



Hawai'i Republican Party 2022 Platform

Approved by delegates to the
2022 Hawai'i Republican Party State Convention

PREAMBLE

In God We Trust // E Pluribus Unum // Liberty
"Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono"

The Hawai'i Republican Party is a passionate group of citizens united by their love of country and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Constitution of The State of Hawai'i, and the three values that comprise the "American Trinity" (Liberty, In God We Trust, and E Pluribus Unum).

We reaffirm the words of the Declaration of Independence, "... that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed "

We believe in the four key principles embodied in the Constitution – limited government, separation of powers, the rights of the people (against the tyranny of the majority), and the authority of the states (i.e., federalism).



We honor the leadership of our Republican forefathers who passionately believed and applied these principles and values so well with special appreciation for the leadership of President Abraham Lincoln and Prince Jonah Kalaniana'ole Kuhio. And, we continue to believe in and support Prince Kuhio's application of our values through the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (See "Native Hawaiians").

Government

As noted in our Preamble, we are united by the principles in the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Hawai'i Constitution, and American Trinity. The principles cited in these documents shape our beliefs about the form and size of government. Primary among these are:

- Governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed;
- Powers not specifically enumerated as belonging to the Federal Government belong to the states (Amendment X) and the people (Amendment IX). These two Amendments support the concept of federalism (authority of the states) and reinforce the idea that the closer the government is to the people the better it works;
- The power of the majority is limited by the rights of the minority and their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as articulated in the Bill of Rights (Amendments I - X) and Amendments XI, XIII, XV and XIX; and
- The Separation of Powers prevents the concentration of power which is the root of tyranny. ("Our system of separated powers is not designed to maximize efficiency; it is designed to maximize freedom.")

Large Scale Issues:

- Socialism steals property and power from the people, and gives it to the government. In addition, it denies our economic freedom and individual liberty. As such, it is fundamentally "Unconstitutional";
- Elections and Vote Integrity: Our republican form of government is only secure as long as we maintain the integrity of the vote. The Hawai'i Republican Party advocates for:
 - Definitive voter identification for both in-person and absentee voting;
 - Elimination of same day registration;
 - Maintaining in-person voting and repealing of the all-mail in voting law (Act 136, SLH 2019) to eliminate the fraud and voter disenfranchisement that will accompany it;
 - Criminalization of "Ballot Harvesting";
 - Review of the voting rolls and the elimination of all duplicate, deceased, and non citizen registrants;
 - Elimination of early voting (less absentee voters); and
 - Only counting votes that arrive prior to the close of polls;
- The Electoral College: The Electoral College was established to ensure all states have the possibility to affect the outcome of a presidential election. If the Electoral College is eliminated, states with the largest populations and the weakest voter integrity measures could easily overwhelm less populated states. Therefore, the Republican Party of Hawai'i advocates for the repeal of Hawai'i SB 1956 of 2007 which allows Hawai'i to determine the winner of a presidential election by "national popular vote"; and
- The Convention of States: We support calling a Convention of States for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution limited to

proposing amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress.

Government Operations in Hawai'i: The Hawai'i Republican Party sees the current course of governing in Hawai'i as unimaginative, shortsighted, focused on special interest groups, disconnected from the reality of most of its citizens, and not rigorous enough in cost vs. benefit analysis. We urge all government bodies in Hawai'i to consider the following changes to remedy the aforementioned problems:

- Impose term limits on all elected officials;
- Debate real costs and benefits transparently, and ensure new expenditures are justified with measurable benefits;
- Return to a zero-based budget for one year every 10 years in which each line item needs to be justified from the bottom up (versus just using the prior year budget as the baseline);
- Require annual reporting at the state and county level of per capita spending in real dollars over the last 10 years. This will reveal the hidden taxes or fees resulting from increases in property values, increases in fees, and increases in tourism;
- Put a constitutional amendment before the voters on the next ballot that provides for the direct election of county school boards which are accountable to the electorate to govern the schools of their county;
- Require lawmakers to propose reductions in regulation with a commensurate cost reduction whenever they propose additional regulations with a cost increase;
- Establish a public/private commission to review Hawai'i government preparedness for the COVID-19 pandemic; review the legality of actions taken by the governor and the mayors, and recommend appropriate legislative review protocols to avoid unconstrained unilateral executive authority during emergencies; and
- Ensure continuity and integrity in the legislative process by eliminating the practice of gutting and replacing legislation, via statute. “Under this practice, the language of a bill is removed entirely after being passed by multiple legislative committees and replaced with new, entirely unrelated language before final approval by the Legislature. This process subverts the state Constitution’s requirement that a bill pass three readings in each house before passage.” The State Supreme Court heard the case on 5 August 2020. It decided that the gut and replace tactics led to a violation of the requirement for three readings as defined in Article III Section 15 of the Hawai'i Constitution and remanded the case back to the Circuit Court to grant Summary Judgement for the plaintiffs.

In conclusion, our founding principles were focused on restricting government from imposing on our liberty. By applying common sense, trust in its citizens and our founding principles Hawai'i can return to good governance that serves the people and keeps them free.

Criminal Justice, Victim Justice, and Prison Reform

The primary function of Hawai'i's criminal justice system is to protect the residents of Hawai'i and their property from crime. The system should accomplish this by providing a deterrent to crime via the enforcement of punishment and by keeping those who have committed crime and are a threat to society locked up so they cannot harm law abiding citizens. The secondary function of the criminal justice system is to try to rehabilitate those who commit crime and return them to society to be productive citizens when possible. If this is not possible, they must keep them separated from society in accordance with the law. Lastly, the justice system needs to be focused on victim rights as well as criminal rights. The Hawai'i Republican Party believes in the following criminal justice measures and principles:

- Local Law Enforcement Officers provide essential protection that all Americans require to raise their families and lead productive lives. We praise their dedication and expect their services to remain fully funded;
- Police Officers hold a trusted position in the community. They must receive training on the national and state constitutions in an effort to promote the rule of law, uphold citizens' rights, and prevent corruption. If and when corruption in a police department is uncovered, the corrupt officials must be held accountable for their criminal or unethical behaviors, and there must be as much transparency of the proceedings as soon as possible without compromising the investigation, so as to foster public trust;
- Recognizing the stress of their jobs, all officers and state public safety officials should have confidential access to mental health services;
- The arbitration systems built into the union contracts between police unions and the counties need to be modified to ensure they are not protecting bad police officers and impairing good police officers and the public;
- Whistleblowers who report the wrong doings of senior officials must be protected from retaliation;
- We applaud President Trump signing the groundbreaking First Step Act into law in 2018, enacting historic reforms to make our justice system fairer for all. We encourage state officials to fully implement these reforms in Hawai'i;
- Overcrowded prisons are a violation of the rights of prisoners and dangerous for Corrections Officers. It is essential that Hawai'i establish a robust prison system to house Hawai'i criminal residents without overcrowding;
- Bail must be established first and foremost based on the threat to other members of the community posed by the suspect and secondarily on the flight risk of the suspect. All other considerations should be tertiary;
- Rehabilitation services must be available so that, at the end of their term, prisoners will return to society and their families to become productive members of the community;
- Victims should receive restitution from a person found guilty of a crime for any injury, physical or financial, they incurred as a result of the crime;
- An individual's Constitutional right to keep and bear arms;
- Hawai'i must pass "Castle Doctrine/Stand your Ground" legislation that includes:
 - No duty to retreat before using force in self-defense;

- Defense of another, or defense of that person's residence if that person is in a place in which the person lawfully has a right to be, especially in their home, vehicle, and workplace; and
- The possibility of retreat must not be considered as a factor in determining whether or not the person believed that the force was necessary to prevent injury, loss, or risk to life or safety.

Education

The Hawai'i Republican Party firmly believes that families are the best stewards of a child's education, and a parental role in choosing curriculum is essential to the quality of the child's education and overall development. To do that, parents and students need competitive alternatives. We believe the policy positions which follow will ensure Hawai'i has sufficient education alternatives for achieving viable competition and a quality education for all:

- We endorse the parental/guardian right to select the type of formal education that they prefer for their children—Department of Education (DOE) school, Charter School, Private School, or Home Schooling;
- We support the concept of having the public money for education follow the students into whatever delivery system the parents select—basically a Voucher system or the creation of an Education Savings Account (ESA);
- We endorse the right of homeschoolers to access all Government schools (i.e., Hawai'i DOE schools) classes and activities, such as laboratories, sports, and performing arts;
- Schools must provide parents with the curriculum for all subjects their children are enrolled in (and we encourage parents to be involved in the development of curriculum);
- We vehemently oppose any curricula such as Critical Race Theory (CRT), along with any similar ideologies that discriminate based upon race, sex, or religion;
- All schools must make mask wearing optional for students attending in person (both indoors and outdoors);
- Students and parents shall not be required to be vaccinated, or vaccinated and boosted in order to be on school grounds;
- We strongly oppose the introduction of curricula, such as the 1619 project and the continued usage of other works such as "The People's History of the United States," both of which are at best, historically debatable in nature and at worst grossly inaccurate. Conversely, we support curricula that accurately present America's triumphs and failures, such as Hillsdale College's "1776 Curriculum", and not a jaded view of American history;
- We support Charter Schools and student funding equity among all Government schools (e.g., facility funding);
- We support current efforts underway on the federal level to allow benefits under Title I (grants for the poor) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to be carried and applied to any school the recipients attend;
- We strongly support the immediate removal of Planned Parenthood from the Hawai'i Education System;
- We support allowing the accelerated education of students based on their ability, tenacity, and desire to do so (e.g., the Running Start Program), and object to a one size fits all approach;
- We support adding high school curricula in:
 - Vocational, technical, and trade skills (to include cadet training with the Hawai'i Fire Department and the Hawai'i Police Department) and developing internships

and apprenticeships for students to participate in prior to graduation. This should include IT training which should be complemented by the enhanced development of Community College IT programs. In addition, all counselors should receive additional exposure to vocational, technical, and IT programs;

- Basic life skills in the areas of home finance, health (nutrition, exercise, hygiene), sex education (limited to physiology, and biological reproduction), and interviewing;
 - Sexual education, but require the distribution of curricula to all parents with a parental "opt-in" requirement;
 - The US and Hawai'i Constitutions. (Federal law passed in 2004 required that all schools that receive federal funding provide a course to all students on the Constitution on Constitution Day, September 17);
- We urge Hawai'i Legislators to put a constitutional amendment before the voters on the next ballot that provides for the direct election of county school boards which are accountable to the electorate to govern the schools of their county;
 - We oppose discrimination in college admission based on race, similar to affirmative action; and
 - We oppose the degradation of Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which prohibits sex-based discrimination and harassment, with policies which allow transgender female (i.e., biological male) athletes to compete against genetic female athletes, require the use of transgender rest rooms, and other policies which put female students at risk. The record breaking by a transgender female athlete at the University of Pennsylvania and the rape committed by a transgender female in a female restroom in a Loudoun County High School should serve as a warning about the likely consequences of these policies.

Lastly, unrelated to choice, we support the development of remote learning strategies and curricula that could be implemented when needed because of a pandemic, natural disaster, or other emergency. These strategies should be based on a thorough review of what worked and what did not during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Taxation and Economy

Hawai'i was ranked as the 2nd worst state for business in the country by Forbes in 2019. A significant reason behind this horrible ranking is the tax burden. According to CNBC, Hawai'i had the 2nd highest tax burden of all the States in 2018 at 11.57% (only New York was higher). When you combine the high tax burden with a cost of living that is the highest in the nation and 92.9% higher than the national average, it creates an environment where financial survival without government assistance is very difficult for large portions of the working class in Hawai'i. This is reflected in Hawai'i's Supplemental Poverty Measure (which considers additional factors like the cost of living) of 13.7% (13th highest in the nation). Lastly, WalletHub aimed to answer the question, where do taxpayers get the most and least bang for their buck? By contrasting state and local tax collections with the quality of the services residents receive in each of the 50 states within five categories--Education, Health, Safety, Economy, and Infrastructure & Pollution— they developed a Return On Investment (ROI) for each of the 50 States. Hawai'i ranked last among all the states – 50th out of 50.

This situation exists despite the fact that Hawai'i's two largest industries have nothing to do with the creation of a positive business environment or economic freedom: tourism and the military. These are essentially economic gifts accrued as a result of the natural beauty of Hawai'i, its weather, its strategic geographic location, and the Aloha spirit.

Hawai'i can remedy this situation by reducing the tax burden (to include “fees”) on individual citizens and businesses, and reducing the regulatory burden wherever possible. Specifically, we should:

- Immediately remove the Excise Tax from the following basic necessities: food, long-term rent, gasoline, and medical care;
- Develop unbiased economic impact studies for all new laws and regulations being considered and disclose them publicly prior to hearings;
- Eliminate excessive and punitive over-regulation of small businesses;
- Reduce excessive licensing and other fees that impede the creation and operation of small businesses;
- Eliminate the Hawai'i estate tax;
- Limit property tax increases to 2% per year unless and until the property is sold. This will ensure that property owners do not suffer from property value inflation while politicians enjoy windfalls of taxpayer largesse and being able to claim “they did not raise taxes.” Consider gradually reducing the maximum annual property tax increase to 0% as a homeowner ages from 65 to 85;
- Upgrade the information technology infrastructure to improve our ability to combat threats to intellectual property and to accommodate the data intense on-line activity that information-based economies (from agriculture to software, they are all information based now) require;
- Affect a massive restructuring of our education system to ensure a workforce capable of thriving in an information-based economy; and

- The government should not be picking winners and losers; rather the government should be opening doors to entrepreneurs.

We call on our Congressional delegation to:

- Immediately amend the Jones Act (a.k.a. the Merchant Marine Act of 1920) to institute permanent exemptions for Hawai'i; and
- Immediately demand full funding by the Federal Government for costs incurred by the State of Hawai'i resulting from the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).

A diverse information-based economy, lower taxes, and less regulation (e.g., reduce entry cost to the market) will reduce poverty, reduce our over-dependence on tourism, enhance our eco systems, encourage former residents to return and reduce the “brain drain.”

Tourism

Tourism is the single largest source of private capital for Hawai'i's economy, sustaining employment for over 200,000 residents (216,000 in 2019) and bringing in over \$2 billion in state revenue.

Our tourism objective should be to increase the revenue from tourism while managing the number of tourists in areas where our ecosystems and residents are being overrun. We can do this by improving infrastructure (state and county), limiting access to certain ecosystems/attractions (e.g., Hanauma Bay), and remarketing Hawai'i with an emphasis on the critical role tourists play in protecting our fragile ecosystems. Collaboration between the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), counties, and local communities is essential to ensuring holistic solutions involving residents. Lastly, we must balance these changes to the tourism economy to ensure the middle class, which depends on this industry, continues to thrive.

By taking these actions we will not only save ecosystems for future generations of Hawaiians but we will enhance the experience for tourists and bring more revenue to state coffers on a per tourist basis.

(Note: Efforts to promote "Pono" sustainable tourism on Kaua'i and Hawai'i should be used as a source of ideas and inspiration for the entire State.)

Energy

Energy resources are the engine that drives our productivity and mobility. It must be available in quantity to enable a productive work and day-to-day living environment. Hawai'i should investigate ways to increase the availability of these resources at lower cost. The Republican Party of Hawai'i encourages the use of diversified energy sources that are clean, plentiful, economic, and not a danger to our environment, especially our air, water, and wildlife. Solutions we support include:

- Review the mandate to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2045 if it continues to be primarily based on older technologies of wind turbines and solar panels, both of which are not reliable sources of energy;
- Explore alternative energy sources such as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), thermal (volcanic), wave technology, and nuclear, and maximize the output of the H-power incinerator plant;
- The cost of electricity production via different sources cannot be ignored any longer by policy makers in Hawai'i. Hawai'i should be investing in sources of electricity which will reduce the cost for Hawai'i residents while achieving the other objectives mentioned above; and
- Decisions to place large structures such as wind turbines or solar farms in a neighborhood or on agricultural land must get the approval of the area residents who will be impacted and whose view planes will be destroyed.

Electrical power is a fundamental life sustaining resource for our Island Culture. As we change the basis of this source of energy away from fossil fuels, we must insure that those responsible for this basic life support function of our society are proactively assessing risk and insuring future sustainability, even in the event of the absolute worst hurricane.

As noted in our Climate Change plank there is agreement on temperature changes but not the causes nor their relative importance, nor whether it is an existential threat. Therefore CO2 reduction should not be the sole driver in our climate policies which should focus on adaptation and basic research to facilitate innovation (see Climate Change plank for a broader perspective).

Climate Change (a.k.a., global warming)

The climate change debate is really a debate over how much anthropogenic global warming there is. Said differently, how much is the burning of fossil fuels and resultant increase in CO₂ contributing to the recent increase in global warming of 0.8 degrees C in the last 170 years and a sea level rise of 0.3 meters in the last 100 years. We believe this falls into the category of unknowable and that our focus should be on solving the problems caused by global warming and taking advantage of the benefits resulting from global warming regardless of the source of that increase.

A little background on CO₂:

1. There are 3 primary sources of atmospheric CO₂: CO₂ exhaled by animals (zoological); CO₂ released in volcanic eruptions (geological); and CO₂ that is a byproduct of human activity (anthropogenic) which consists primarily of CO₂ generated by the burning of fossil fuels;
2. There are 3 primary means by which CO₂ is used and stored: plant photosynthesis (i.e., essential to producing all the food we eat); reactions that form solid compounds (e.g., carbonates like limestone); and storage in bodies of water, plants, and the atmosphere; and
3. There are several advantages and disadvantages of more CO₂ in the atmosphere and in storage.
 - a. The disadvantages of the possible facilitation of global warming by the increase in CO₂ have been fabricated. If it is possible for global warming to increase the level of the sea, Barack Obama would not have purchased oceanfront estates on Oahu and Martha's Vineyard. The disadvantages of global warming include sea level rise (resultant from glacier and ice cap melt); increase in precipitation in already wet climates resultant from the increase in evaporation and increased ocean acidification; and
 - b. Much less discussed are the advantages of more CO₂ in the atmosphere such as: fewer weather related deaths resulting from fewer cold climates (more people die from cold temperatures than they do from heat); increased crop yields from the additional CO₂; increased crop yields from longer growing seasons; increased crop yields from more precipitation (via more evaporation); and fewer water shortages associated with more rain from more evaporation.

Before we get to our proposed approach to addressing global warming, we must address the models which have led "experts" to claim global warming is an existential threat. Scientists such as Freeman Dyson (who worked with Einstein at Princeton) believe in anthropogenic global warming and believe the models are good to help understand the interaction, but are completely inadequate at predicting climate change because the systems are too complex to model. Many of the models ignore the impact of water vapor which constitutes 95% of greenhouse gases and is quite complex because as temperature rises water vapor increases (a

positive feedback loop), but there is also a negative feedback loop associated with increases in cloud cover. The data shows the models have been grossly inadequate and inaccurate (e.g., between 1998 and 2014, 2.4% of the predictions undershot actual temperatures and 97.6% overshot).

Since global warming is not a definitive existential threat, it should be prioritized with other problems facing humanity such as nutrition, starvation, sanitation, low-cost energy, education, health, etc. Cost-benefit analysis has shown that the most efficient efforts to address climate change are those that focus the preponderance of efforts on adaptation and economic growth. Therefore we believe our efforts should focus on three areas:

- Studying ways for humanity to adapt to climate changes that can be predicted;
- Ramping up research and development of all options including nuclear fusion and fission, solar, wind, improved batteries, and better biofuels to innovate down the price of green energy. Once the research has rendered these options cheaper than fossil fuel, the markets will drive the transition to these options. “Forty climate economists and three Nobel laureates found that spending \$100 billion in public funds globally every year to ramp up investment into the research and development of cheaper low-carbon energy is the best long-term climate policy. This is still cheaper than the \$150 billion the International Energy Agency estimates the world will spend subsidizing existing, inefficient solar and wind this year”; and
- “Just about every problem, including the dangers of global warming, are easier to deal with when people are more prosperous. When a hurricane hits Florida, the death toll and structural damage are much less terrible than what would be inflicted on a poorer nation like Haiti or Guatemala by the same storm. Although it’s often the opposite of traditional climate policy, promoting prosperity is likely the best way to protect the world’s poor from global warming, and it improves their quality of life in countless other ways too.”

Summary: “Climate change” (a.k.a., global warming) is a complex issue and we must continue to adjust our policies as data and science evolves (it will never be “settled”) to target the most pragmatic and cost efficient policies which will lead to the best outcome for our state, our country and all of humanity. The goal should be to apply solutions to problems that can provide the best result per dollar spent.

(Note: See the Energy Plank for related information.)

Transportation

Civil engineers at the federal and state level have deemed Hawai'i's infrastructure to be in egregiously poor condition. Reports filed for 2019 identified massive deficiencies in all four counties, finding "high hazard potential" in many dams and bridges, and a majority of roadways in need of "imminent threat repairs". Further, the levels of daily traffic congestion in all four counties are evidence of the need for roadway improvements and new roadways. Additionally, as State Senator Inouye has noted, the current distribution of responsibility for airport maintenance "creates unnecessary delays in projects and restricts the airport system from keeping up to the standards of other leading global destinations."

There are several potential solutions that should be studied for the various points of roadway traffic congestion to include: additional roadway, better maintained roadways, synchronized traffic lights, additional exits, flyovers, underpasses, and roundabouts.

With respect to roadway maintenance, the State should be looking at longer term solutions to road repairs such as more durable asphalt or concrete. We have spent way too much time redoing road repair as opposed to doing it right the first time. With respect to airports, the State should consider organizational and procedural changes that can eliminate the delays Senator Inouye cites without creating additional organizational layers.

With respect to the Honolulu Rail Project, a Grand Jury investigation into charges of fraud, incompetence, lack of oversight, illegal activity, and billions of dollars misspent beyond budget and intentional delays may be required; we support an independent forensic audit of HART in order to provide the public with a full accounting of the project. This audit must as a minimum include:

- The current projected cost based on the experience to date;
- A review of the initial cost estimates and an assessment of whether or not the cost estimates were deliberately understated or understated due to incompetence;
- An analysis of all expenditures to date to determine the reasons for excessive cost growth from the initial estimates (e.g., Jones Act, Service Contract Act, State Regulation, deliberate understatement, mismanagement, corrupt procurements, set asides, etc.);
- The timeline for completion of the project;
- A revised estimate of the likely reduction in traffic congestion upon completion of the rail project;
- A rigorous review of alternatives to rail which would have a similar or larger reduction in traffic congestion; and
- A review of how the already built infrastructure could be utilized for completion of alternatives.

Additional relief may be needed for leeward Oahu traffic congestion beyond the relief that rail can provide. We support exploring additional options possibly including construction of a second leeward freeway makai of H-1 that would tunnel under or bridge over Pearl Harbor at

Hickam and then tie into H-1, the creation of high occupancy lanes between the H-1/H-2 merge and downtown without reducing other lanes, and/or the construction of underpasses at strategic locations.

Agriculture

Agriculture is a fundamental necessity for sustaining life in our island state, especially due to the great distances from out-of-state food sources and our dependency on shipping services. Land has been designated for this purpose, however we are not using that land to grow crops that can feed our population. The Hawai'i Republican Party supports the following measures to address this issue:

- Add agriculture and aquaculture courses to our secondary school curriculum;
- Ensure state land used for agriculture has long term leases regardless of acreage, sustainable water resources, upgraded irrigation systems, and road access;
- Preserve prime agriculture lands for local food production and accessory agricultural uses;
- Do not allow electrical power generation initiatives on “agricultural land” that do not support agricultural production if they impede agricultural activities;
- Require that well publicized public hearings take place prior to awarding permits for the conversion agricultural land to residential;
- Develop agricultural curricula for all educational levels that support agriculture careers for both crops and animal husbandry while incorporating regenerative agriculture principles;
- Develop agricultural internships at the high school and university level;
- Continue to support farmers’ markets, neighborhood gardens, and educational programs such 4- H;
- Institute measures to enable farmers to build and provide farm worker housing for their agricultural employees to make farming a more attractive and rewarding career path;
- Allow farms to diversify and include eco-tourism with activities such as farm tours;
- Reallocate state funds for new positions within the Department of Agriculture to better manage the industry, especially food safety, invasive species control, farmer education and marketing;
- Encourage sustainability and economic development, via increased food exports to the global market, by giving grants and tax incentives to farmers and local growers to farm land dedicated for growing organic food; and
- Agriculture is a life sustaining basis for our Island Culture. We must establish the criteria required for agricultural sustainability of our population and insure all government policy focuses upon achieving those goals and objectives by guaranteeing a balance of both on island and off-island sources.

Immigration

We are a nation of indigenous peoples and immigrants. Throughout our history newcomers who have complied with our immigration laws have made a positive impact on communities. The Hawai'i Republican Party supports strong borders where immigration law is enforced and all immigrants undergo a thorough background check (as unknown and non-vetted persons pose a threat to our personal and National Security). Immigration numbers should be controlled and based on the ability of the new residents to assimilate into and make positive contributions to their chosen communities. Lastly, allowing illegal immigration discourages future Americans from using the legal immigration process and assimilating into our great country. Given this pro legal immigration position we support the following policies:

- An extreme vetting process which screens immigrants for criminality, diseases, affiliation with terrorist or other hostile organizations;
- A requirement that immigrants be self-sufficient and have an ability to support themselves without reliance on public support services so as not to stress community efforts to fund their education, public health care (e.g., emergency rooms), environmental systems (e.g., sewage and waste disposal), and general public assistance programs;
- Mandatory deportation for non-citizen gang members;
- A prohibition on American companies replacing United States citizens with low-cost foreign workers;
- A continuation of temporary entry of vetted individuals who do seasonal work, especially in support of our farmers (H-2A visas);
- A welcoming policy for asylum seekers who are escaping persecution in their home country. We support the policy that asylum should be sought once a person is in the first safe country they arrive in and asylum seekers should remain in that country until their entry is approved;
- Enhanced enforcement of human trafficking at our ports of entry since Hawai'i has been identified as a major hub for this activity;
- Coordination of immigrant resettlements with respective state and local governments prior to their arrival to ensure the local economy and services are not overwhelmed;
- Full federal funding of the Compacts of Free Association (COFA) agreement and all of its associated costs;
- Policies that discourage the entry of unaccompanied minors, such as the immediate return of these children to their families, in an effort reduce the high risk of exploitation and abuse by human traffickers; and
- Prohibition of Sanctuary city status that inhibits Government agencies from working with federal agents assigned to remove those who are in the country illegally.

Homeless

Hawai'i has the second highest rate of homelessness in the country with 450 homeless residents for every 100,000 residents. Only New York has a higher rate of homelessness.

Homelessness has numerous adverse impacts on Hawai'i, but we believe the most significant are the impact on:

- Public Health: The propensity/necessity of the homeless to urinate and defecate in the open and the lack of general hygiene among a population that dwells in public poses significant health risks to the rest of the population. One threat is a Hepatitis outbreak similar to those in San Diego and Los Angeles;
- The Environment: Homeless camps breed massive amounts of trash, much of which will blow into the ocean and streams, leach raw untreated sewage into the water table and contribute to the embarrassing blight of the world's most beautiful land; and
- Normal Life for Residents and Tourists: Tents block sidewalks and the perpetual occupation of public restrooms, bus stops, parks, and other public spaces intimidate and prevent their use and enjoyment by tax-paying citizens.

We believe the first step in addressing homelessness is to recognize there are many different circumstances that can lead to homelessness including:

- Individuals and families rendered homeless by circumstances, such job loss or death of a spouse, and who consider their situation temporary;
- The mentally ill and/or substance abusers, some of whom may be willing and could be helped through treatment; and
- Intentionally transient; those who choose to live on the street.

The second step is to establish consistent law and policy enforcement to include:

- Enforce permit requirements for overnight camping in parks, the sit-lie ordinance and other existing laws that prohibit loitering, squatting, and panhandling;
- Apply the same code of public health and safety to the homeless population; and
- Correct the CDC policy that prohibits breaking up homeless camps based on the erroneous assumption that this prohibition will reduce the spread of COVID-19.

These actions will help to move people from the streets into shelters and discourage people from thinking of public land as a housing alternative.

The third step is to establish programs to help the homeless. At a minimum this should include programs to:

- Provide mental health evaluations for repeat offenders, followed by residential or outpatient treatment programs that are enforceable by ordinance and funded by the Department of Health;
- Employ the homeless: Hire homeless individuals for civic labor such as cleaning up illegal dump sites, litter control and clearing roadsides of overgrowth. This would provide

opportunity, financial help, and a new pattern of living, while improving public places, and has the added benefit of improving habits with respect to littering; and

- Identify dedicated encampment zones for tent communities as more permanent housing options are developed in order to remove associated blight from public areas and allow the homeless to better coexist with the rest of society.

We also support the privately funded “Repatriation Program” which has relocated nearly 1,000 willing homeless individuals back to their state of origin. The program pays for half of an airline ticket to home of origin provided family members pay the other half and assist the person upon arrival.

(Note: Also see the Housing Plank.)

Housing

The limited supply and high cost of housing is a major problem for the people of Hawai'i and the economy in Hawai'i. On Oahu alone, the housing shortage is estimated at 20,000 units (and there are an estimated 10,000 illegal short-term rentals that could be converted to long-term housing).

In 2019 housing costs in Hawai'i were 170% higher than the national average. At that time housing was the biggest component of Hawai'i's overall cost of living index of 170 which means the cost of living for Hawai'i residents is 70% more than in the average state. In 2022 it is now 93.3 % more expensive to live in Hawai'i than in the average state. And, even though Hawai'i's average income is \$83,102, Hawai'i's Supplemental Poverty Measure (which considers additional factors like the cost of living) is the 13th worst in the nation, largely driven by the cost of housing. The second order consequences are also of importance. Some of these include:

- Brain Drain: Bright young people leave for the mainland where they can afford to buy a home;
- Businesses are less inclined to move or start-up here because of the excessive cost on their employees;
- Property taxes squeeze those who own homes but receive little or fixed income due to taxation based on "assessed" value and not the purchase price of the home. Politicians claim they are not raising taxes but they are increasing the amount the homeowner pays; and
- Health care providers and other professionals are in short supply because they will not move to Hawai'i nor remain here because of the high cost of housing.

As with most problems that are intertwined with our complex economy and many factors that are beyond our control (e.g., islands have a limited supply of land), there is no "silver bullet", however we believe there are several measures that will have a significant positive impact on the cost of housing in the long run:

- Revamp the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921 to overcome the current bureaucratic obstacles that have delayed Prince Kuhio's vision via the following measures:
 - Accelerate the awarding of homestead leases; and
 - Accelerate the planning and budgeting for roads and utilities (e.g., water, electricity, sewer service) in Hawaiian Homeland areas;
- Zone an additional 1-5% of Hawai'i land for housing purposes, including residential, apartment, mixed use, and retail to support residents;
- Set aside at least 25% of the newly rezoned residential land for modular and tiny home developments;
- Limit property tax increases to 2% per year unless the property is sold;
- Enforce statutes which restrict Temporary Vacation Units (TVUs) and Bed and Breakfasts

(B&Bs) as illegal TVU and B&B operations reduce the housing supply for the people of Hawai'i and drives up housing costs;

- Immediately amend the Jones Act (aka Merchant Marine Act of 1920) and institute permanent exemptions for Hawai'i. This will lower the cost of all building materials used to construct homes;
- Immediately demand full funding by the Federal Government for costs incurred by the State of Hawai'i resulting from the Compact of Free Association (COFA);
- Continue to streamline housing development rules, especially those that restrict the importation of modular housing;
- Cut red tape for private sector housing development projects; and
- Put a moratorium on non-Hawai'i residents purchasing homes in new developments for the first year of its offering, with an exception for residents of other states who are permanently moving to Hawai'i and will become Hawai'i residents.

These measures, if implemented, will have a positive impact as they address several factors that drive up housing prices:

- Increasing the supply of land and a variety of low-cost structures;
- Limiting property tax increases;
- Encouraging private home ownership;
- Increasing the usability of Hawaiian Homelands; and
- Increasing the availability of homes in established neighborhoods once the illegal vacation rental market is deterred.

Family

The Hawai'i Republican Party endorses the Hawaiian concept of 'ohana and sees it as a crucial pillar of the community.

We believe that the traditional family structure consisting of a mother and a father is optimal. However, it has been proven that all types of family structure, whether brought together in marriage, legal union, by guardianship, or through adoption (including the "hanai" concept), benefits the individuals, families, and the strength of society at large.

There is also evidence that when individuals are part of an extended family, even when not blood related, they are less reliant on government assistance and that families play a large and positive role in the economy.

The inclusion of the father or a male role model is critical. Studies show the lack of paternal involvement leads to an increase in juvenile delinquency, incarceration, and greater risk for using illicit substances at a younger age. Children, especially young males, without strong families can fall victim to the lure of acceptance sometimes found in gangs.

Because of the aforementioned positive effects of sound families on Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Republican Party supports legislation that incentivizes intact families to include tax credits for children, a reduction in the overall tax burden on working families, assistance for first time home buyers, and assistance for small family-owned businesses.

Life

We, the Hawai'i Republican Party, stand by the timeless words of Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence when he wrote: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The Hawai'i Republican Party acknowledges the truth that life begins at conception and ends with natural death. All living humans as defined by this truth, regardless of physical or mental status, whether it is before or after birth, whether young or old, have the right to LIFE, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

We support bills limiting abortion procedures in scope and occurrence and will defend measures that protect babies in the womb, including:

- [Born Alive Survivors Protection Act – S.311](#)
- [Heartbeat Protection Act of 2019 – H.R. 290](#)
- [Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act - H.R.36](#)

We oppose the allocation of public funds for abortion and continue to support the annual passage of the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits the use of federal funds for abortions, and encourage members of Congress to pass legislation that would make it permanent. We also support reinstating the "[Mexico City Policy](#)", which bans U.S. federal funds from funding abortions or actively promoting abortion as a method of family planning internationally, and making it permanent via statute.

We stand firmly in opposition to the State of Hawai'i's current practice of voluntarily providing Medicaid funds for "[medically necessary](#)" abortions. Medical interventions to save the life of the mother that may have a side effect that harms the baby (e.g., a surgery to resolve an [ectopic pregnancy](#)) would not be restricted.

We support President Trump's Executive Order titled "[Strengthening the Child Welfare System for America's Children](#)", which ensures that faith-based foster and adoption agencies are treated equally with respect to working with local governments to place children with families, and we support the elimination of other Government constraints to the expansion of adoption services. We also support the choice of the mother in selecting the adoption services to be utilized.

We are opposed to and advocate for the repeal of the recently enacted assisted suicide law (the "Our Care, Our Choice Act") in Hawai'i. [Hawai'i Pacific Health and Queen's Medical Center \(the second and third largest healthcare employers in Hawai'i\) are also opposed and they announced they will not allow their pharmacies to fill end-of-life prescriptions or allow assisted suicide on their campuses.](#)

Healthcare

Although Hawai'i's healthcare system has done well in some areas, Hawai'i's poor access to healthcare will only get worse as our baby-boomers age. Problems include a severe doctor shortage, a lack of specialty care in rural areas, the sixth fewest hospital beds per capita in the US, and the 10th longest emergency room wait times. There are several steps we can take to reduce the demand for care and increase the supply of providers (listed below) which in turn will improve access to care, reduce the cost of healthcare, and address the problems cited above:

- Reduce the distortion comprehensive health insurance has on the market (i.e., demand is driven higher up by low marginal cost not by a true increase in demand). We have car insurance for catastrophic events like major accidents. Most of us don't have car insurance which covers an oil change or tire rotation. If we did, guess what would happen with demand for these services and the price. That is what comprehensive healthcare insurance has done to the demand and cost of routine health services. Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) reduce the aforementioned distorted level of demand because people treat the funds in HSAs as their own money. In addition, HSAs let people choose the care they want where they want it. They may choose to pay for care out of their HAS and purchase a low-cost catastrophic insurance plan. Or, they may purchase a Concierge plan where they pay the provider a monthly fee for unlimited care with no insurance middleman. The state needs to tax-advantage HSAs over comprehensive health insurance;
- Implement medical tort reform to reduce the practice of "defensive medicine" (e.g., ordering excessive imaging to avoid potential liability) and the high cost of malpractice insurance. The decrease in referrals associated with a reduction in the practice of unnecessary defensive medicine will reduce demand, increase access, and drive down cost. The decrease in malpractice insurance cost will encourage providers to come to Hawai'i, increase access to care, and drive down the cost of care from providers who are already here;
- Facilitate Telemedicine – Reduce administrative barriers to telemedicine, especially via reciprocity compacts with other states, which would allow providers licensed in those states to provide care to patients in Hawai'i. This will provide more telemedicine capacity within Hawai'i which will increase provider efficiency, reduce cost, and be more convenient for patients;
- Address Hawai'i's healthcare provider shortage -Offer incentives to encourage healthcare providers in which there is a significant shortage, to remain in Hawai'i and practice in Hawai'i especially in rural areas (to include training program tuition assistance);
- Incentivize the creation of private medical practices, migration of physicians to Hawai'i, and retention of physicians who are already here by eliminating the GET and regulatory barriers. An increase in private medical practices will enhance doctor-patient relationships and expand access in rural areas;

- Eliminate Certificate-of-Need (CON) laws that require investors wishing to build a new medical facility to prove there is a “need” for it and let the market decide;
- Although we believe HSAs should be tax advantaged, deregulation of the Healthcare insurance industry will also decrease costs and increase consumer value. These deregulation actions should include:
 - Allowing a wide variety of insurance options including out of state plans that will be better able to meet consumer needs; and
 - Eliminate service inclusion mandates so consumers can choose the coverage they want and services they desire;
- Pass legislation that requires all health care practices and hospitals to make their prices available upon request along the lines of President Trump's Executive Order on Improving Price and Quality Transparency in American Healthcare.; and
- Maintain the viability of MEDICARE:
 - Do not pass Medicare For All legislation which will undermine its financing;
 - Do not ration care based on age or disability;
 - Ensure appropriate provider reimbursement;
 - Do not adjust Part B premiums based on income or economic status.

The Constitutional rights of patients are paramount. At a minimum:

- No one should be forced to accept a medical treatment or device that they do not want, including, but not limited to, vaccines and facial masks (e.g., no vaccine or facial mask mandates on school campuses or commercial transportation). Furthermore, vaccine passports would appear to be unconstitutional based upon the Supreme Court decision in Crandall v. Nevada, 73 US 35 (1868) in which they found that freedom of movement is a fundamental right;
- No one should be forced to accept a medical treatment that they do not want, including, but not limited to, vaccines. Furthermore, vaccine passports would appear to be unconstitutional based upon the Supreme Court decision in Crandall v. Nevada, 73 US 35 (1868) in which they found that freedom of movement is a fundamental right;
- No one (including the elderly and the disabled) should be denied a needed medical intervention to extend their life;
- Healthcare providers or organizations should not be mandated to provide, or refer for services and prescriptions, procedures that they deem to be harmful to the patient or are at odds with their conscience;
- Providers should be required to inform their patients of experimental treatments available under the Right to Try Act which was signed into law in May 2018 which opened a new pathway for terminally ill patients who have exhausted their medical options;
- Providers must be allowed to prescribe, and pharmacies to issue, FDA approved off-label pharmaceuticals in accordance with law and without government interference;
- Discrimination in care availability based on age, vaccination status, or refusal to release medical history must be prohibited;

- Eliminate any State or Federal regulatory requirements for digitized medical records and on-line storage of those records; and
- Parents must be allowed to make health care decisions for their minor children except where the child's "life or limb" is at significant risk. The only exception to this would be a prohibition on medical interventions that disable a minor's future fertility since studies have found up to 80% of children outgrow their gender-dysphoria and many who transition to the opposite sex regret it later.

Military

The number one long term potential military threat facing the U.S. is China. U.S. trade with countries in Asia is of increasing importance and keeping the sea lanes to those countries open is critical. The capability to project military power from Hawai'i is vital to our ability to deter and contain China, and to support our friends and allies. To effectively and rapidly project our military power and support our Hawai'i based service members:

- Military leadership must be focused on warfighting and organizational effectiveness;
- Hawai'i should provide training grounds for military exercises that are necessary for defense readiness. The military has a simultaneous responsibility for environmental conservation of these areas;
- The federal government should fund the development and installation of a reliable missile defense system to ensure the security of our residents and warfighters from potential North Korean, Chinese, or Russian missile attack;
- Hawai'i should provide appropriate education, medical, and employment services needed to reintegrate veterans into the community and to meet the needs of active-duty dependents; and
- Working with state and local agencies, the military must resolve long standing environmental issues, including completing the shutdown of the Red Hill Fuel Tanks, removal of unspent munitions, and protection from non-indigenous plant and animal species that could negatively affect the balance of our eco-systems.

Lastly, we oppose forcing women to register for the draft as was originally proposed as part of the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act.

Native Hawaiians

Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, a Republican, was the first prince and native Hawaiian that served in the U.S. Congress where he represented Hawai'i for 19 years. While in Congress, he advocated and supported legislation for native Hawaiian rights to a land base for housing, farming, and preservation of traditional and cultural practices. Prince Kuhio thought his efforts were successful with the passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921. To overcome the current bureaucratic obstacles that have delayed Prince Kuhio's vision for the implementation of this Act, the Hawai'i Republican Party supports the following measures:

- Accelerate the awarding of homestead leases;
- Accelerate the planning and budgeting for roads and utilities (e.g., water, electricity, sewer service) in Hawaiian Homeland areas; and
- Enforce the mandated public purposes for ceded lands adopted as a condition of statehood.

'Olelo Hawai'i is an official language of our state. We respect the language and encourage the state to include 'Olelo Hawai'i in the school curricula to foster correct 'Olelo Hawai'i pronunciation and use. 'Olelo Hawai'i translation services (Hawaiian to English and English to Hawaiian) in public affairs should be fully supported.

Department of Education (DOE) Hawaiian Immersion Charter Schools should be supported and funded per the same formula that is used for public schools to include a funding component for facilities if facilities are not provided by the DOE.

We support Native Hawaiian rights to participate in traditional cultural practices that may require accommodations not normally afforded the general public.

Hawai'i Republican Party Platform Post-Amble

The Hawai'i Republican Party has had a proud history of serving all the people of our State based on the principles of our national and state constitutions.



We firmly stand behind the strong Republican leadership of President Abraham Lincoln, Prince Jonah Kūhū Kalanianaʻōle, Governor William Quinn, our first elected Governor as a state, and President Ronald Reagan who won the electoral votes of Hawai'i.



Our Republican principles are based on truth, equality of opportunity, limited government, and justice for all. Government that governs least governs best.

The welfare of our citizens and their continued prosperity is our number one priority. In the end it is our belief that Liberty is a God-given right supported by equal opportunity, not equal outcome. This differentiates us from every nation on earth and is the key to our economic, spiritual, and military success. God Bless America!

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other (John Adams, October 11, 1798).”

So join us! As President Ronald Reagan once said,

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”