



**Democratic Party of Hawaii  
2018 State Convention  
Platform Committee Report**



To: Tim Vandever, Chair Democratic Party of Hawaii  
Re: Report of the 2018 State Convention Platform Committee (Majority Report)  
From: The 2018 State Convention Platform Committee  
Date: May 20, 2018

**RECOMMENDATION:** The 2018 Convention Platform Committee is pleased to recommend the attached amendment to the 2016 Democratic Party of Hawaii (DPH) Platform. There were thirty-one members on our Committee. On May 12, 2018 when the final vote was taken there were twenty-three members present of whom nineteen voted in favor of the recommended 2018 Platform, with just three opposed.

**PROPOSED AMENDED PLATFORM:** A copy of the 2016 Platform is attached showing the proposed amendments in “ramseyer” format. The proposed 2018 Platform also contains a table of contents, which as currently drafted, will be adjusted to correspond to the final contents of the 2018 Platform as voted upon by the delegates at the Convention. Sections of the 2016 Platform that remain but have been relocated in the document are included where relocated and not also printed and stricken in the original location within the document.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** The Chairpersons of the 2018 Convention Platform Committee are Raymond Catania from Kauai and Margaret Wille from Hawaii. Our “Scribe” Committee member Melodie Aduja from Oahu played a major role helping to put together the various drafts and integrating of the submissions.

The other Committee members were Tanya Aynessazia, Hawaii; Laura Brown-Clay, Kauai; Trish La Chica, Oahu; Denise Chillingworth, Oahu; Chris DeRego Coffield, Oahu; Donna Domingo, Maui; McLean Eames, Hawaii; Ken Farms, Oahu; Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Oahu; Laura Gharrazeddine, Hawaii; Mitzi Higa, Oahu; Gary Hooser, Kauai; Justin Hughey, Maui; Noel Kent, Oahu; Keith Kessler, Maui; Herman Lange, Hawaii; Tiare Lawrence, Oahu; Lennart Lundstrom, Hawaii; Terri Napeahi, Hawaii; Lynn Robinson Onderko, Oahu; Nadya Pennoff, Kauai; Amy Perusso, Oahu; Kerry Porter, Oahu; Rep. Sean Quinlan, Oahu; Carlos Santana, Oahu; Paul Spear, Kauai; Rob Weltman, Maui; Ben Wilson, Maui; Michael Zola, Hawaii.

**MEETING DATES AND PLACE:** Conference call meetings were held on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>. At the request of a committee member, the committee also met in person for the last three meetings at the DPH headquarters in Honolulu for those who were able to attend at that location. Co-chair Margaret Wille from Hawaii Island was present at the Honolulu headquarters location for the in-person meetings. DPH Executive Director Laura Nevitt also assisted at the in-person meetings.

**SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED:** We received the Oahu County 2018 Platform and a modified version of that platform principally authored by Committee members Melodie Aduja and Ken Farm, which modified version incorporated major sections of the National Democratic Party 2016 Platform. We also received the County of Hawaii 2018 Platform and a modified version of that platform, submitted by Hawaii County Chair and Committee co-chair Margaret Wille. In addition we received a number of other submissions. Committee member Rob Weltman submitted a proposed revision of the healthcare platform based on suggestions of DPH's Ad Hoc Healthcare Committee as well as a proposed amendment from Rob Weltman to the Agricultural section of the Platform. Committee member and Veterans Affairs Caucus Chair Carlos Santana submitted a proposal that was based on input from the Veterans Affairs Caucus. Michael Golojuch Jr. the party's assistant secretary and co-chair of the LGBTQIA caucus submitted proposals principally to the Civil and Human Rights, Labor, Housing, and Health sections largely concerning gender identification protocol and medical aid for the dying. All members of the Committee received copies of these submissions in advance of discussion of adoption of any proposed amendment. Each of these submissions were found to have been properly submitted.

**THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2016 PLATFORM:** The 2018 Convention Platform Committee proposes significant amendments to the 2016 DPH Platform. The Platform has also been reorganized into three major sections: "Preamble", "Legislative Priorities Action Planks", and "Overarching Principles".

The "Preamble" section includes word-for-word the Preamble in the 2016 Platform but adds a paragraph from the Oahu County Platform that sets forth the "17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals" – which goals generally reinforce the statement of values expressed in our DPH 2016 Platform.

The "Legislative Priorities Action Planks" section identifies targeted legislative priorities. This Section is composed of four core legislative goals with specific examples of legislative priorities that the Party supports and intends to advance:

1. Rebuild the Middle Class and Stamp Out Economic, Social and Cultural Inequities (for example - raise the minimum wage to \$15 hour by 2020)
2. Make Protecting The Environment And Our Cultural Assets A High Priority - advance measures to re-establish healthy climate and environment for humans and fellow species (for example address the climate change crisis);
3. Make Our Communities Safer Now including in schools and on the streets and in our homes (for example - advancing gun control measures such as ban on assault weapons and full background checks for all); and
4. Take Back Our Government (for example - measures to allow for direct democracy citizen initiatives with the appropriate protections to eliminate influences and impacts of "Big Money").

The "Legislative Priorities Action Planks" section is based on Hawaii County's 2018 Platform in the modified version submitted by Hawaii County Chair and Committee Co-chair Margaret Wille, and which was amended in part by the 2018 DPH Platform Committee.

The "Overarching Principles" section states DPH's policy positions in a subject-by-subject format. This section largely parallels the 2016 DPH Platform but is organized into five major subsections: The major subsections are as follows:

- A. Education And Economic Wellbeing
- B. Healthcare, Housing, And Socio-Cultural Wellbeing
- C. Energy And Environmental Wellbeing
- D. Wellbeing Of The Government And Of The Governed
- E. National Security, The Military, Peace And Veterans' Rights

The majority of the amendments to the "Overarching Principles section are based on the Oahu County 2018 Platform and the "Modified Oahu County Platform" as submitted by Oahu Committee members Melodie Aduja and Ken Farm which submission incorporated many provisions from the 2016 National Democratic Party Platform.

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE SUBMITTED AMENDMENTS. The individual proposals received from Rob Weltman, Carlos Santana, and Michael Golojuch Jr., were all incorporated into the "Overarching Principles " Section in their entirety or with non-substantive edits. Portions of the County of Oahu Platform and the "Modified Oahu Platform" submitted by Committee members Melodie Aduja and Ken Farm, which included numerous provisions from the National Democratic Committee 2016 Platform, were approved and included in the "Preamble" and the "Overarching Principles" Sections. The County of Hawaii 2018 Platform with the modifications contained in the version submitted by Committee Co-chair Margaret Wille was approved and included in the "Legislative Priorities Action Planks" section with some edits by the 2018 Platform Committee.

A copy of the proposed 2018 Platform with notations indicating the source of the proposed change, with copies of the above referenced submissions attached as exhibits, will be available at the "Platform Table" at the Convention and upon request from DPH headquarters.

COMMITTEE APPROACH: While individual members acknowledged they had reservations about one provision or another, overall the Committee functioned in a very collaborative manner to achieve a high quality action oriented statement of our values, actionable goals, and policy positions.

**MAKING THE PLATFORM MEANINGFUL: The proposed 2018 DPH Platform is but a first step to making our state – our world – a better place. It is the "talk the talk" step. The "walk the walk" step -- turning these words into actions -- is in the hands of our collective membership. Making this Platform a to-do mission rather than simply an inspirational statement is the collective kuleana of our convention delegates and our entire DPH membership.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Margaret Wille, Co-chair**

**Raymond Catania, Co-chair**

**Melodie Aduja, Scribe**

Attachment: 2018 Platform Of The Democratic Party Of Hawai'i as recommended for approval at the 2018 State Convention by the 2018 Platform Committee