

The Trump Administration Takes Over

If you are one of the many Democrats who were holding out against all odds that President Trump would be different from candidate Trump then your hopes were dashed when you listened to his inaugural address. Any hopes of a kinder - gentler administration were taken off the table.

If there has ever been a call to action then this is that moment. Fortunately the Women's March was scheduled for the very next day. My profound thanks to March organizers on our island, state, and nation for their organizational skills and foresight in preparation for the transition to this threatening administration. Here on Hawaii Island we had record breaking crowds turn out in both Hilo and Kona. The intensity of the crowds should not to be taken lightly by those who are wishing to turn back the clock on democracy. These women, men, and keiki are ready to stand up to protect the social gains achieved over the past 50 years. I would urge you all to network with your friends and neighbors to make your voices are heard. You can use the link on the left side of this page to contact your Democratic Party officers at the precinct, district, and county levels. The creativity of each of us will be called upon to present our message in new and more effective ways.

The state party has started a new membership drive to help to achieve added momentum as we take our message to the public. There has never been a charge to join the Democratic Party and that is still the case. However additional funds are needed in order to be able to communicate our values more effectively. New apps for smart phones as well as streamlining our database to make it more user friendly are currently being developed. We are asking party members to take the next step and pay a yearly \$25 Communications Fee. When you pay this fee you will be issued a plastic membership card that includes helpful information like your precinct and district. To speed up the process the state party has sent the card machine to our island and we are setting up membership booths in each of our 7 districts. Contact your district chair to get further information.

Our power at the national level is somewhat limited but the possibilities for productive legislation at the state level is stronger than ever. Please check out the article by Margaret Wille on the proposals of the state party legislative committee of which she is co-chair.

The new chair of the state Environmental Caucus is a Hawaii Island resident Marilee Wallace. This caucus has over 3,500 members as of our last state

convention. The new state party headquarters in Honolulu now have an excellent video conference system. So you will be able to have the opportunity to view all caucus meetings by video conference from your home computer. The LGBT and other party caucuses are already live streaming their meetings and hopefully all caucuses will be up to speed on this new technology. Marilee also has an article on our webpage so check for more details if you would like to become an active member of this caucus.

In short this is not the time to give up on our political system. It is the time for heightened awareness as well as action. By joining with like minded individuals and groups we will prevail.

Phil Barnes - Chair Hawaii County Democratic Party