties, in absence of the
37 Treasurer.

38
39 **Section 4. Term of Office.**

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

44
45 **Section 5. Filling of Vacancies.**

1 5A. The vacancy in the office of the Party Chairperson shall be filled by the State Central
2 Committee by election of an interim Party Chairperson. The elected Vice-Chairperson shall
3 assume the office of Acting Party Chairperson for a period not to exceed forty-five (45) calendar
4 days during which time the State Central Committee shall elect an interim Party Chairperson.

5
6 5B. The vacancy in the office of the National Committee Member shall be filled by the Party
7 Chairperson with the concurrence of the majority of the State Central Committee members
8 present at the State Central Committee meeting where the position is filled, until the following
9 Democratic State Convention. In a non-presidential year, the term of the new officer shall take
10 effect upon conclusion of the State Convention. In a presidential year, the term of the
11 committeemember shall begin at the conclusion of the national convention.

12
13 5C. Vacancy in the office of Youth Representative shall be filled by the Party Chairperson with
14 the concurrence of the majority of the State Central Committee members present at the State
15 Central Committee meeting where the position is filled and the Executive Board of the Young
16 Democrats of Hawai'i.

17
18 5D. Any vacancy in the office of the Committee Person from a Senatorial District or the County
19 Representative shall be filled by the County Committee within which the past incumbent resided.
20 The person filling the vacancy shall meet the requirements of the candidate for Committee
21 Person.

22
23 5E. Any vacancy in the office of Caucus Representative shall be filled by the Caucus as set forth
24 in Caucus bylaws. A position is deemed vacant if a Caucus Representative no longer maintains
25 Caucus membership or is otherwise ineligible according to approved Caucus bylaws. If the
26 Caucus fails to fill the vacancy within forty-five (45) calendar days, it shall be filled by the Party
27 Chairperson.

28
29 5F. In the absence of a Secretary or an Assistant Secretary, the State Central Committee Chair
30 may appoint a Secretary Pro Tem who does not need to be a member of the State Central
31 Committee for a single meeting.

32
33 5G. If vacancies are not filled within forty-five (45) calendar days, the State Central Committee
34 shall fill the vacancies.

35
36 **Section 6. Meetings.**

37 6A. To the extent possible, the place of the meeting of the State Central Committee or of the
38 Executive Committee shall be rotated among the Counties; and, whenever possible, all or a
39 portion of the cost of transportation of members from Counties other than the County in which
40 the meeting is held shall be defrayed from the Party treasury.

41
42 6B. Minutes of each meeting shall be kept and permanently filed by the Secretary in a book kept
43 for such purposes, which book shall be turned over to the next succeeding Secretary of the State
44 Central Committee. Copies of the minutes shall be made available to Party members upon
45 request.

1
2 6C. The State Central Committee is empowered to establish rules and procedures for
3 participation in its meetings by telephonic or electronic means. Participation in meetings by such
4 means shall be construed as attendance for purposes of quorum and voting.

5
6 6D. Notice of regular meetings shall be given not less than ten (10) calendar days before the
7 meeting and may be delivered by mail, fax, or electronic mail.

8
9 6E. Notice of special meetings shall be given not less than five (5) calendar days before the
10 meeting and may be delivered by mail, fax, or electronic mail.

11
12 6F. Meetings of the State Central Committee shall normally be open to all Party members.
13 Under exceptional circumstances, the State Central Committee may decide to go into Executive
14 Session to deal with a matter. Any decision to go into Executive Session shall require a two-
15 thirds vote of State Central Committee members in attendance.

16
17 **Section 7. Proxies.**

18 7A. State Central Committee members unable to attend a State Central Committee meeting may
19 give their proxy to another member. In no event shall a State Central Committee member carry
20 more than one proxy.

21
22 7B. All proxies must be in writing in the form approved by the State Central Committee and
23 shall be filed with the Secretary of the State Central Committee.

24
25 **Section 8. Caucuses.**

26 8A. Minimal criteria for certification of a caucus shall include:

- 27
28 (1) Sufficient statewide membership. The State Central Committee may establish a
29 minimum membership of not less than twenty (20) Caucus members from at least
30 two (2) Counties, to apply for and to maintain certification.
31
32 (2) Caucus Bylaws shall be consistent with the Constitution of the Democratic Party
33 of Hawai'i. The Bylaws shall provide for democratic selection of officers and
34 representatives to the State Central Committee, defined terms of office,
35 membership that is open to all Party members who belong to the defined
36 constituency, public notice of meetings, and quorum. The Caucus bylaws shall be
37 filed with the Standing Rules Committee of the State Central Committee for
38 review and comment and must be approved by the State Central Committee.
39
40 (3) Application for certification as a Democratic Party of Hawai'i Caucus shall
41 include a record of meetings and activity that establishes the viability of the
42 Caucus.
43
44 (4) Certification shall be continuous until officially terminated by the State Central
45 Committee due to:

- 1 (a) Action of Caucus substantially not in compliance with Democratic Party
2 of Hawai‘i Constitution and Bylaws or the Caucus Bylaws, or
3 (b) At least twelve (12) consecutive months without meetings or required
4 reports.
5

6 8B. New Caucus Representatives to the State Central Committee. Within forty-five (45)
7 calendar days of certification of a new Caucus, the new Caucus shall nominate two (2)
8 representatives of different genders, taking office immediately upon the advice and consent of a
9 majority of the State Central Committee members present at the meeting at the time the
10 nomination is presented. Vacancies shall be filled according to this Article.
11

12 8C. The following caucuses are recognized by the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i:
13

- 14 (1) Hawaiian Affairs;
15 (2) Education;
16 (3) Environment;
17 (4) Kupuna;
18 (5) Stonewall;
19 (6) Labor;
20 (7) Veterans; and,
21 (8) Women.
22

23 8D. Any name change to a Caucus must be initiated by the respective Caucus.
24

25 8E. Reports and Certification. Each Caucus, to maintain its certification, shall make a written
26 report to the State Central Committee at least twice a year and at such other times as may be
27 necessary. Each Caucus must maintain a certified copy of its bylaws with the Democratic Party
28 of Hawai‘i which shall be posted on the Party’s website. Caucuses shall also provide a current
29 list of their officers to the State Central Committee by not later than July 1 every year.
30

31 8F. Any Caucus that fails to meet any of the required steps listed in Sections 8A and 8E to
32 maintain its certification will lose all access to use any of the Party assets, including but not
33 limited to Party Headquarters, Database, Email service, copying machine, etc. Access will be
34 restored once all the required steps have been completed. Failure to address any missing required
35 steps within thirty (30) calendar days of notification by the Secretary of the Party shall open the
36 Caucus to have its certification pulled by the State Central Committee.
37

38 **Section 9. Committees.**

39 9A. Every special committee and standing committee shall make a report in writing to the State
40 Central Committee or the Executive Committee if such committee was appointed by the
41 Executive Committee upon the conclusion of its work and at such other times as may be
42 required.
43

44 Either the Chair or Vice Chair of each of the standing committees shall be a member of the State
45 Central Committee. Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs shall be appointed by the Party

1 Chairperson with advice and consent of the State Central Committee. Membership on the
2 committees shall not be limited to State Central Committee members and shall include
3 representation from all four counties.

4
5 9B. Every such report shall be filed by the Secretary of the State Central Committee in the
6 Minute book of the Committee.

7
8 9C. The Finance Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer and shall prepare the biennial
9 budget in consultation with the Party Chairperson. Its membership shall include at least one (1)
10 member from each County. This budget shall be presented to the members of the State Central
11 Committee at the meeting following the initial organizational meeting of the State Central
12 Committee. In addition, the Finance Committee shall:

- 13
14 (1) Review and analyze the approved budget at regular intervals and if necessary,
15 submit the Committee's recommendation in regard to changes to the budget.
16
17 (2) Submit written policies and procedures relative to the various accounting
18 functions required to maintain proper financial records of the Party to the State
19 Central Committee for its approval.
20
21 (3) Oversee special fundraising projects undertaken in the name of the Democratic
22 Party to ensure that proper accounting procedures are followed in conforming
23 with the policies and procedures established in Article V of the Constitution of the
24 Democratic Party of Hawai'i.
25
26 (4) Review staff appointments made by the Party Chairperson and the amount of
27 remuneration to be paid the staff member in conformance with the adopted
28 budget. Review the appointment of individual contractors and the requirement for
29 a formal contract to be signed by the Party Chairperson and the independent
30 contractor. Review all contracts with independent contractors and contractor's
31 remuneration levels for services to be rendered.
32

33 9D. PLATFORM: The Platform Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and proposing
34 updates to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's Platform and work to encourage support of the
35 Platform. The Platform Committee shall also be responsible for formulation, distribution and
36 collecting results of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform Survey as required for all
37 candidates running as a member of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. The Platform Committee
38 shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to it by
39 the Chair and/or State Central Committee.
40

41 9E. LEGISLATION: The Legislation Committee shall be responsible for preparing and
42 promoting the passage of legislation consistent with the positions of the Democratic Party as
43 expressed in the platform and resolutions adopted at the State Convention, or by a vote of the
44 State Central Committee. The Legislation Committee shall prepare a plan for approval by the
45 State Central Committee prior to each legislative session, shall provide timely reports to the State

1 Central Committee during the session and shall be subject to oversight by the State Central
2 Committee. The Legislation Committee shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as
3 from time-to-time may be assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central Committee.
4

5 9F. RULES: The Rules Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and proposing updates to
6 the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Constitution and Bylaws, assisting in the development of the
7 Standing Rules for the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, reviewing and determining the validity of
8 changes submitted by the Counties and Caucuses Bylaws, reviewing requests for establishment
9 of new caucuses to assure eligibility requirements are met, making recommendations for
10 certification, reviewing any allegations of rules violations and reporting its findings and
11 recommendations to the State Central Committee, and interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws
12 when called upon by the Chair or members of the State Central Committee. The Rules
13 Committee shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be
14 assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central Committee.
15

16 9G. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: The Affirmative Action Committee shall be responsible for
17 reviewing and proposing updates to the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s Affirmative Action plan,
18 implementing the Affirmative Action Plan, assisting the Membership Committee in outreach to
19 under-represented communities in the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, and ensuring that concerted
20 efforts are made to reach those communities. The Affirmative Action Committee shall be
21 responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to it by the
22 Chair and/or State Central Committee.
23

24 9H. MEMBERSHIP: The Membership Committee shall be responsible for coordinating
25 recruitment of new members and membership drives, developing and maintaining on boarding
26 procedures for new members, encouraging the registration of voters, as well as coordinating
27 membership enhancements – i.e. talent management. The Membership Committee shall also be
28 responsible for training materials. The Membership Committee shall be responsible for matters
29 delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central
30 Committee.
31

32 9I. FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE. The Fundraising Committee shall be responsible for
33 planning, organizing, and implementing statewide Democratic Party of Hawai‘i fundraising
34 activities. The Fundraising Committee will also develop and offer training on fundraising
35 requirements for the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. The Fundraising Committee shall be
36 responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to it by the
37 Chair and/or State Central Committee.
38

39 9J. COMMUNICATIONS: The Communications Committee shall be responsible for
40 establishing and maintaining the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s social media platforms as well
41 as establishing and maintaining a member newsletter. It will also maintain a media outreach
42 center. The Communications Committee shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as
43 from time-to-time may be assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central Committee.
44

45 9K. COMMUNITY RELATIONS: The Community Relations Committee shall be responsible

1 for social services projects on behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, as well as developing a
2 plan for building positive relationships with key community organizations that support the
3 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i platform in the community. The Community Relations Committee
4 shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to it by
5 the Chair and/or State Central Committee.
6

7 9L. CONVENTION: The Convention Committee shall be responsible for planning, organizing,
8 fundraising and implementing the biennial Democratic Party of Hawai‘i State Convention. By a
9 date established by the State Central Committee, the Convention Committee shall recommend to
10 the State Central Committee a Convention plan that will include the suggested theme for the
11 Convention, the recommended location of the Convention, a recommended Convention budget, a
12 fundraising plan, and the recommended State Convention Standing Rules. This information will
13 be provided to State Central Committee members at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the
14 meeting in which this information will be considered by the State Central Committee. The
15 Convention Committee shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time
16 may be assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central Committee.
17

18 9M. CAMPAIGN: The Campaign Committee shall be responsible for training of members to run
19 campaigns – candidates, volunteer coordinators, campaign managers, and campaign treasurers.
20 The Campaign Committee shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-
21 time may be assigned to it by the Chair and/or State Central Committee.
22

23 9N. COMPLIANCE REVIEW: The Compliance Review Committee shall be responsible for
24 ensuring an annual review of the financial records of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i for
25 compliance with any federal, state, Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and Democratic National
26 Committee requirements and proper authorized expenditures, and shall review the system it uses
27 to account for revenue and expenses. The Compliance Review Committee shall be responsible
28 for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to it by the Chair and/or
29 State Central Committee.
30

31 9O. PARTY-RUN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY: In the 3-year term proceeding the Presidential
32 Election the Party-run Presidential Primary Committee shall be responsible for reviewing the
33 requirements from the Democratic National Committee that govern the process to hold a Party-
34 run Presidential Primary (PPP) so they can assist in writing the Delegate Selection Plan and
35 develop the program to implement the PPP and lead the effort to fundraise to pay for their plan.
36 In the 1st year after a PPP the Committee shall review the process just used to provide advice and
37 suggestions to make the system more accessible for all members to vote.
38
39

40 **ARTICLE VI – STATE CONVENTION**

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

42 The State Convention will be called biennially in May of each even numbered year, or at such
43 other times as may be determined by the State Central Committee. The date and place of the
44 meeting shall be fixed by the State Central Committee. The place of the meeting may be rotated
45

1 in non-Presidential Election years among the following three (3) counties in the state of Hawai'i
2 - Kaua'i, Maui & Hawai'i. In Presidential Election years, the Convention shall be held on O'ahu,
3 unless the State Central Committee decides to call an electronic Convention which may conduct
4 business online as described in Standing Rules as it may adopt. Notice thereof shall be given by
5 the methods as determined by the State Central Committee not less than ten (10) calendar days
6 prior to the date of the biennial election meetings.

7
8 **Section 2. Composition.**

9 2A. Incumbent Party Chairperson, National Committee Members, State Central Committee
10 Members, Incumbent and Immediate Past County at-Large Representatives to the State Central
11 Committee, District Chairpersons, Incumbent and Immediate Past County Chairpersons,
12 including ex-officio members of the State Central Committee, former Democratic Governors,
13 former Democratic Lieutenant Governors, and former Democratic Party Chairpersons.

14
15 2B. Elected Federal, State and County Officials, or officials who may have been appointed to
16 fill a vacant position of an elected official, which do not include members of the Neighborhood
17 Boards, who meet the following requirements:

- 18
19 (1) Be a member in good standing.
20
21 (2) Have attained their present office in an election as a Democrat or appointed to fill
22 a vacant position of an elected official or have attained their present office in a
23 nonpartisan election provided they are Democratic Party members in good
24 standing.
25
26 (3) The rights and privileges granted in this paragraph are nontransferable.

27
28 2C. The delegates in Section 2A and 2B above shall have all the rights and privileges of a
29 delegate but shall not be allowed to vote in the National Convention Delegate Selection Process
30 unless elected as a State Convention delegate in their respective biennial election meeting. In
31 non-presidential years, those qualified to serve as automatic delegates shall not be eligible to
32 hold an elected delegate slot. A delegate elected at a biennial election meeting shall
33 automatically vacate that position upon election to an office entitling them to an automatic
34 delegate seat.

35
36 2D. The number of State Convention delegates allotted to each precinct shall be determined by
37 the total number of votes cast for the Democratic candidate in the most recent gubernatorial or
38 presidential election.

- 39
40 (1) The number of delegates allotted to each precinct shall be determined by the total
41 votes cast in each precinct for the Democratic gubernatorial or presidential
42 candidate, divided by the total number of votes cast for the Democratic
43 gubernatorial or presidential candidate, and the result multiplied by 1000.
44
45 (2) If the result for any Precinct is less than or equal to two (2) delegates, that

1 Precinct shall elect two (2) delegates.

2

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

5

6 (4) If the result for any Precinct is greater than two delegates and more than fifty
7 percent (50%) of each additional delegate, that Precinct shall be entitled to one
8 additional delegate.

9

10 2E. Precincts shall elect delegates and alternates reflecting gender diversity, making note of the
11 history of under representation of women, other genders and those that do not adhere to the
12 gender binary, except as provided below:

13

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

16

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

20

21 **Section 3. Purposes.**

22 3A. To elect two (2) National Committee Members of different genders in every Presidential
23 election year by the delegates voting at-large and to fill any vacancy in these positions in the
24 non-Presidential election year. In the event there is a vacancy in the office of either National
25 Committee Member due to death or to resignation, such vacancy shall be filled by the State
26 Central Committee until the following Democratic State Convention.

27

28 3B. To elect delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention in every
29 Presidential election year. The number of delegates and alternates allotted to each State is
30 determined by the Democratic National Convention (based on the Hawai'i National Delegate
31 Selection Plan and Affirmative Action Plan).

32

33 (1) The Delegate Selection Plan regarding the selection of delegates and alternates to
34 the Democratic National Convention shall be approved by the State Central
35 Committee and published on the website of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i
36 within thirty (30) calendar days of the approval of the plan by the Democratic
37 National Committee.

38

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

42

43 (3) Slate-Making. Any individual or group of Democrats may sponsor or endorse a
44 slate of candidates for National Convention Delegates. But no slate may receive
45 preferential treatment for a preferential place on a delegate selection ballot or be

1 publicly identified on the ballot as the “official” slate. All slates must meet the
2 same qualifying requirements set forth in this Article.
3

4 3C. To elect Presidential Electors and Alternates, as prescribed by law, in every Presidential
5 election year, by the delegates voting at-large. Candidates for Presidential Electors and
6 Alternates shall be members of the Party in good standing for at least one (1) year.
7

8 3D. To elect the Democratic Party Chairperson and members of the State Central Committee,
9 except County Representatives elected at the County Convention, youth representatives elected
10 by their members, and caucus representatives elected by their members as provided by their
11 bylaws.

12 (1) The Chairperson of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, Caucus Representatives,
13 and the Youth Representatives, shall be elected by the Convention delegates
14 voting at-large.
15

16 (2) The State Central Committee members, representing Senatorial Districts, shall be
17 elected by the State Convention delegates from the respective Senatorial Districts;
18 provided that two (2) representatives of different genders shall be elected from
19 each County or a Senatorial District which covers more than one County. State
20 Central Committee members, representing their Counties, shall be elected by their
21 County Convention.
22

23 (3) The elected or appointed Democratic officials or candidates running for elective
24 public office, with the exception of those running for or elected as a delegate to
25 the State Constitutional Convention, are not eligible to be Chairperson of the
26 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.
27

28 (4) Election of the Party Chairperson shall include weighted votes, unless an in-
29 person Convention cannot be held due to an emergency, and/or a mail or
30 electronic ballot has been authorized by the State Central Committee.
31

32 (a) Weighted votes are defined as those delegates not registered at the State
33 Convention. Weighted votes shall be permitted for members in Counties
34 who need to travel to another County to participate in the State
35 Convention. The total votes, including weighted votes, for any County
36 shall not exceed their allocated total.
37

38 (i) Weighted votes shall be applied automatically by the Elections
39 Committee for a County, by County, in direct proportion to the
40 votes cast for the various candidates by the registered delegates
41 of that County.
42

43 (ii) For mathematical computation, fractions shall be carried to two
44 decimal places. Fractional votes of one-half or more shall
45 increase to the next whole number, whereas less than one-half

1 shall have the fraction dropped. Where mathematical
2 computations cause the total County vote to exceed or decrease
3 its total allocated count, a coin toss by the Credentials
4 Chairperson, who shall be present in the Elections counting
5 room, shall be implemented to offset the discrepancy.
6

- 7 (5) All elections at the Convention shall be determined by a majority or the use of
8 Ranked Choice Voting, whereby voters list their choices in order of preference,
9 votes are tallied and if no candidate receives over 50% of votes cast, the candidate
10 with the fewest votes is removed and the votes on the ballots cast for them are
11 reassigned to the voters second choice. Rounds of vote tabulation continue until
12 the number of candidates remaining is equal to the number of seats to be awarded.
13

14
15 3E. To adopt the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

16
17 3F. To adopt the revisions, amendments, or alterations to the Constitution of the Democratic
18 Party of Hawai'i.

19
20 3G. To adopt Resolutions.

21
22 3H. To consider such other business as may come before it.
23

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

25 Any member of the Party wishing to be a candidate described in Article V of the Constitution of
26 the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall file a nomination paper with the Secretary of the State
27 Central Committee, signed by not less than ten (10) members of the Party for candidates for
28 statewide office and by not less than five (5) members of the Party for all other offices, at least
29 twenty (20) calendar days prior to the State Convention and pay to the Democratic Party of
30 Hawai'i a fee of ten dollars (\$10), except that papers for the County Representative seats shall be
31 filed at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the County Convention. In the event that no papers
32 have been filed by the filing deadline, the filing deadline shall be extended until ten (10) calendar
33 days prior to the State Convention. However, no additional nomination papers shall be allowed
34 for those positions for which papers had been filed by the filing deadline.
35

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

37 The State Central Committee is responsible to ensure the budget for State Convention allows
38 reasonable registration fees affordable to middle-and low-income delegates, and waivers to
39 delegates unable to pay the registration fee.
40

41 A request for waiver should be submitted in writing, by email, or on a form provided for this
42 purpose and conveyed to the State Convention Credentials Committee, as follows:
43

- 44 (1) The written request for waiver must be submitted within sixty (60) calendar days
45 following the biennial election meeting and explain the reason for the request.

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- (2) When reasonable circumstances justify a request for waiver submitted after the sixty (60) calendar day deadline, the Convention Credentials Committee shall consider whether circumstances justify the late request. Such circumstances may include alternates filling late-occurring delegate vacancies, or other reasonable cause for a delayed submittal.
 - (3) A full or partial waiver shall be granted if the delegate is unable to pay the full registration fee.

Section 6. Organization of the Convention.

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

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

- (1) Convention Platform Committee: Responsible to receive proposals to amend or revise the Platform. Prepares a report of recommendations to the Convention.
- (2) Convention Rules Committee: Responsible to receive proposals to amend or revise the rules of the Party. Shall have the power to format, edit, combine proposed rules changes, and make substantive amendments that do not alter the intent of the proposed rule addition or change. Prepares a report of recommendations to the Convention.
- (3) Convention Resolutions Committee(s): Responsible to receive resolutions. Shall have the power to format, edit, combine resolutions of similar substance, and make substantive amendments that do not alter the intent of the resolving clauses. Prepares a report of recommendations to the Convention.
- (4) Convention Affirmative Action Committee: Responsible to receive recommendations concerning Affirmative Actions and to finalize recommendations to the Convention.
- (5) Convention Credentials Committee: Responsible to investigate and certify a temporary roll of delegates. The temporary roll as prepared by the Secretary of the State Central Committee will be accepted as prima-facie correct pending action by the duly appointed State Convention Credentials Committee.
 - (a) The Convention Credentials Committee shall hold hearings to decide a

1 contest with due notice to the parties.

- 2
3 (b) The Credentials Committee shall, throughout the delegate registration
4 period assess a member or members to the Registration Committee to verify
5 and certify a delegate's or an alternate's status for seating as a delegate.
6

7 6B. The Party Chairperson shall assure that all Convention Committees shall include members
8 from each County in proportion to the ratio of delegates allocated to each County to the total
9 number of delegates to the Convention. The Party Chairperson, with the concurrence of the
10 State Central Committee, shall establish a process to ensure that appointments to the Convention
11 Committees shall be fair, and that such committees shall in so far as practicable reflect the varied
12 constituencies and diverse views of the Convention delegates. Each recognized Caucus and the
13 Young Democrats may have a member on the Rules, Platform and Resolutions committees and
14 each of these committees shall have a minimum of 41 members. In a presidential election year,
15 efforts shall be made to appoint committees whose membership reflects the proportion of votes
16 cast for the presidential candidates.
17

18 6C. The Chairperson(s) of each Convention Committee shall notify committee members at least
19 five (5) calendar days in advance of any Convention meetings.
20

- 21 (1) On the opening day of the Convention, all Convention Committee members who
22 are Convention delegates shall constitute the membership of the Convention
23 Committee.
24
25 (2) Only registered Convention delegates shall actively participate and vote on the
26 issues before the committee.
27
28 (3) Authors of proposals before a committee may speak for the proposal in accord
29 with committee procedure.
30
31 (4) Convention Resolutions Committee(s) shall have the power to format, edit,
32 combine resolutions of similar substance, and make substantive amendments.
33 This committee will report to the assembled delegates only those resolutions it
34 recommends for adoption.
35

36 6D. The Convention Standing Rules and the Convention Budget will be adopted by the State
37 Central Committee not later than January of the year of the State Convention.
38

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

40 Unit Rule shall not be permitted in any vote at the State Convention. "Unit Rule," as used in this
41 section, means any agreement entered into by any delegation that a majority of the votes from
42 the delegation on any issue or election will bind the total delegation vote on such issue or
43 election, unless the agreement is entered into by unanimous vote.
44

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

2 The Party Chairperson shall be called upon to present a full report of the State Central
3 Committee's activities. The Treasurer of the State Central Committee shall report and submit a
4 financial statement on the financial status of the Party. Both reports shall be included in the
5 Convention packet for all delegates.
6

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

8 The Secretary of the State Central Committee shall publish on the website of the Democratic
9 Party of Hawai'i the following documents at least five (5) calendar days prior to the date of the
10 Convention: the proposed changes to the Party Platform, the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the
11 Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and the Affirmative Action Plan; proposed resolutions; a list of all
12 candidates and the positions they seek to be elected to at the State Convention; and the list of all
13 proposed permanent Convention Committee members. Permanent Convention Committee
14 members shall be posted to the website as they are appointed/confirmed. The above information
15 shall be made available to all delegates via the website of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.
16

17 **Section 10. Candidate Speeches.**

18 No candidate may be charged a fee to speak at the State Convention.
19

20 **Section 11. Electronic Voting.**

21 Electronic voting or balloting may be used to adopt any convention business or elect nominees to
22 any position following procedures provided in the Convention Standing Rules adopted by the
23 State Central Committee.
24

25 **ARTICLE VII – REVENUES**

26
27 **Section 1. District Council Fund Raising.**

28 Each District Council shall be entitled to raise such funds as it deems necessary for the conduct
29 of its business and social affairs, and to meet assessments made by the County Committee. Such
30 funds shall be raised by assessments, dues or contributions, or by some specific business or
31 social projects. Where the funds are to be raised by some method other than assessment, dues, or
32 contributions, such method shall be coordinated by the County Committee. It shall be the
33 function of the County Committee to prevent conflicts between various fundraising projects and
34 similar projects on the County and State level.
35

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

37 It shall be the duty of the County Committee in each County and the State Central Committee to
38 raise and maintain as large a fund as possible to help elect all Party candidates in the general
39 election and to promote understanding and acceptance of the Party program in both the primary
40 and general election.
41
42

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

9 **Section 2. Party Sponsored Legislation.**

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

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

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

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

26 4A. The selection body, as defined in the Constitution, shall meet after proper notice to all
27 members not later than 12:00 p.m. on the third (3rd) day after the vacancy occurs, but not later
28 than 12:00 p.m. on the fiftieth (50th) day prior to the primary or special primary election or the
29 fortieth (40th) day prior to a general, special, or special general election. The selection body
30 shall forward the name of the replacement candidate to the Party Chairperson who shall transmit
31 the name to the Chief Election Officer or clerk.
32

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

40 4B. If for any reason, the selection body most immediately affected by the vacancy is unable for
41 whatever reason to fill the vacancy in a timely manner, the Party Chairperson may fill the
42 vacancy.
43

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

1 vacancy.

2
3 4D. Any meeting notice requirements may be waived by the selection body in order to meet the
4 time requirements of this section.

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

7 5A. For a State House or State Senate vacancy, the Party Chairperson shall notify the
8 appropriate County Chair of the announced vacancy, who in turn shall notify the appropriate
9 selection body as identified in Sections 9 (1) and 9 (2) of the Constitution of the Democratic
10 Party of Hawai‘i . The selection body shall make a call for candidates who are members in
11 “good standing.” A list of at least three (3) names shall be provided to the County Chair to
12 transmit to the Party Chairperson within twenty-one (21) calendar days. The Party Chairperson
13 shall transmit the list of names to the Governor’s Office within three (3) business days of receipt
14 of names.

15
16 A member in “good standing” means that the candidate shall have been a member of the Party or
17 a minimum of six (6) months prior to either the date on which the event occurs that creates a
18 vacancy during the term of the office or the public announcement of the office holder of their
19 intent to vacate the office during the term, whichever is appropriate and that the candidate is not
20 currently under reprimand or suspension pursuant to Article I of the Constitution of the
21 Democratic Party of Hawai‘i. No candidate shall be recommended who does not meet all the
22 qualifications for office set by law for candidates who file to run in an election for the vacant
23 office.

24
25
26 5B. The selection process for a State House or State Senate vacancy shall be conducted in a place
27 accessible to District Party members.

28
29 Prospective candidates are to provide to the County Chair for dissemination to the appropriate
30 selection body (as defined in Sections 9 (1) and 9 (2) of the Constitution of the Democratic Party
31 of Hawai‘i) a written application including the following:

- 32
33 (1) Credentials and reasons for consideration for appointment to the position;
34 (2) Evidence of party participation;
35 (3) Verified signatures of at least five (5) Party members within the District where the
36 vacancy has occurred.

37
38 5C. If for any reason, the body most immediately affected by the vacancy is unable to fill the
39 vacancy within the stated timeframe, the County Chairperson may recommend the names for an
40 office within the County or the Party Chairperson may recommend the names for a statewide
41 office.

42
43 **Section 6. Smoking.**

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

45

1 **Section 7. Prior Consent.**

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

4

5 **Section 8. Elections.**

6 8A. If unstated, whenever a winner cannot be determined in an election due to a tie, there shall
7 be an action taken to break the tie with a coin toss or odd man out procedure.

8

9 8B. Whenever secret ballots are used in an election, after the actual ballot count and election
10 results have been publicly posted, said ballots shall be destroyed after thirty (30) calendar days of
11 that posting. If a challenge arises, the appropriate governing body of that election may determine
12 a later date for the destroying of ballots.

13

14 **Section 9. Impossibility Provision.**

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

19

20 **Section 10. Policies**

21 Written policies formally adopted by the State Central Committee shall remain in effect until
22 amended or rescinded by the State Central Committee.

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