



COMMITTEE REPORT

Proposed Revision of the Party Bylaws

Submitted to:

The Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii

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Additional member inputs received throughout the revision process.

Silas Martin assisted the Secretary in the drafting and editing process for this final report.

Contents:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
PART I: FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED BYLAWS	4
PART II: COMPARISON TABLE	14
PART III: RATIONAL & EXPLANATORY NOTES	18
PART IV: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

At the 2023 State Convention, the outgoing Executive Committee requested that the Party “*fix the bylaws*”. A Bylaws & Platform Committee was subsequently appointed by the incoming Executive Committee. The committee solicited member input throughout the process, conducted regular meetings, and carried out a comparative review of the existing bylaws alongside member submissions.

The proposed revision was placed on the agenda for the August 30, 2025 Annual State Convention, at which the bylaws and platform motions were postponed. A motion was made and passed to “*set the committee schedule and passing schedule for bylaws and platform at the next EC meeting*” The committee continued its deliberations from August 2025 through May 2026 and finalized the revision.

Why Revise?

The current Bylaws were adopted November 8, 2015. In the decade since, the Party has grown, adopted new practices (including electronic meetings), and encountered governance gaps and procedural ambiguities not addressed by the original document. The revision addresses these gaps, modernizes governance procedures, and introduces a county affiliate structure to support Party growth while preserving the principles and character of the original document.

RESOURCES

- [The Current Bylaws of The Libertarian Party of Hawaii](#)
- [LPHI Current Revision Process](#)
-  [Bylaws & Platform Committee](#) (Drive Files folder)
- [Bylaws Working Draft](#)
- [Committee minutes](#)

Summary of Major Changes by Article

Article	Current (2015)	Proposed Change
Art. I: Name	Single paragraph; organization named "The Libertarian Party of Hawaii"	Minor editorial update; "The" dropped from formal name.
Art. II: Principles & Objectives	5 lettered principles (A–E); brief objectives embedded in preamble	Principles renumbered 1–4; objectives separated into formal Section 2 with 3 sub-goals including fiscal soundness
Art. III: Membership	3 brief sections; \$20 dues; general membership rights listed; no dues tiers	Expanded to 5 sections: responsibilities, rights & privileges, dues tiers, non-discrimination & anti-infiltration policy, renewal/termination procedures.
Art. IV: Officers & Duties	Brief individual duties listed without fiduciary standard; vacancy in Art. VII	Detailed joint duties including fiduciary obligations, conflict-of-interest rules, good-faith standard, & deadlines. Non-disciplinary vacancy & emergency/necessity provisions added.
Art. V: Executive Committee	EC = 4 officers + 5 at-large; meetings governed in same article	EC = 4 officers only. Introduces State Committee (EC + county chairs + optional at-large to maintain an odd number). Meetings, quorum, responsibilities formalized.
Art. VI: Meetings & Conventions	General Membership Meetings; State Convention bi-annually; platform adoption process; election procedures	Regular conventions in odd-numbered years; Special Conventions; new Special Primary Convention for contested candidacies; candidate vetting process formalized.
Art. VII: Discipline & Vacancy	Brief vacancy/succession; simple suspension mechanism with 30-day hearing	Pre-filing good-faith requirement, notice requirements, emergency suspensions with 30-day hearing deadline, full hearing procedures, appeals process, alternative process, conduct standards.
Art. VIII: County Affiliates	No provisions in current bylaws	Eligibility requirements, governance structure, financial oversight, reporting requirements, disaffiliation process.
Art. IX: Amendments	Art. VIII: 30 days' notice + 2/3 vote. Art. IX: Parliamentary authority (RONR).	2/3 vote with 60 days' notice; 7/8 supermajority if no prior notice. Temporary bypass provision (auto sunset). Parliamentary authority updated.
Art. X: Transition & General Provisions	No provisions in the current bylaws.	NEW: Effective date, transition rules for incumbents, severability, and dissolution procedures (7/8 vote at a State Convention).

Color Key: Blue = modified from current bylaws. Green = entirely new provision with no counterpart in current bylaws.

Key Benefits of the Proposed Revision

- Eliminates governance gaps and procedural ambiguities present in the current document.
- Provides a formal county affiliate structure, supporting sustainable Party growth across the state.
- Clarifies officer roles, fiduciary duties, and conflict-of-interest standards.
- Establishes a fair, clearly defined disciplinary process with robust due process protections.
- Modernizes meeting provisions to reflect electronic participation and hybrid meeting realities.
- Maintains the Party's founding principles and libertarian character throughout.

PART I: FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED BYLAWS

Below is the completed proposed Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, as recommended by the Bylaws & Platform Committee.

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of the organization is the “Libertarian Party of Hawaii,” hereinafter referred to as the “Party.”

ARTICLE II: Principles and Objectives

Section 1. Statement of Principles

The Party is committed to reducing government interventions that violate our core rights and principles. The Party affirms:

- a. The protection of individual rights is the sole moral basis of politics.
- b. Individuals possess inherent rights to life, liberty, and the ownership and voluntary exchange of justly acquired property and services.
- c. No person or institution, public or private, may initiate physical force or commit fraud against another. Force may only be used in the exercise of justice through due process, in self-defense, or to protect life and property.
- d. Individuals are free to choose their viewpoints, beliefs, and lifestyles, provided they do not violate the equal rights of others.

Section 2. The Objective and Means of Political Action

The Party shall engage in politics, advocacy, and activism to promote and advance the following ideals and principles:

- a. The Party shall seek to increase human respect and happiness amongst individuals and local communities through voluntary cooperation.
- b. The Party shall seek to maximize freedom by limiting government intervention in social and economic affairs to protect the natural rights of individuals, especially life, liberty, and property.
- c. The Party shall maintain fiscal soundness with a balanced budget and should avoid incurring debt.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1. Responsibilities

Membership is open to individuals who:

- a. Subscribe to the Party’s Principles and Objectives and conduct themselves accordingly.
- b. Affirm the non-aggression principle (NAP): *“I hereby certify that I oppose and will not initiate physical force or commit fraud against another to accomplish social or political goals.”*
- c. Maintain a physical presence or interest, or are registered to vote (if eligible), in Hawaii. Subsection c does not apply to Lifetime Members.
- d. Are in good standing, defined as having paid required dues (if applicable), and not being subject to disciplinary action or suspension under Article VII.

Section 2. Dues and Levels of Membership

Party Dues are annual donation thresholds which determine membership level. All Members must adhere to Article III Section 1 requirements. Membership Levels and Dues:

- a. Sustaining Members pay the standard dues amount: the standard dues amount may be changed by a special or regular convention, by two-thirds vote, with sixty days' prior notice.
- b. Lifetime Members must meet basic member requirements, except residency, and pay a \$3,500 one-time fee. Rights include all other applicable membership privileges without recurring dues. Lifetime members who no longer reside in Hawaii do not retain the right to run for Party Office.
- c. To upgrade between membership tiers, a member must pay the difference in dues via a method approved by the Treasurer and submit updated contact information, and (if required), proof of residency to confirm eligibility.
- d. The Treasurer, Secretary, or a qualified designee will verify submissions to ensure compliance with Party bylaws and rules, and with applicable laws.

Section 3. Non-Discrimination and Anti-Infiltration Policy

- a. The Party shall not discriminate based on characteristics protected by applicable law or immutable personal characteristics, and shall not be required to recognize ideological, political, or associational beliefs as protected classes.
- b. The Party may take defensive measures consistent with the NAP against organized entities or coordinated efforts that demonstrably advocate or engage in the initiation of force, fraud, or coercion, or that seek to undermine the Party's autonomy through deceptive or hostile means.
- c. Members seeking nomination, party office, or any kind of candidacy, contract, or employment must disclose in writing any conflicting relationships or employment with entities opposing Party goals (per Article II) to the Executive Committee, which may choose to interview the member.
- d. Upon a finding, by a majority of the Executive Committee, that a member has a substantial and material conflict of interest or has knowingly concealed required disclosures, the State Committee may take corrective action pursuant to Article VII.
- e. Officers and executive members shall disclose conflicts of interest within thirty days of the start of term (or at the first meeting, whichever is earlier) and annually thereafter, or at any time when such conflicts may arise.
- f. No adverse action under this Section shall be taken without notice, an opportunity to respond, and a recorded vote.

Section 4. Renewal and Termination

- a. Sustaining memberships renew annually with payment of dues and updated contact information, with a 30-day grace period.
- b. Membership terminates if a member fails to renew within one year and 30 days, resigns voluntarily, or per Article VII.
- c. Termination does not relieve members of prior financial obligations, nor is the Party obligated to reimburse claims for time, compensation, or monetary contributions.

ARTICLE IV: Officers and Duties

Section 1. Core Officers and Joint Duties

- a. Officers — the Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, and Treasurer — are elected at the State Convention for a two-year term, until successors are elected.
- b. Officers must be Sustaining or Lifetime Members pursuant to Article III.
- c. Officers may not hold multiple executive positions within the State Party or its affiliates, except as specified in Article IV, section 6.
- d. Officers act as fiduciaries, avoiding conflicts of interest, ensuring legal and fiscal compliance, and acting in the Party's best interests, and are diligent in their duties. Nothing in this article shall be construed against the responsible delegation of officer duties.
- e. Officers shall refrain from behavior that could harm the Party's reputation.
- f. Officers at all times shall maintain good faith.
- g. Officers shall ensure that deadlines required by these bylaws or state law are met.

Section 2. Chair Duties

The Chair shall:

- a. Regularly preside at the Executive Committee, State Committee, and Convention meetings.
- b. Serve as Executive Director or appoint one (subject to Executive Committee approval) to oversee daily administration and programs.
- c. Assign tasks and serve ex officio on committees.
- d. Take on and delegate whichever other such duties as may be required by the Party to accomplish its objectives.
- e. Act as the primary spokesperson for the Party.

Section 3. Vice-chair Duties

The Vice-Chairperson shall:

- a. Assist the Chairperson in the performance of executive duties,
- b. Act as Chairperson in the temporary absence of the Chairperson.

Section 4. Secretary Duties

The Secretary shall:

- a. Maintain accurate records and minutes or appoint a custodian (subject to Executive Committee approval).
- b. Manage official correspondence
- c. Ensure confidentiality and accuracy of membership lists.

Section 5. Treasurer Duties

The Treasurer shall:

- a. Manage and oversee Party finances, depositing and disbursing funds as directed.
- b. Provide information, financial reports, and audits as set by the Executive Committee.
- c. Guide county affiliates on regulatory compliance.

Section 6. Vacancy, Emergency, and the Rule of Necessity

- a. Non-disciplinary Removal Policy:

1. Resignation: when resignations are tendered “effective immediately”, they shall be deemed as accepted by the chair, except for good cause; any other resignation acceptance procedure shall conform to the parliamentary authority.
 2. Automatic Vacancy: If any State Committee member is absent for two consecutive regular committee meetings, that member’s position shall be deemed vacant with prior notice. The vacated member may seek reinstatement at the following regularly held meeting, provided another member in good standing is willing to sponsor the motion. This motion may be brought in the meeting immediately following automatic vacancy without prior notice. This provision shall not be construed to affect the Chair’s ex-officio membership status concerning subcommittees, nor to disparage the state committee’s prerogative to excuse absences.
- b. Solely in the case of necessity, an officer may temporarily hold multiple roles within the Executive Committee, as approved by a majority vote of the remaining Executive Committee members, for a maximum of 60 days.
- c. The Executive Committee shall make every attempt to fill vacancies within 60 days.

ARTICLE V: State and Executive Committee

Section 1. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of the four elected officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer)

Section 2. State Committee

The State Committee shall consist of:

- a. The Executive Committee
- b. The County chair from each recognized county affiliate or representative member elected by majority vote of the affiliate’s governing board.
- c. One at-large Executive Member, if needed to maintain an odd number.

No committee member shall run for public office unless they resign or unless the committee approves their candidacy by majority vote. Conflicts of interest shall be addressed per Article III, Section 4.

Section 3. Size and Term

- a. The State Committee should maintain an odd number of members. If the total of officers and County chairs is even, an at-large member may be elected at the State Convention.
- b. If a county affiliate is not in good standing or inactive, an at-large member may be elected to fill the County chair’s position, and to organize that county.
- c. The Executive Committee and any at-large members of the State Committee shall be elected at each Regular Convention and shall hold office until adjournment sine die of the next Regular Convention or until their successors are elected.

Section 4. Meetings and Quorum

- a. The State and Executive Committees shall meet as respectively determined, at the chair’s call, or upon written request of three or more members, with at least three days’ prior notice. Meetings called without ordinary notice must show good cause, and may be called for reconsideration at the next regular or special meeting.
- b. A quorum is more than half the Committee.

- c. Ordinary decisions require a majority vote, with each member having one vote.
- d. Electronic meetings are permitted with full participation.
- e. Proxy voting is prohibited except for good cause by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the State Committee, and can be revoked by majority vote.
- f. Meetings shall be open to members in good standing as observers.

Section 5. Responsibilities

With participation and oversight from the State Committee, the Executive Committee shall:

- a. Direct the day-to-day operations of the Party
- b. Lead Party affairs and see to the needs of the organization
- c. Enforce bylaws
- d. Maintain appropriate, regular documentation and evidence of work
- e. Facilitate amicable transitions to incoming executives

ARTICLE VI: Meetings, Conventions, and Candidates

Section 1. Conventions

- a. Regular State Conventions occur every odd-numbered year, holding the highest authority over Party operations. Elections of Executive Officers and at-large members of the State Committee members shall occur at each regular Convention.
- b. The State Committee facilitates conventions, with 60 days' notice provided to members, and 30 days' public notice.
- c. A State Convention may be conducted in person, by electronic means, or in a hybrid format, as determined by the State Committee and specified in the convention notice. Any electronic or hybrid convention shall employ technology that reasonably permits all credentialed members or delegates to simultaneously hear proceedings, participate in debate as authorized by the parliamentary authority, and cast votes securely.

Section 2. Special Conventions

- a. Special Conventions may be called by the chair, subject to the State Committee, or per the parliamentary authority, with the same powers and notice requirements as regular Conventions, except as specified by this section.
- b. Special Conventions do not end an officer's term nor elect non-vacant positions unless specified in Article IV.
- c. Special Conventions may also be referred to as General Membership Meetings

Section 3. Special Primary Conventions

A Special Primary Convention selects candidates for public office if multiple candidates contest a position and none concede. The State Committee may call a Primary Convention with 30 days' notice, at least fourteen (14) days before state withdrawal deadlines.

Section 4. Candidate Vetting and Approval

Eligible candidates must:

- a. Be members in good standing (per Article III, Section 1.d),
- b. Obtain Executive Committee approval, subject to State Committee oversight or by Special Convention,
- c. Support Party objectives and principles, and
- d. Be free of impairments hindering the credible representation of Party values.

The State Committee may, at its discretion, require a candidate performance contract to align with Party initiatives and share data, set before candidacy approval. The State Committee or subcommittee thereof shall interview candidates for principle alignment and fitness, with results approved by the State Committee. Candidates disagreeing with platform planks may be restricted from publicly raising those issues if it could cause harm to the Party, provided that candidates may express dissenting opinions if they clearly disclose they are expressing a personal opinion and not that of the Party. Approval and endorsement under this Article govern the Party's own support, resources, and communications. The Party reserves the right to object to the nomination paper of a person under these bylaws.

ARTICLE VII: Vacancy, Suspension, and Disciplinary Action

Section 1. Vacancy and Succession

If the chair's office is vacant, the Vice-chair assumes the role until the next regular State Convention.

For other vacancies, the Executive Committee appoints a Sustaining or Lifetime Member in good standing (per Article III, Section 1.d) until the next Regular Convention. Any vacancy must be timely announced and should be promptly filled.

Section 2. Disciplinary Actions

All Party disciplinary proceedings shall conform to the parliamentary authority and these bylaws. This section shall not be construed to limit the use of points of order or other rights and processes defined in the parliamentary authority.

- a. **Pre-Filing Requirements:** Accusing members shall, in all cases where reasonably practicable, attempt any good-faith resolution (per Section 5.b) via an agreed arbiter. If unresolved, submit written notice to the accused and State Committee at least fourteen (14) days before a disciplinary motion is heard (five (5) days for emergency suspensions, per the Emergency Suspensions subsection below). Any disciplinary motion must be served to the accused with the notice in no less than ten (10) days before decision-making. The notice shall describe the conduct and specific bylaw or law violation, explain why discipline is warranted, provide factual support, specify the proposed action, and be certified under penalty of bylaws violation. A documented written offer of good-faith resolution satisfies this requirement if the accused declines or fails to respond within fourteen (14) days.
- b. **Emergency Suspensions:** Emergency suspensions require a two-thirds vote of the entire State Committee and are effective immediately; a special hearing shall be held within thirty (30) days. A member may seek suspension if immediate action is needed to prevent irreparable harm, evidence not subject to reasonable dispute supports the truthfulness of the claim, and the claim aligns with bylaws. If no hearing has occurred within thirty (30) days to sustain or reverse the suspension, the suspension shall expire and the member shall be restored.
- c. **Hearings and Outcomes:** Special hearings occur within thirty-five (35) days of notice (thirty (30) days after emergency suspensions). The accuser presents their case. The accused shall be allowed to present evidence, witnesses, speak, and have counsel, if they so choose. The State Committee shall hold a vote to determine the outcome of the hearing. In suspensions: to vacate, to extend until the next Convention, or to postpone for good cause. For imposing penalties without suspension: to adopt, to acquit, or to postpone for good cause.
- d. **Grounds and Standard:** Disciplinary actions must follow the Good Faith Rule (Section 5.b), be reasonable and respectful, and require good cause. By a two-thirds vote, the

State Committee may impose censure, suspension, or removal for: dereliction of duty, such as neglecting core duties causing harm to Party operations or reputation; disruptive conduct, such as obstructing Party activities, excluding good-faith dissent; public actions against Party principles; bylaw violations causing clear harm; fiduciary or ethical breaches (per Article IV, Section 1); threats to Party continuity; and bad-faith accusations.

All non-exonerating disciplinary actions must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the entire State Committee. Upon removal of an officer by the State Committee, the resulting vacancy shall be filled in accordance with Articles IV, V, and VII. The removed officer retains their membership unless separately expelled, but may not hold Party office for the remainder of the current term.

Section 3. Appeals

- a. Members may appeal disciplinary decisions to the State Committee within sixty (60) days of their hearing via written notice.
- b. Members may appeal disciplinary decisions to the State Convention via written notice to the State Committee no later than fourteen (14) days prior to convention. Appeals are added to the next agenda.
- c. A majority vote of members present may reverse the decision.

Section 4. Alternative Process

The Executive Committee may alternatively use the parliamentary authority's provided removal processes instead, provided:

- a. It allows for the exercise of Section 2.
- b. A neutral party or parliamentarian oversees the procedure, approved by both parties or a majority vote of the State Committee.

Section 5. Conduct Standards in Disciplinary Actions

- a. Members must act honestly, respectfully, and fact-based in disciplinary processes, aiming to protect Party values.
- b. Members must act in good faith. Bad faith includes malicious complaints, misrepresenting facts, or bypassing bylaws for personal gain.
- c. Due process must be respected.

ARTICLE VIII: County Affiliates

Section 1. Requirements and Structure

a. Eligibility: County Affiliates are recognized if:

1. No existing affiliate is already in good standing in that county,
2. The affiliate is proposed by at least five (5) Sustaining or Lifetime Members filling at least three mandatory officer roles (Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer),
3. They comply with the bylaws and Hawaii legal requirements, and
4. The affiliate agrees to follow State Treasurer and State Committee guidance.

b. Proposal Requirements:

1. A list of pro tem officers,

2. Proposed bylaws, and
3. Meeting minutes with roll call, officer signatures, and a vote to adopt state bylaws.

c. Affiliates maintain required officer roles, may add district/precinct delegates, and operate autonomously within the bylaws and state oversight.

d. Good Standing: Affiliates are in good standing if they:

1. Maintain five (5) Sustaining Members and required officers,
2. Submit required reports (per Section 2.b),
3. Comply with bylaws and platform, state guidance, and Hawaii campaign finance laws,
4. Participate in Party activities as feasible, with flexibility for affiliates with fewer than ten (10) members, and
5. Hold an annual meeting with officers elected to a two-year term.

A denial of an affiliate request must be accompanied by written reasons from these bylaws and may be appealed to the next State Convention, where a majority vote of delegates may override the denial.

Section 2. Financials and Reporting

a. County Expenditures and Appropriations:

1. Each recognized affiliate may have a spending account for local expenses, and may choose to collect county membership dues, provided they are not more than the annual state dues for sustaining members. The County affiliate shall allow the Executive Committee oversight and access to all county accounts.
2. Requests for funding shall be requested via written motions with meeting minutes, signed by the chair and Treasurer, within budget limits and compliant with the Treasurer's campaign finance guidance.
3. Receipts for expenditures must be submitted to the State Treasurer within 10 days.

b. Reporting:

1. Monthly, quarterly, and annual reports on financial activities are submitted to the Executive Committee.
2. Affiliates must adhere to the State Treasurer's campaign spending and compliance guidance.

c. Disaffiliation:

1. A county affiliate may be disaffiliated for failure to maintain good standing under Section 1.d or to meet the requirements of Section 2 of this Article.
2. Before any disaffiliation vote, the affiliate shall receive written notice specifying each deficiency and no fewer than thirty (30) days to cure. If a deficiency remains uncured, the State Committee may disaffiliate the affiliate by two-thirds vote of the entire State Committee, after a hearing at which the affiliate may present evidence and be heard.
3. Disaffiliation for any other cause requires a two-thirds vote at a State Convention.
4. A disaffiliated affiliate may appeal to the next State Convention by written notice to the Secretary no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the convention, where a majority vote of members present may reverse the disaffiliation.

ARTICLE IX: Amendments

Section 1. Bylaw and Platform Changes

Bylaw and platform changes require:

- a. Approval at a State Convention by two-thirds vote of members present with prior approval from the bylaws committee, as appointed by the Executive Committee, and 60 days prior notice to members; if no prior notice has been perfected, or if it lacks committee approval, a seven-eighths majority is required for any proposed amendments.
- b. Unanimous State Committee approval with 60 days prior notice. Subsection b shall expire automatically upon adjournment of the next regular State Convention following adoption of these bylaws. *Any changes made under this provision prior to its expiration must be presented to that Convention for ratification by a two-thirds vote of delegates. If not ratified, the changes are repealed and the prior language is restored.* Subsection b may not be used to amend this Article or Article VII. Any change adopted under subsection b shall be communicated to all members within seven (7) days of adoption and filed as required by law.

Section 2. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised” at the time of interpretation shall govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws or any special rules of order adopted by the Party. In the event of conflict, these bylaws shall take precedence.

ARTICLE X: TRANSITION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Effective Date

These bylaws take effect upon close of the meeting at which they are adopted, and supersede all prior bylaws. Actions validly taken under prior bylaws remain valid.

Section 2. Transition

Officers and at-large Executive Committee members serving at the time of adoption continue in office until the next Regular Convention. Until that convention, at-large members elected under the prior bylaws serve as at-large members of the State Committee, and the Executive Committee consists of the four officers. Until the first county affiliate is recognized, the State Committee consists of the Executive Committee and the at-large members described in this section.

Section 3. Severability

If any provision of these bylaws is held invalid, the remaining provisions continue in full force.

Section 4. Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Party, remaining assets shall be applied first to lawful obligations and then distributed consistent with applicable campaign finance law to one or more organizations advancing the Party's principles, as determined by a seven-eighths vote at a State Convention.

PART II: COMPARISON TABLE

The following table presents a side-by-side comparison of each article and major section. For a complete side-by-side reading, refer to [the current bylaws](#) alongside the full proposed text in [Part I](#) of this report. *Blue links within this table take you to the exact language in Part I.*

Article / Section	Current Bylaws (2015)	Proposed Bylaws (2026)
ARTICLE I: NAME		
Art.I: Name	“The name of the organization shall be ‘The Libertarian Party of Hawaii’, hereinafter referred to as the ‘Party’.”	SIMPLIFIED: “The name of the organization is the ‘Libertarian Party of Hawaii,’ hereinafter referred to as the ‘Party.’”
ARTICLE II: PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES		
Art.II, Sec. 1: Principles	5 principles embedded in the preamble: Individual rights to life, liberty, and property; prohibition on force/fraud; lifestyle freedom; voluntary exchange; and the moral basis of politics.	SIMPLIFIED: 4 numbered principles. Clarifies that force is permitted “ <i>in the exercise of justice through due process, in self-defense, or to protect life and property.</i> ”
Art.II, Sec. 2: Objectives	Single paragraph stating the Party enters politics to eliminate government intervention in moral & economic affairs.	EXPANDED: Renamed “ <i>The Objective and Means of Political Action.</i> ” with 3 sub-goals (a–c): voluntary cooperation, maximizing freedom by limiting government intervention, & maintaining fiscal soundness with a balanced budget.
ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP		
Art.III, Sec. 1: Membership Conditions	Members are those who subscribe to the principles, sign the Party Pledge, & pay dues. (No residency requirement)	EXPANDED: 4 conditions: principle adherence, updated NAP pledge, a requirement to “ <i>maintain a physical presence or interest, or are registered to vote</i> ” in Hawaii (Lifetime Members exempt). “ <i>Good standing</i> ” is defined.
Art.III, Sec. 2: Dues & Membership Levels	“ <i>The Party Dues is an annual fee... \$20 per year.</i> ” No mechanism to change dues.	EXPANDED: Redefined as “ <i>annual donation thresholds.</i> ” Introduces Sustaining (standard amount, changeable by convention by two-thirds vote with 60 days’ notice) & Lifetime (\$3,500) tiers. Upgrade & verification procedures defined.
Membership Rights (current Sec. 3)	“ <i>Membership privileges include the right to vote in Party elections, receipt of the Party newsletters and emails, and the right to represent the Party in candidacy for public office.</i> ”	REMOVED: Consolidated into other sections. Member participation rights operate through the provisions that govern them: voting at conventions (Art. VI), candidacy eligibility (Art. VI, Sec. 4), observer access to meetings (Art. V, Sec. 4.e), notice requirements (throughout) & disciplinary due process and appeals (Art. VII).

Art.III, Sec. 3: Non-Discrimination & Anti-Infiltration	Not present.	NEW: Anti-discrimination rule (characteristics protected by law & immutable). Anti-infiltration policy. Disclosure requirements for candidacy/employment. Conflict-of-interest procedures. No adverse action without notice, an opportunity to respond, & a recorded vote.
Art.III, Sec. 4: Renewal / Termination	Not present.	NEW: Annual renewal with a 30-day grace period. Termination upon failure to renew within 1 year + 30 days, voluntary resignation, or per Article VII . The Party is not obligated to reimburse time or contributions upon termination.
ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND DUTIES		
Art. IV, Sec. 1: Joint Duties	Officers listed (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer); elected at the State Convention.	EXPANDED: New joint-duties section: membership requirements, no dual office-holding, fiduciary obligations, reputational conduct standard, good-faith requirement, & deadline compliance. Two-year term.
Art.IV, Sec. 2: Chair	“Shall preside at all meetings, perform duties of office, and such other duties as assigned by the Executive Committee.”	EXPANDED: Presides at EC, State Committee, and Convention meetings; may appoint or serve as Executive Director; assigns tasks; serves ex officio on committees; acts as primary spokesperson.
Art.IV, Sec. 3: Vice-Chair	Assists the Chair; performs Chair duties in the Chair’s absence; performs duties assigned by the EC.	SIMPLIFIED: Assist the Chair; act as Chair in Chair’s absence. (Assignments by EC moved to Joint Duties.)
Art.IV, Sec. 4: Secretary	Keeps accurate records; takes minutes; tallies votes in elections and roll calls.	EXPANDED: Maintains records and minutes or appoints a custodian; manages official correspondence; ensures confidentiality and accuracy of membership lists.
Art.IV, Sec. 5: Treasurer	Receives and deposits Party funds; disburses upon EC order.	EXPANDED: Oversees all Party finances; provides information, reports, and audits per EC direction; guides county affiliates on regulatory compliance.
Art.IV, Sec. 6: Vacancy / Emergency	Not present.	NEW: Resignation procedures; automatic vacancy after 2 consecutive absences with a reinstatement path; rule-of-necessity provision allowing temporary dual roles for up to 60 days; 60-day target to fill vacancies.
ARTICLE V: STATE AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
Art.V, Sec. 1: Executive Committee Composition	EC = 4 officers + 5 at-large members elected at the State Convention. EC takes office immediately upon close of the Convention.	FORMALIZED: EC = 4 officers only. The State Committee is introduced (Sec. 2) to fill the role previously held by the EC + at-large members.
Art.V, Sec. 2: State Committee	Not present.	NEW: State Committee = EC + county chairs (or an affiliate representative) + an optional at-large member to

		maintain an odd number. No dual candidacy/office for committee members without approval.
Art.V, Sec. 3: Size and Term	EC elected at each State Convention; serves until the next State Convention.	EXPANDED: EC and at-large members elected at each Regular Convention; serve until adjournment sine die of the next Regular Convention or until successors are elected.
Art.V, Sec. 4: Meetings & Quorum	Meets by EC action, the Chair's call, or 3+ member request. Majority quorum. Majority vote rules. No proxy voting. Open to member observation.	EXPANDED: Same triggers; 3 days' prior notice required. Quorum = majority. Electronic meetings permitted. Proxy voting prohibited except for good cause by 3/4 State Committee vote, revocable by majority. Open to members in good standing as observers.
Art.V, Sec. 5: Responsibilities	"The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility, subject to the direction of the General Membership Meetings, for the development and implementation of Party policy, the creation of budgets, the operations of the Party, and the expenditures of Party funds."	EXPANDED: 5 listed responsibilities: day-to-day operations, leading Party affairs, enforcing bylaws, maintaining documentation, & facilitating transitions. Oversight shared with the State Committee.
ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS, CONVENTIONS, AND CANDIDATES		
Art.VI, Sec. 1: Conventions	Party holds conventions at least bi-annually; officers of the Party are officers of the convention; EC supervises.	FORMALIZED: Regular Conventions held in odd-numbered years, holding the highest authority. 60 days' member notice, 30 days' public notice. Electronic permitted at the discretion of the State Committee.
Art.VI, Sec. 2: Special Conventions	Not present.	NEW: Special Conventions callable by the chair (subject to the State Committee) or per RONR. Same powers as regular conventions except officer elections (unless specified). Also referred to as General Membership Meetings.
Art.VI, Sec. 3: Primary Conventions	Not present.	NEW: Special Primary Convention for contested candidacies if no candidate concedes. 30 days' notice; at least 14 days before state withdrawal deadlines.
Art.VI, Sec. 4: Candidate Vetting	The EC may interview intended candidates for principle alignment and platform familiarity. The EC may restrict candidates from raising certain planks.	FORMALIZED: 4 eligibility requirements for candidates; State Committee oversight role; optional candidate performance contract; interview and approval process. Dissenting candidates may express personal opinions with clear disclosure that they do not speak for the Party. Approval and endorsement govern only the Party's own

		support, resources, and communications; Party reserves right to object to nomination papers.
Art.VI: Platform (former Sec. 3.B–C)	Platform adopted at the State Convention; 2/3 vote to add, 1/3 vote to delete; Platform Committee appointed 60 days prior.	SIMPLIFIED: Platform amendment governed by Article IX, Section 1 alongside bylaws amendments.
Art.VI: EC Elections (former Sec. 3.A)	Floor nomination and runoff procedures; vote thresholds; provisions for low-turnout.	SIMPLIFIED: Election procedures handled by RONR.
ARTICLE VII: VACANCY, SUSPENSION, AND DISCIPLINE		
Art.VII.Sec. 1: Vacancy	Chair vacancy: the Vice-Chair serves until the next State Convention. Other vacancies: the EC appoints members until the next State Convention.	FORMALIZED: “Regular” State Convention specified; appointees must be Sustaining or Lifetime Members in good standing. A vacancy must be “timely announced and should be promptly filled.”
Art.VII.Sec. 2: Discipline	2/3 EC majority may suspend membership for: public action contrary to principles, unauthorized claims to speak for the Party, or serious/repeated meeting disruption. Full hearing within 30 days. 10-day post-hearing vote. Members at the General Membership Meeting may override by 2/3 vote.	OVERHAUL: Pre-filing requirement (good-faith resolution; a written offer satisfies it if the accused declines or fails to respond within 14 days). Specific notice requirements (14 days; 5 days for emergencies; 10 days for service to the accused). Emergency suspension by 2/3 of the entire State Committee; 30-day hearing deadline or the suspension expires automatically. Full hearing procedures including the right to counsel. 2/3 of the entire State Committee for all non-exonerating outcomes. Removed officer retains membership.
Art.VII.Sec. 3: Appeals	Not present.	NEW: Written appeal to the State Committee within 60 days of hearing, or to the State Convention with 14 days’ notice. Majority-vote reversal.
Art.VII.Sec. 4–5: Alternative Process & Standards	Not present.	NEW: EC may alternatively use RONR removal process with neutral oversight. Conduct standards for all parties.
ARTICLE VIII: COUNTY AFFILIATES (NEW ARTICLE)		
Art.VIII: Counties	Not present.	NEW: Eligibility requirements for county affiliates (five Sustaining or Lifetime Members; mandatory officers); proposal/application requirements; good-standing criteria; convention appeal for denials; financial oversight & reporting. Disaffiliation requires written notice of each deficiency, no fewer than 30 days to cure, a hearing, and a

		2/3 vote of the entire State Committee; disaffiliation for any other cause requires a 2/3 vote at a State Convention, appealable to the next State Convention.
ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS & PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY		
Art.VIII (current): Amendments	Proposed amendments submitted 30 days before the General Membership Meeting. 2/3 vote of members present and voting. Copy of the bylaws available upon request.	CONSOLIDATED: Moved into Article IX . 60 days' notice & bylaws-committee approval; 2/3 vote of members present at a State Convention; a 7/8 supermajority applies if notice is not perfected or committee approval is lacking. Also covers platform changes. The bypass provision (subsection b) expires automatically at the next regular convention may not amend Article VII or Article IX , with notice requirement of 7 days and filed.
Art.IX Sec 2: Parliamentary Authority	"Roberts Rules of Order, Latest Edition, shall be the Parliamentary Authority..."	FORMALIZED: <i>"The current edition of 'Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised' at the time of interpretation..."</i> The bylaws take precedence over RONR in the event of conflict.
ARTICLE X: TRANSITION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS (NEW ARTICLE)		
Art.X: Transitions	Not present.	NEW: Effective date (upon close of the adopting meeting; prior valid actions preserved). Transition rules: incumbent officers and at-large members continue until the next Regular Convention, with prior at-large members serving on the State Committee. Severability clause. Dissolution: assets applied to lawful obligations, then distributed consistent with campaign finance law to organizations advancing Party principles, by a 7/8 vote at a State Convention.

Shading key: Modified or expanded. New; no counterpart in the current bylaws. Removed; no counterpart in the proposed bylaws.

PART III: RATIONAL & EXPLANATORY NOTES

The following notes provide context and reasoning for significant changes. Minor editorial and formatting changes are **not** annotated. All substantive changes were adopted at Bylaws & Platform Committee meetings by motion, second, and vote, as recorded in [the committee minutes](#). The hyperlinks go directly to their referenced texts.

Article II: Principles and Objectives

The substance of all five original principles is preserved, though consolidated from five to four by combining the core rights statement. A new affirmative statement was added clarifying that force is permitted in self-defense, the exercise of justice, and protection of life and property, consistent with the NAP. The Objectives section was elevated to a formal, numbered Section 2 and expanded to include three sub-goals: (a) voluntary cooperation, (b) limiting government intervention, and (c) fiscal soundness.

Article III: Membership

The current membership article is brief. It has no residency requirement, no upgrade path, and no process for termination. The proposed revision addresses each.

The NAP pledge was updated for greater clarity and precision. The dues structure change from a flat fee to convention-controlled tiers gives members direct control over dues levels. The Lifetime Membership fee is fixed at \$3,500. The standalone “Rights and Privileges” section that appeared in earlier drafts was not carried forward into the final draft. Each participation right the list referenced is secured by the provision that actually governs it:

- Voting at conventions (Article VI),
- Candidacy eligibility (Article VI, Section 4),
- Observer access to meetings (Article V, Section 4.e),
- Disciplinary due process and appeals (Article VII),
- Notice requirements throughout where applicable

Removing the enumerated list avoids any implication that membership rights are limited to those listed.

The Non-Discrimination and Anti-Infiltration Policy (Section 3) was added to protect the Party’s integrity while affirming its libertarian commitment to judging individuals on their conduct not identity. The anti-infiltration provisions are narrowly tailored to apply only to coordinated efforts that demonstrably engage in or advocate force, fraud, or coercion against the Party, consistent with the NAP.

Article IV: Officers and Duties

The addition of explicit joint duties, including fiduciary obligations, good-faith requirements, and the prohibition on behavior harmful to the Party’s reputation, is in line with best practices for nonprofits and political organizations. Codifying them clarifies expectations and provides a basis for accountability.

The non-disciplinary vacancy provisions were moved here for consolidation. The automatic vacancy provision (two consecutive absences with prior notice) addresses a recurring governance challenge. The rule-of-necessity provision allows emergency temporary dual-role holding for up to 60 days to prevent board paralysis.

Article V: Executive and State Committee

The biggest structural change in the document is the introduction of the State Committee as distinct from the Executive Committee. Under the current bylaws, five at-large members are elected to the Executive Committee for a 9-person governing body. The proposed revision creates a leaner 4-person Executive Committee (officers only) responsible for day-to-day operations. The State Committee (which includes county chairs) handles broader oversight.

This change is designed to support county affiliate development. As affiliates are recognized, their chairs automatically become part of the governing structure, providing organic representation without requiring amendments. The at-large member provision ensures a perpetual odd-number composition regardless of county affiliates.

The term language was clarified in the final draft so that the Executive Committee and at-large members elected at a Regular Convention serve until adjournment sine die of the next Regular Convention or until their successors are elected. The proxy voting modification (prohibited

except for good cause by 3/4 State Committee vote) is a relaxation from the current absolute prohibition, to accommodate for expansion potential.

Article VI: Meetings, Conventions, and Candidates

The Special Primary Convention provision addresses the possibility of multiple qualified Party candidates for the same public office. The current bylaws do not address this situation. The candidate vetting and approval process was formalized, drawing from the existing (informal) EC interview practice and the [DeCosta submission](#). The detailed election procedures previously in Article VI were removed in favor of RONR, which already governs these procedures. Electronic meetings are permitted at the discretion of the State Committee.

The final draft refines the candidate-dissent language so that a candidate who disagrees with a platform plank may express a dissenting opinion if they clearly disclose that they are expressing a personal opinion and not that of the Party. Approval and endorsement under this Article govern only the Party's own support, resources, and communications, and the Party reserves the right to object to a person's nomination paper under these bylaws. Together, these confirm that the vetting process controls the Party's internal backing.

Article VII: Vacancy, Suspension, and Disciplinary Action

The current disciplinary article (VII) is a single section covering suspension and discipline. The proposed revision expands this based on RONR standards and best practices for small organizations.

The pre-filing, good-faith resolution requirement is intended to prevent weaponization of the disciplinary process and to encourage resolution of disputes without formal proceedings wherever possible. A documented written offer of good-faith resolution satisfies this requirement if the accused declines or fails to respond within fourteen (14) days.

The emergency suspension provision with a 30-day automatic expiration prevents indefinite suspensions without a hearing. If the State Committee fails to hold a hearing within 30 days, the suspension automatically lapses.

The 2/3 vote of the "entire" State Committee (not just members present) for all non-exonerating disciplinary actions sets a meaningful supermajority threshold. Illustrative definitions to the grounds are included (dereliction of duty is tied to neglect of core duties causing harm, and disruptive conduct expressly excludes good-faith dissent) so that the disciplinary power cannot be weaponized against ordinary disagreement.

Article VIII: County Affiliates (New)

The county affiliate structure is entirely new and was a priority of the committee from the outset. Hawaii's geography makes county-level organization a necessity for sustained Party growth. The current bylaws have no framework for county affiliates. Affiliate eligibility includes either Sustaining or Lifetime Members counting toward the five-member proposal threshold.

The financial oversight requirements (spending account access, receipts within 10 days, monthly/quarterly/annual reports) are designed to maintain compliance with Hawaii campaign finance laws. The State Treasurer's guidance role is formalized (with input from the current Treasurer) to help county affiliates navigate their requirements.

The disaffiliation provisions are drawn from the [DeCosta submission](#) and standard practice, and were substantially strengthened in the final draft. The affiliate must receive written notice specifying each bylaw deficiency with no fewer than thirty (30) days to cure. If a deficiency remains uncured, the State Committee may disaffiliate by a two-thirds vote of the entire State Committee, after a hearing at which the affiliate may present evidence and be heard. Disaffiliation for any other cause requires a two-thirds vote at a State Convention, with a provision to appeal at the next State Convention. This mirrors the due-process specified in Article VII.

Article IX: Amendments

The amendment process was strengthened in two ways. First, notice was increased from 30 to 60 days. Second, a 7/8 supermajority was added for amendments proposed without perfected notice or lacking bylaws-committee approval. This follows RONR's protective approach to previous notice, while still allowing alternatives when low participation is an issue.

The temporary bypass provision (Section 1.b) allows the State Committee to amend the bylaws by unanimous vote with 60 days' notice, without requiring a full convention, until the next regular convention. The committee is aware of the risks of this provision and deliberately retained it as a practical tool for the current cooperative governing board. The final draft adds three safeguards beyond the automatic sunset and mandatory ratification

- The bypass may not be used to amend Article VII (discipline) or Article IX
- Any change adopted under it must be communicated to all members within seven (7) days
- Such changes must be filed as required by law.

These additions prevent the bypass from being used to entrench itself or to alter members' due-process protections.

The current Article VIII, Section 2 provision requiring a copy of the bylaws to be made available upon request was not carried forward as a separate rule. The Party publishes its governing documents on its website, which exceeds the current standard.

Article X: Transition and General Provisions (New)

Article X is new and consolidates housekeeping provisions that RONR ordinarily handles through provisos attached to the motion to adopt (RONR (12th ed.) 57:15). Embedding these rules in the document itself makes the transition self-executing and avoids the need for separate provisos in the motion to adopt.

Section 1 fixes the effective date at the close of the adopting meeting and preserves the validity of actions taken under the prior bylaws. Section 2 ensures continuity of governance so that officers and at-large members serving at adoption continue until the next Regular Convention, with prior at-large members serving on the State Committee, so that no sitting member's term is cut short by the reorganization. Section 3 adds a standard severability clause. Section 4 supplies a dissolution rule directing that remaining assets satisfy lawful obligations first and then be distributed consistent with applicable campaign finance law to organizations advancing the Party's principles, upon a seven-eighths vote at a State Convention.

PART IV: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Bylaws & Platform Committee recommends that the proposed revision of the bylaws, as set out in Part I of this report, be adopted at the Special Convention authorized by the 2025 State Convention.

1. Receive this report and set the date, time, and place of the Special Convention. Per the ruling upheld at the 2025 Annual State Convention. **The Special Convention must be conducted in person.**
2. Distribute notice of the Special Convention and of the proposed revision to all members. Under [Article VIII, Section 1](#) of the current bylaws, proposed amendments must be submitted to the Executive Committee at least thirty (30) days before the meeting at which they are to be considered. Consistent with that requirement and with RONR's previous-notice principles, the committee recommends that the notice include a copy of this report and that it be sent at least thirty (30) days before the Special Convention.

MOTION TO BE OFFERED AT THE SPECIAL CONVENTION

By direction of the committee, the reporting member will move the adoption of the following:

Resolved, *That the bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii be revised by substituting the proposed bylaws contained in Part I of the report of the Bylaws & Platform Committee.*

Because the motion is made on behalf of a committee of more than one member, it requires no second (RONR (12th ed.) 4:11).

The existing bylaws remain in full force unless and until the revision is adopted. Upon adoption, the [revised bylaws](#) take effect at the close of the meeting, and the transition rules of [Article X](#) apply in place of separate provisos. If the revision is not adopted, [the current bylaws](#) continue unchanged.