



Minutes
Hawaii County Democratic Party
2017 County Convention
Kea`au High School Library
Saturday, May 6, 2017

The Convention was called to order by Chair Phil Barnes at 9am. He lead the delegates in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the singing of “America the Beautiful” and “Hawai`i Pono`I”, led by William Steiner. Chair Barnes asked for a moment of silence in honor of Democrats that we lost this year, including Mark Takai, Clifton Tsuji, George Yokoyama, Patsy O’Toole and Ole Fuchs.

Chair Barnes then thanked Convention organizers Frankie Stapleton, District 4 Chair, and Deb Billings, District 3 Chair, and their committee for putting the entire convention together. Chair Barnes introduced State Party Chair Tim Van de Veer, State Party Treasurer Tambry Young, and the new State Party Executive Director, Laura Nevitt.

Chair Barnes gave his final report as Chair. He made a strong plea to all district councils to start now to plan for their precinct meetings in 2018, reminding them that they will not be held at the same time as the presidential preference poll next year. He reminded us that aloha is an on-going, life-long process, especially during this time when everything about aloha is under assault. He said we need to use the spirit of aloha to build bridges and solve problems and take the position, “When they go low, we go high.” He stressed that now is not the time for division within the party and that infighting between us spoils the party. He said maintenance of the status quo is not on the table, but respect is. He urged us to reach out to each other with aloha and model in Hawai`i County what can be done at the State level to combat in Hawai`i what has been done federally. He emphasized that now is not the time to put our differences between us.

Amy Miwa provided the Credentials Report. As of 9am, we had a total of 172 attendees: 136 delegates, 7 alternates, 6 observers and 3 youth. She submitted the breakdown to the secretary, with the District breakdown as follows:

District 1:	28 delegates 3 alternates 1 observer
District 2:	17 delegates 2 observer
District 3:	17 delegates



District 4:	24 delegates 1 alternate 3 observers 2 youth
District 5:	25 delegates
District 6:	6 delegates
District 7:	39 delegates 3 alternates 1 observer 1 youth

State Chair Tim Van De Veer then addressed the convention. He said that, although we may feel that we are vacillating between hope and despair, he believes that now is a good time to be a Democrat. He stressed that the Democratic Party needs to be the party of civil discourse and a party of ideas. He told us that now the time for bold action.

Dolly Strazar, Chair of the Rules Committee, presented a rules change that the Rules Committee, with the approval of the HCC, is recommending. The change would be to the Hawai'i County By-laws, Section 1, as it relates to the membership of the HCC. The change would add the immediate past county committee chair to the HCC. It was moved and seconded that this change be approved. After some discussion and an explanation by Dolly that this change is pretty usual and is already done at the state level, by a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Dolly then gave a report on the DNC meeting in Atlanta when the new DNC officers were elected. She said the meeting was full of energy and positive spirit with a display of civil discourse. She said there were many positive candidates for all positions. She said the new DNC Chair, Tom Perez, and Deputy Chair, Keith Ellison, have created Live.Democrats.org which can be viewed daily, with the theme from Rep. John Lewis, "Keep Causing Good Trouble."

Chair Barnes then introduced the outgoing HCC Officers: East Hawai'i Vice Chair John Ervin; West Side Vice Chair Barbara Dalton; Secretary Gretchen Klungness; Assistant Secretary Brandy Agliam; Treasurer Amy Miwa; and Assistant Treasurer Jay Kimura.

At 10am, the candidates for HCC offices began their candidate speeches:

- Margaret Wille for County Chair
- Tonya Coulter for West Hawai'i Vice Chair
- Gerri Kahili for East Hawai'i Vice Chair
- Shannon Matson for East Hawai'i Vice Chair
- Lon Kim Putnam for East Hawai'i Vice Chair
- Raina Whiting for County Secretary
- Lei Kihoi for Assistant County Secretary



- Heather Kimball for Assistant County Secretary
- Maya Parish for Assistant County Secretary
- Valerie Barnes for County Treasurer
- Richard Harris for Assistant County Treasurer

Voting began following the candidate presentations and was to continue until 12:30pm.

At 10:45am, U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard addressed the convention on a live feed from Washington, D.C.

At 11am, our keynote address was given by Dr. Chris Flanders, Executive Director of Hawai'i Medical Association on the subject of "Universal Health Care in Hawai'i." He discussed the difference between "universal health care" where everybody gets insurance and "single payer health care" where there is only one provider of coverage, usually the government (like Medicare). He reminded us that Hawai'i led the national in 1975 with the enactment of the Prepaid Hawai'i Health Care Act.

Following Dr. Flander's address, Margaret Wille, the State Legislative Committee Co-Chair introduced Sen. Russell Ruderman, Rep. Chris Todd, Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, and Rep. Richard Creagan for a legislators' report for the 2017 legislative session. Margaret had solicited questions from each of the seven districts, and each of the legislators fielded those questions. Margaret also distributed to the convention delegates a survey about legislative affairs, convention matters and national elections.

At 12noon, we adjourned for lunch, during which time the voting continued until 12:30pm. The counting of ballots began at 12:30pm, supervised by HCC Secretary Gretchen Klungness, with each district chair or designee doing the county.

Following Governor David Ige's address to the delegates, the results of the elections were provided to State Chair Van De Veer, who announced the members of the new HCC Executive Committee, as follows:

Chair	Margaret Wille
West Hawai'i Vice Chair	Tonya Coulter
East Hawai'i Vice Chair	Shannon Matson
Secretary	Raina Whiting
Assistant Secretary	Maya Parish
Treasurer	Valerie Barnes
Assistant Treasurer	Richard Harris

Chair Barnes then turned the meeting over to the new Chair, Margaret Wille.

Chair Wille introduced the forums for the afternoon sessions, as follows:



For all delegates:

Forum #1:

“Climate Change in Hawai`i”, featuring Jeff Mikulina of Blue Plant Foundation

Simultaneous forums, either in library or outside on the lanai

Forum #2 in library:

“Environment and Sustainability” featuring Councilwoman Eileen O`Hara and William Steiner, Ph.D., retired Dean of the UHH College of Agriculture Environment

Forum #2A on lanai:

“Water is Life” featuring Rep. Richard Creagan, M.D., Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture; and Sen. Russell Ruderman, member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

Forum #3 in library:

“Tracking the Legislature” featuring Virginia Beck, the Legislative Reference Bureau’s Public Access Representative

Forum #3A on lanai:

“Homeless and Elderly Needs” featuring C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D., County Executive on Aging; Greg Payton, Executive Director of Mental Health Kokua; and Brandee Menino, CEO of Hope Services Hawai`i

Forum #4 in library:

“How to Run for Office,” featuring the new DPH Executive Director, Laura Nevitt and retired journalist, Frankie Stapleton.

Forum #4A on lanai:

“Making Voting Matter” featuring RoxAnne “Rocky” Lawson of District 4 and Christine Mingo and Hattie Gerrish of District 1.

The convention reconvened at 4:45pm for closing remarks by Chair Wille, followed by a joining of hands, introduction by all the delegates in the room, and singing of “Hawai`i Aloha” lead by William Steiner.

Convention adjourned at 5pm.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of May, 2017.

Gretchen H. Klungness, Outgoing Secretary
Hawai`i County Committee