

# Contract with Hawaii

The Contract with Hawaii is rooted in three core principles:

**Accountability.** The system of government in Hawaii is too big, over taxes its people, and spends recklessly. The State Legislature and unelected bureaucrats have become so entrenched that they have become unresponsive to the public they are supposed to serve. The Hawaii GOP contract restores accountability to government.

**Responsibility.** Bigger government and more State programs usurp personal responsibility from families and individuals. The Hawaii GOP contract restores a proper balance between government and personal responsibility.

**Opportunity.** The American Dream is out of the reach for too many local families because of burdensome government regulations and harsh tax laws. The Hawaii GOP contract restores the American dream for the citizens of Hawaii.

## The Contract

As Republican Party of Hawaii members and citizens seeking to join that body we propose not just to change its policies, but more importantly, to restore the bonds of trust between the people and their elected representatives. That is why, in this era of official evasion and posturing, we offer instead a detailed agenda for statewide renewal, a written commitment with no fine print. This year's election offers the chance, after six decades of one-party control, to bring to the House a new majority that will transform the way the State Legislature works. That historic change would be the end of government that is too big, too intrusive, and too easy with the public's money. It can be the beginning of a Legislature that respects the values and shares the faith of local families. Like Lincoln, our first Republican president, we intend to act "with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right." To restore accountability to the Legislature. To end its cycle of scandal and disgrace. To make us all proud again of the way free people govern themselves. On the first day of the 2019 Legislative session, the new Republican majority will aspire to immediately pass the following major reforms, aimed at restoring the faith and trust of the Hawaii's people in their government:

**First:** Require all laws that apply to the rest of the state also apply equally to the Legislature.

**Second:** Select a major, independent auditing firm to conduct a comprehensive audit of the Legislature for waste, fraud or abuse.

**Third:** Limit the terms of all committee chairs.

**Fourth:** Require committee meetings to be open to the public.

**Fifth:** Require a three-fifths majority vote to pass a tax increase.

**Sixth:** Guarantee an honest accounting of our State Budget by implementing zero base-line budgeting.

Thereafter, within the first 100 days of the 2019 Legislative session, we shall bring to the floor the following bills, each to be given full and open debate, each to be given a clear and fair vote and each to be immediately available this day for public inspection and scrutiny.

**1. The Fiscal Responsibility Act**

A tax limitation amendment and a legislative line-item veto to restore fiscal responsibility to an out-of-control state legislature, requiring them to live under the same budget constraints as taxpayers, families and businesses.

**2. The Taking Back Our Streets Act**

An anti-crime package including stronger community clean up, and cuts in social spending to fund additional law enforcement to keep our keiki safe in their schools and citizens secure in their neighborhoods.

**3. The Personal Responsibility Act**

Child support enforcement, strengthening of parental rights in their children's education, and an enactment of a tough two-years-and-out provision on social programs with work requirements to promote individual responsibility.

**4. Middle Class Tax Relief and Simplification Act.**

An economic plan designed to grow Hawaii's economy 4% annually and create at least 100,000 new better paying jobs for all people of Hawaii. The economic boost will be achieved through a massive tax reduction and simplification of the tax code, combined with regulatory relief, and lifting the restrictions on local businesses. The largest tax reductions are for the middle class. A middle-class family with 2 children will get a 20% tax cut. The current number of brackets will be reduced from 9 to 4, businesses will also see a 20% reduction in the tax rate to promote higher wages and more work opportunities.

**5. The Dream Restoration Act**

A \$300 per child tax credit, flatten the tax code to begin creation of a Dream Savings Account to provide middle class tax relief and a start to a college savings plan. Begin to uphold any contractual obligations owed to the citizens of Hawaii.

**6. Hawaii Energy & Infrastructure Act**

Leverages public-private partnerships, and private investments through tax incentives, to spur at least \$200 million in infrastructure investment over 10 years. This will help create jobs that support local energy and infrastructure development, promotion and maintenance.

**7. The Senior Citizens' Fairness Act**

An elderly dependent care tax credit to reinforce the central role of families in Hawaii. Repealing the income tax hike and earnings limit which currently force seniors out of the work force. Provide tax incentives for private long-term care insurance to let older Americans keep more of what they have earned over the years.

### **8. The Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act**

Small business incentives, reduced cost to business to offer a retirement plan, neutral cost recovery, risk assessment/cost-benefit analysis, and unfunded mandate reform to create jobs and raise worker wages.

### **9. School Choice and Education Opportunity Act**

Redirects federal and state education dollars to give parents the right to send their kid to the public, private, charter, magnet, religious or home school of their choice. Bringing education supervision to local communities making education more accessible and more affordable.

### **10. The Citizen Legislature Act**

A vote on term limits to replace career politicians with citizen legislators.

Further, we will instruct the State Budget Committee to report to the floor and we will work to enact additional budget savings, beyond the budget cuts specifically included in the legislation described above, to ensure that the Federal budget deficit will be less than it would have been without the enactment of these bills.