



# Hawaii Republican Party

Standing Committee on Rules  
Committee Chair Celyn Chong Kee

2021 Final Committee Report  
May 5, 2021

The 2021 Standing Committee on Rules commenced reviewing submitted rule amendments on April 3, 2021. The committee met every Saturday until May 1, 2021.

The following members elected or appointed made up the committee:

District 3 Ben Fuata	District 20 Julia Allen (Alt)
District 5 Lohi Goodwin	District 22 Bob Finley
District 8 Cranston Kapoi	District 23 John Kim
District 8 Steven Shupack (Alt)	District 23 Jo Gardiner (Alt)
District 9 Greg Lussier	District 25 Signe Godfrey
District 10 Daniel Skousen	District 25 Brian Slabaugh
District 10 Janice Jaeger (Alt)	District 26 Asia La Vonne
District 11 Ruby Razo	District 26 John Watson (Alt)
District 11 Yvienne Peterson (Alt)	District 32 Dennis Egge
District 12 Lillian Koller	District 32 Chad Murakami (Alt)
District 13 Lei Fagan	District 36 Donna Van Osdol
District 13 Robin Vanderpool (Alt)	District 36 Rita Kama-Kimura (Alt)
District 14 Greg Bentley	District 37 Mary Smart
District 15 Ken Satin	District 37 Emil Svrčina (Alt)
District 16 Sandi Sterker	District 41 Brett Kulbis
District 17 Liz Moore	District 47 Andrew Rigterink
District 17 Herb Schreiner (Alt)	District 47 Eli Blanchard (Alt)
District 18 Betty Liu Kwong	District 50 Gary Weller
District 19 Pat Saiki	District 50 Miriam Hellreich (Alt)
District 20 Dana Clevenger	District 51 Bill Hicks

Per Section 415 of the Hawaii Republican Party Rules (dated May 11, 2019), the purposes of the Rules Committee shall be to consider amendments to these Rules and to ensure fairness in Party elections. It shall review Party operations and these Rules on a regular basis, prepare and propose convention rules for adoption at State Conventions, interpret these Rules, determine appeals of elections, and perform such other duties as may be provided in these Rules. The Chair of the Rules Committee may correct these Rules for non-substantive errors in spelling, grammar or numbering without amendment, subject to approval of the Rules Committee. The Chair of the Rules Committee may correct County Rules for non-substantive errors in spelling, grammar or numbering without amendment, subject to approval of the applicable County Committee.

The following rule amendments are presented with rationale to the delegates of the 2021 State Convention for approval. Each amendment was thoroughly debated and approved by unanimous or majority vote of the members of the committee.

Proposed deletions are in red and lined out, proposed additions are in bold and underlined.

**ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**  
**PART A. ESTABLISHMENT**

**SECTION 101. PURPOSE.**

The Hawaii Republican Party is established as a political party under Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 11 , Part V. **The Hawaii Republican Party is also recognized by the Republican National Committee as representing the national Republican Party in Hawaii.** The Party is an association of voters united to promote these common goals: greater individual freedom, respect for the United States Constitution, which guarantees limited government and guarantees the protection of the people and their rights, and more effective participation of the people in the government of the State of Hawaii and the United States of America. The Party supports candidates for public office who will carry out these goals while representing the people of the State of Hawaii. ~~The Party retains the common law right to control and authorize the use of "Republican," "GOP," or any derivative of its name in connection with official political activity within Hawaii. Any use of the name or any derivative of the name that in any way implies, states or misrepresents an affiliation or relationship with or endorsement by the Hawaii Republican Party is strictly prohibited and shall not be recognized. Any prior use of the name or any derivative of the name within Hawaii shall not be recognized as a waiver of the Hawaii Republican Party's right to claim exclusive use of its name within Hawaii as the Republican National Committee recognized state party. The Party further retains the common law right to control and authorize the use of the Republican symbol—the commonly used elephant—as well as any other symbol or logo associated with the Republican Party in connection with official political activity within Hawaii. Any use of the Republican symbol or any other symbol or logo associated with the Republican Party that in any way implies, states or misrepresents an affiliation or relationship with or endorsement by the Hawaii Republican Party is strictly prohibited and shall not be recognized. Any prior use of the name or any derivative of the Republican symbol or any other symbol or logo associated with the Republican Party within Hawaii shall not be recognized as a waiver of the Party's right to claim exclusive use within Hawaii.~~

Rationale: Since by Hawaii Revised Statute and official recognition from the Republican National Committee this additional verbiage is unnecessary. Should HRP determine an organization is inappropriately posing as the HRP legal action can be taken.

**ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**  
**PART A. ESTABLISHMENT**

**SECTION 102. POWERS.**

The Party ~~may~~ **shall** exercise all lawful powers reasonably necessary and incidental to the fulfillment of its purposes **including the execution of the Party's Confidentiality Agreement by (1) all officers of the Party including officers at the Precinct level, (2) any candidate running for any leadership position in the Party.**

Rationale: The signing of a Confidentiality Agreement is common practice in business. This is to protect the integrity of sensitive Personally Identifiable Information (PII), strategies and finances.

**ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**  
**PART B. MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 106. DUES.**

The State Committee may establish such dues as it deems fit for membership in the Party and for the annual renewal of membership in the Party. Such dues or membership fees shall ~~not exceed the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per year~~ **be determined by the State Committee.**

Rationale: This removes the \$10 limit and gives the State Committee the latitude to determine the appropriate fee.

**ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**  
**PART B. MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 107. TERMINATION**

The membership of any person in the Party shall be terminated immediately if the member (a) resigns membership, in writing; or (b) loses eligibility to register to vote in Hawaii. Membership may, upon action by the State Committee, be terminated if the member (c) fails to pay any membership fee or dues established by the State Committee; (d) joins another political party; (e) actively campaigns for any candidate running for election in opposition to any nominee of the Party; ~~or~~ (f) supports or combines with members of another political party so as to deprive the Party and its members of their ability to organize any elective body in which it may have won a majority of the seats by election; **or (g) other reasons deemed appropriate by the State Committee.**

Rationale: This gives the State Committee the latitude to determine other reasons that may be egregious enough to warrant termination.

**ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS  
PART C. RULES**

**SECTION 109. AMENDMENTS.**

These Rules may be amended at any State Convention by a vote in favor by at least two-thirds of the delegates present, **only if the amended rule(s) have been reviewed and approved by the Rules Committee.**

Rationale: This is to ensure all rule amendments presented at any State Convention have been reviewed and approved by the Rules Committee.

**ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**  
**PART D. RULE INTERPRETATION AND CHALLENGES**

**SECTION 113. INTERPRETATION OF RULES.**

Any Party member may submit a written request to the Chair of the Rules Committee for an interpretation of these Rules. Not more than 10 days after receiving the request, after an investigation or comment by other interested persons and **members of the State Executive Committee**, the Chair shall provide the interpretation. The Chair shall immediately send a copy of any decision to the person requesting the interpretation, to other persons directly affected by the rule interpretation, **to members of the Rules Committee, and the State Executive Committee.** ~~and to Party Headquarters.~~

Rationale: Members of the State Executive Committee are more senior members of the Party with a wealth of historical information and may be used as a source for assistance to the appointed Rules Chair in making an informed interpretation of the rules. Final interpretation or decision shall be shared with members of the Rules Committee and State Executive Committee.



**ARTICLE II CONVENTIONS  
PART B. VACANCIES**

**SECTION 206. VACANCIES.**

Any vacancy in a precinct shall be filled by promoting the alternate highest on the list of alternates elected at a precinct meeting. Any delegate vacancy which remains after all the elected alternates have been promoted and any vacancy in a position of alternate may be filled by appointment by the precinct chair, or in the case of a vacant precinct chair position the district chair. Delegates appointed must be residents of the precincts for which they are being appointed. The names of any persons so appointed as alternates shall be placed on the list of alternates below the names of any alternates elected at a precinct meeting. ~~Thirty days prior to convention, if the precinct delegations have not been filled, District Chairs may appoint delegates and alternates from their respective precincts to the maximum number allowed. In an unorganized district, district with no precinct chair or district chair, the County Chair may make these appointments. The County Chair shall submit the final list of delegates and alternates.~~ Any such appointment must be reported in writing to the appropriate County Chair and State Party Headquarters Secretary, ~~the respective County Chair, and the respective Precinct Chair, if any,~~ no later than ten days before the convening of a convention. ~~Delegates appointed must be residents of the precincts for which they are being appointed. The names of any persons so appointed as alternates shall be placed on the list of alternates below the names of any alternates elected at a precinct meeting.~~

Rationale: Clarifies in the definition and case of vacancies and unorganized districts who can appoint delegates and alternates. Clarifies who must be specifically notified of the appointments.

**ARTICLE III PARTY COMMITTEES  
PART B. MEETINGS**

**SECTION 305. QUORUM.**

- A. For any body other than a precinct organization **and standing committee**, one-third of the members of the body shall constitute a quorum. The vote of a majority of those present shall be sufficient for the adoption of any action, except where a greater majority is required by these Rules.
- B. A precinct organization may transact business, and by majority vote of those present adopt any action, with less than one-third of its members present, provided that at least three members are present.
- C. **A standing committee may transact business, and by majority vote of those present adopt any action, with less than one-third of its members present, provided that at least five members are present.**

Rationale: This is to provide a lesser quorum for a standing committee to ensure when a meeting is called that business can be conducted.

**ARTICLE III PARTY COMMITTEES  
PART G. AUXILIARIES**

**SECTION 329. RECOGNIZED AUXILIARIES.**

The Young Republicans, the Oahu League of Republican Women, ~~the Hawaii Federated Republican Women's Association~~, **the Hawaii Federation of Republican Women**, and the Hawaii State Federation of College Republicans are Republican auxiliaries recognized by the State Committee. The State Committee or any county committee may, at its discretion, officially recognize any other Republican auxiliary or association when, in the opinion of the committee, the auxiliary or association will contribute to the strength of the Party.

Rationale: The Hawaii Federated Republican Women's Association has been reorganized as the Hawaii Federation of Republican Women ("HFRW") and this is a name change.

**ARTICLE IV STATE COMMITTEE AND STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
PART B. OFFICERS**

**SECTION 406. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE CHAIR.**

The State Chair is the chief executive officer of the Party and has all the duties and responsibilities of a chair identified in these Rules. The State Chair is an ex-officio voting member of all organized bodies of the Party. ~~Between meetings of the State Executive Committee, the State Chair has all the powers of the State Executive Committee.~~ The State Chair shall supervise the other State officers in the performance of their duties.

Rationale: This rule gives the State Chair unlimited authority without the appropriate checks or balances. The State Chair is responsible for calling meetings of the State Executive Committee and the State Committee; if the Chair does not call any meetings they have unlimited authority without accountability.

**ARTICLE IV STATE COMMITTEE AND STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
PART C. STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**SECTION 412. DUTIES OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

The State Executive Committee has all the powers of an executive committee provided in these Rules. ~~It has the full powers, duties and responsibilities of the State Committee, including but not limited to determining eligibility for membership, in between meetings of the State Committee.~~ The State Executive Committee is authorized to fill any ballot vacancy caused by the death, withdrawal, or disqualification of any Party candidate after filing, under Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 11-118, or other pertinent law.

Rationale: This rule gives the State Executive Committee authority without the appropriate checks or balances of the State Committee. The State Chair is responsible for calling meetings of the State Committee; if the Chair does not call any meetings the State Executive Committee have unlimited authority without accountability.