

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS CAUCUS
POLICY & PLANNING SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT
PROPOSED 2026 GENERAL REVISION OF THE BYLAWS

TO: Executive Committee, Hawaiian Affairs Caucus

FROM: Policy & Planning Special Committee
Chair: Mina Morita
Members: Makana Paris, Elmer Kaai, Roth
Puahala, Mokihana Maldonado

DATE: August 10, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed 2026 General Revision for
Submission to the Full Caucus

PURPOSE

The Policy & Planning Special Committee (“Committee”) respectfully submits the proposed 2026 General Revision of the Bylaws (“2026 General Revision”) of the Hawaiian Affairs Caucus (“HAC”) of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and recommends that the Executive Committee approve the proposed 2026 General Revision for submission to the HAC General Membership for consideration and ratification. The current bylaws (“2018 Bylaws”) were amended by the HAC General Membership on February 15, 2018 and ratified by the State Central Committee on March 24, 2018.

COMMITTEE REVIEW

The Policy & Planning Special Committee formally met on July 31, August 7 and August 10, 2026 to review and discuss amendments to the 2018 Bylaws. The Committee determined that, due to the scope of the proposed changes, it would be more appropriately presented as a General Revision rather than a series of individual amendments. A General Revision allowed the Committee reviewed the bylaws in its totality, making substantive and non-substantive changes wherever needed to ensure consistency and readability. The proposed 2026 General Revision reorganizes and modernizes the 2018 Bylaws, updates the statement of purpose and core values, clarifies the authority and responsibilities of the Executive Committee and officers, clarifies election and vacancy procedures, expands and defines standing committees, standardizes meeting procedures, and strengthens financial and administrative accountability, seeking compliance with the constitution, bylaws and rules of the Democratic Party of Hawaii.

CHANGES IN STATEMENT OF PURPOSE & CORE VALUES

- Expands the Statement of Purpose to include historical context and the continuing political, economic, social and cultural challenges affecting Native Hawaiians. Reorganizes the purpose into separately identified provisions to improve readability and organization.
- Organizes core values to improve readability and organization.

GOVERNANCE CHANGES

- Executive Committee Representation - The proposed composition increases At-Large representation for Hawai‘i County and Maui County from one member each to two members each,

while retaining two O'ahu At-Large Members, one Kaua'i At-Large Member, the Officers, Immediate Past Chairperson, and two SCC Representatives of different genders.

- Special Advisors - Allows for the appointment of Special Advisors by the President
- Elections and vacancies - The draft establishes a separate elections article, filing deadlines and voter eligibility rules. Vacancies may be filled temporarily by the Executive Committee, but a special election of the membership must occur within forty-five (45) days to fill the remainder of the term.
- Standing committees - The standing committee structure is revised to Legislation, Finance, Membership, Communications, and Rules, with defined responsibilities for each.
- Meetings - Membership meetings remain at least quarterly with a quorum of ten. Regular meeting notice becomes ten days and special meeting notice becomes five days. Executive Committee meetings change from at least monthly to at least six times per year, with quorum based on a majority of filled positions, but no fewer than three.
- Financial accountability and fundraising - The draft provides more detailed Treasurer responsibilities and requires express Executive Committee consent for fundraising activities, solicitation or acceptance of assessments, contributions or gifts, and related disbursements.
- Amendments - Amendments may be initiated by a member with ten signatures, the Executive Committee, or the Rules Committee; require at least thirty days' notice to members; and require a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at a duly convened membership meeting.
- Impossibility Clause/Emergency Powers – Allows for the Executive Committee to address an imminent emergency in accordance with DPH bylaws, or when the Executive Committee cannot garner a quorum, through procedures based on state law.
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COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

The Committee finds that the proposed 2026 General Revision provides a clearer and more current governance framework while preserving membership authority over elections, removal, and amendment of the Bylaws. Subject to any technical, formatting, grammatical, or conforming corrections that do not materially alter the substance of the revision, the Committee recommends approval for submission to the full HAC.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

"I move that the Executive Committee approve the proposed 2026 General Revision of the Bylaws of the Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, for submission to the full HAC membership for consideration and ratification, subject to technical, formatting, grammatical, or conforming corrections that do not materially alter its substance."