



O.L.R.W. Newsletter

Oahu League of Republican Women
Carol Thomas, President • 808- 261-1146

Pam Smith, Editor

April 2018

Luncheon / Meeting

April 5, 2018

The Willows

11:00 A.M. Social Hour

11:30 A.M. Meeting

12:00 Noon Lunch

12:30 P.M. Speaker

Cost

**\$35.00 Members
Guests**

Menu

**You will be choosing from
the entire**

Willows Buffet

line including

Assorted Salads

Roast Beef

Chicken

Willows Curry

Laulau

Kalua Pig

Sushi

More...

Assorted Desserts

Beverages

Reservations/Cancellations

Celyn Chong Kee

306-5089

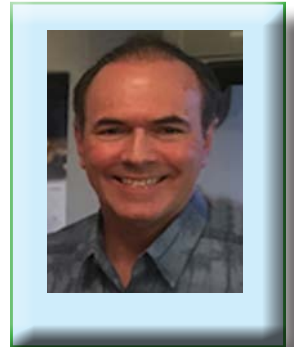
olrwreservations@gmail.com

olrw.org

**Reservations/Cancellations
must be made by March 29th.**

**All lunches are reserved, so No
Shows will be charged for their
lunch. Please - no walk-ins.**

Speaker: Mark White Hawaii Director Convention of States



Mark K. White was born into a military family at Maxell AFB, Alabama in 1957. He graduated from high school in 1975 then attended Northern Arizona University where he graduated with an extended degree in Biology. After working for 5 years managing restaurant kitchens, he joined the Air Force as an officer candidate in 1984.

His command assignments in the Air Force include commanding two Services Squadrons, one while deployed for a year to Saudi Arabia and a second command at Hickam Air Force Base Hawaii. Where he met and eventually married his current wife Ginger, originally from Taiwan.

He retired from the Air Force in the Spring of 2012 and returned to Oahu as a resident of Hawaii.

Since his retirement he has done extensive volunteer work for non-profit and nonpartisan organizations. He served almost 4 years as President and Executive Director of the 3-dimensional artist group Hawaii Craftsmen before resigning to become the State Director for Convention of States Action in Hawaii in late 2015.

He currently teaches pottery arts at both Schofield Barracks and Hawaii Potter's Guild when he is not presenting, advocating, or leading his Convention of States Action team in Hawaii.



Inside

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2018 Dues

\$35.00.

**Due
Now**



HAU'OLI LA HANAU To

April Babies

Owen McCabe 3

Julie Nagamine 5

Katie Lim 5

Joy Corbett 6

Joe Henao 6

Kathy Brown 7

Rachel Zane 7

Mela Kealoha Lindsey 7

Roberta Chong Kee 12

Sen Sam Slom 13

Kristi Sue-Ako 14

Janet Judwin 15

Mike Palcic 17

Robert Nagamine 19

Sandra Burgess 19

Cricket Chung 20

Cindy Vaillancourt 22

Winona Lee 22

Marilyn Moniz-

Kahooahanohano 26

Gordon Trimble 27

Renee Manding 30



The Pres Says...

Carol Thomas, President

We had a great meeting on Thursday, March 1 at Willows. Our new executive director, Aaron Wilson, spoke to 70 members and guests and laid out a plan for 2018. We all need to support our new executive director.

He and Shirlene share three goals:

- 1) Unite the party
- 2) Grow the party
- 3) Elect more Republicans to office

Aaron started to work as soon as he arrived, changed into an aloha shirt and drove to the windward district caucus meeting with chair Shirlene Ostrov. That was on February 6 and this dynamic duo is on a roll.

Thanks to our party's new leadership, the media interviews Shirlene regularly and she remains positive and optimistic for the conservative values we need here in Hawaii.

As Shirlene stated in the recent press release on the departure of Charles Djou,
"We at the Republican Party of Hawaii would like to express our sincere disappointment in former Congressman Charles Djou's decision to leave our party, particularly at a time when our new leadership team is moving steadily forward with a bold and ambitious agenda and are poised to make historic gains in the 2018 elections."

However, we respect his right to make such a decision and thank him for his many years of service to our party, for standing against a one-party system of government and fighting for the conservative values we so desperately need here in Hawaii.

The Republican Party of Hawaii remains steadfastly supportive of President Trump's agenda, and are optimistic that the many victories our president has accomplished—tax reform, conservative judicial appointments, supporting small businesses and individual liberty, to name a few—will translate to 2018 electoral victories here at home. With the support of Hawaii's people, the Republican Party of Hawaii can truly make our state great again."

We did not elect an eloquent PC gentleman diplomat, nor did we elect a community organizer. We did elect a sometimes crude president, who speaks his mind and promises to clean up the political mess in our government from past administrations. He's wealthy and doesn't need lobbyist money, he's not suffering from dementia as his annual physical confirmed but he is over weight - the only health flaw the Left could attack. It's a tough job but he's up for the task, I'm sure of that.

Welcome

to our newest members

JoAnn Martin

We are looking forward to getting to know you!

We are Happy to announce

Dee Kama-McShane

became Life Members

Next Month's Luncheon

WEDNESDAY

May 2, 2018

Waialae Country Club



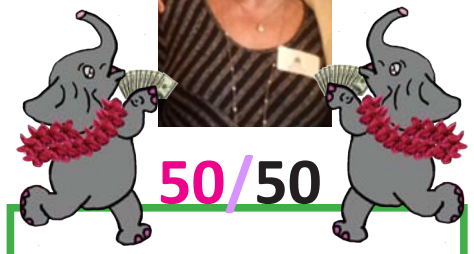
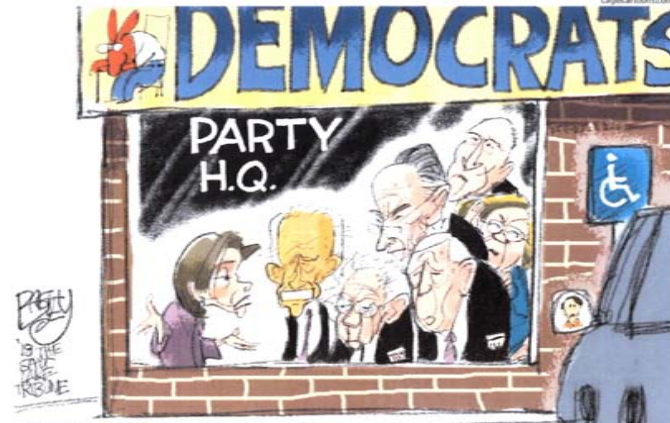
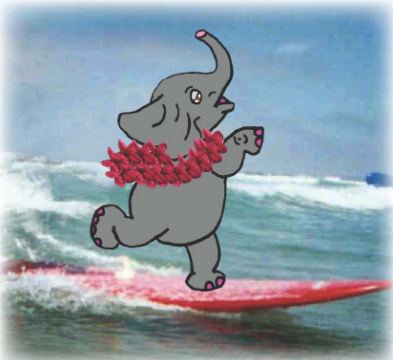
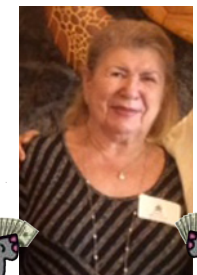
March Luncheon The Willows



Mahalo to Aaron Wilson
for giving us the opportunity to get to know him.



See Page 6 for more
information about Lone's
Beautiful Lei



Fania Wedro won the 50/50
drawing in March. Half of the pot
went to Fania, the other half goes
to the OLRW PAC.
Thank you to all who contributed.

Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Dems singing dysfunction blues

Mar 7, 2018

By Shirlene Ostrov

Shirlene Ostrov is chairwoman of the Hawaii Republican Party.

Gov. David Ige's second-in-command, and his director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, have both abandoned ship.

It is just another sign of the chaos and dysfunction in the current Democrat-controlled state leadership. We are experiencing a historic first for the state of Hawaii, where a lieutenant governor deserts his post, particularly in such a tumultuous time when the people of our state desperately need of leaders to steady the ship. This move, combined with the systemic failures most recently highlighted by the massive emergency-system snafu, speaks to a more disturbing destination for which our ship is headed if we don't change course immediately. But this story does not simply begin, or end, with Gov. Ige or former Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui. This moment highlights a disappointing legacy of the "Democrat Dynasty" here in Hawaii: the systemic and systematic failures of the "machine," which continues to operate unchecked and unaccountable for decades. Our electorate gave unbridled power to a recalcitrant status quo, which has overtaken our sense of logic and vision for the future our people. And what do the citizens of Hawaii have to show for their undying loyalty to the dynasty? We hold the dubious distinction of ranking in the top three for most tax-burdened states in the nation, while also having the highest over-all cost of living and highest per-capita rate of homelessness.

Our public education system ranks 43rd in the United States based on quality. We have a notoriously anti-business environment and one of the five highest unfunded pension liabilities, with the state's public funds' shortfall at \$25 billion. Given that a majority of our residents are living paycheck to paycheck with no accumulated savings, it is no wonder that some many of our families and friends are forced to abandon their lives in Hawaii, relocating to the far more affordable mainland.

This hopelessness is highlighted every election year by our state's distinction of having the lowest voter turnout in the nation, despite the mounting pressures affecting every family in the islands. It is dreadfully obvious that "the tail is wagging the dog" here in Hawaii and that change is long overdue. Now that we have had time to take a deep breath after the political turbulence of recent weeks, we must look forward, to reforming the status quo of our islands. How many times do we have to fail before we seek change? The pragmatic Republican Party of Hawaii offers new hope and a vision for our islands. We ask all voters to think about how their votes can shift the paradigm by bringing new ideas, new energy and new hope. It is time to realize that we are not beholden to a dynasty that no longer serves the best interests of the people.



TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Dear Governor Ige:

Whatever you may think of President Trump and the Republican-dominated Congress, they have thrown an opportunity our way, and you need to take action very soon—by March 21, 2018, to be exact—to take advantage of it.

The Trump tax overhaul act, sometimes known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, provides two main incentives to encourage investment in "qualified opportunity zones."

The first incentive allows taxpayers to defer capital gains if they sell other property and invest the proceeds in a "qualified opportunity zone fund," which then invests in property in a qualified opportunity zone (and is penalized if it doesn't). The taxpayer's basis of an investment in such a fund is initially zero, but after five years the basis is increased by 10% of the gain deferred, meaning that the taxpayer escapes tax on 10% of the capital gain. Two years later, the basis rises by another 5% of the gain deferred. If the taxpayer holds the investment until December 31, 2026, the basis jumps up to the full amount of the capital gain deferred.

What about the appreciation, if any, of the value in the taxpayer's investment? That is where the second incentive kicks in. If a taxpayer holds an investment in a qualified opportunity zone fund for at least ten years, the taxpayer may elect to have the basis in that investment be the fair market value of that investment at the time of sale. This means that if the value of the investment has risen, the investment will entirely escape capital gains tax. And if the value of the investment went south, the taxpayer

Tom Yamachika

President



does not have to make the election, and can realize losses like any other investment.

So what is a qualified opportunity zone? That's where you come in. Governors may submit nominations for a limited number of opportunity zones to the Secretary of the Treasury for certification and designation. If the number of low-income communities in a State is less than 100, the Governor may designate up to 25 census tracts, otherwise the Governor may designate tracts not exceeding 25 percent of the number of low-income communities in the State. Governors must provide particular consideration to areas that: (1) are currently the focus of mutually reinforcing state, local, or private economic development initiatives to attract investment and foster startup activity; (2) have demonstrated success in geographically targeted development programs such as promise zones, the new markets tax credit, empowerment zones, and renewal communities; and (3) have recently experienced significant layoffs due to business closures or relocations. There is a limited window of opportunity. Governors must nominate tracts by March 21, 2018 or request a 30-day extension of time by that deadline. Otherwise, the opportunity expires and may never return.

You may have heard of the New Markets Tax Credit program. That program, like this one, provides tax incentives to invest in economically distressed areas. Funds are typically organized on the Mainland and look for good areas to invest in, including in Hawaii. According to the New Markets Tax Credit Coalition, between 2003 and 2015, \$104.9 million in NMTC allocations leveraged an additional \$79.2 million from other sources for a total of \$184.1 million in project investments to 10 Hawaii businesses and revitalization efforts, creating 1,712 jobs.

Unlike the New Markets Tax Credit program, however, this one has no fixed limit on benefit allocations. Let's not pass this up.

GRASSROOT INSTITUTE

President's Corner

by Dr. Keli'i Akina, President/CEO



Is anyone surprised that Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell wants the city to use \$44 million of bond debt to pay for administrative costs related to construction of the city's planned 20-mile rail system?

The proposal is a bad sign, indicating once again that the city megaproject is in poor financial health — and, clearly, that the wildly over-budget and behind-schedule transit development needs a full, “deep” audit for fraud, waste and abuse.

Caldwell's proposal to use bond money to pay for administrative costs of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation was contained in his fiscal 2019 executive and capital programs budget, which he submitted to the Honolulu County Council on March 2. The requested funds would have to be paid back with interest, and certainly add to the ever-mounting costs of the project.

One local budget analyst said the debt interest alone could eventually be almost as much as the principal amount borrowed (assuming a 5 percent interest rate), and dangerously set a precedent for using this kind of funding mechanism in future years.

In addition, the proposed spending also goes against the Honolulu City Council's law banning itself from using city funds for the rail. Ordinance 07-001 Section 3, states that rail expenses “shall be paid entirely from general excise and use tax surcharge revenues, interest earned on the revenues, and any federal, state, or private revenues”

Notice that the law does not say “city” revenues can be used. That's why some members of the Council have been seeking for some time to change the law.

Meanwhile, according to the most recent evaluation of Honolulu's finances by Moody's Investors Services, Honolulu's “challenges related to construction of light rail” could lead to a downgrade of its Aa1 credit rating, if the city shows an “inability to manage escalating fixed cost(s).”

Yet the mayor and his cohorts on the Council now want to borrow money not only for the capital construction costs of the rail, but also for its administrative costs.

After receiving criticism that the rail was well over budget last summer during the latest round to seek state tax aid, Caldwell and other boosters of the project indicated that the rail's skyrocketing costs were now under control, and that building and operating the rail would not place the city in an endless cycle of debt.

Skeptics took those assurances with a grain of salt, but this update underlines the questions that still dog the project.

The only way to effectively address those concerns and restore public trust is through a full audit of the rail.

Although the city passed a “follow-up audit” last year, that audit will not specifically look for fraud, waste and abuse. More transparency is needed.

Whether folks are pro-rail or anti-rail, the funding realities demonstrate that city officials need to be more forthright with the public — not only about its real costs, but also about its long-term effect on Honolulu's finances.

In the end, it's a question of accountability, transparency and the public trust.

The first step is to provide full investigation of the project.

E hana kakou (Let's work together!),



OLRW Political Action Committee

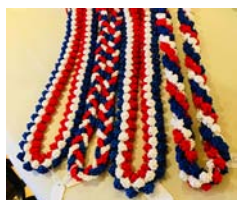
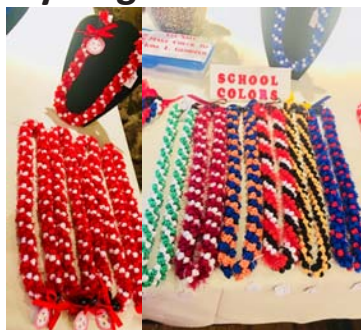
Campaign 2018

Our minimum goal for the next season is \$24000. We would like to be able to spend our PAC funds to help educate our candidates and to give generous contributions to candidates that are well organized and working hard. Reaching this goal is much easier than you might think. **We are asking every member to raise \$120.** This could include giving the money yourself or asking friends and family to help you meet your goal. \$120 over 2 years is equal to only \$5 per month.

OLRW PAC		15,000.00	15,500.00	15,550.00	15,600.00	15,650.00	15,900.00	16,000.00	17,000.00	17,500.00	17,900.00	18,000.00	18,342.00	18,500.00	19,000.00
Actual Vs Planned Goal															
Goal - 1000/mo															
Mar-18	\$18,342.77														

Our PAC gave more money to Republican candidates in 2016 than any other organization and we did two major classes to educate our candidates in campaign compliance. Please help us do more to develop and elect candidates in 2018.

We are more than \$650 behind our Goals for the year. Please look at your donations to date and think about how you can raise \$120 to help us reach our goal of \$24,000 by August.



Oahu League of Republican Women PAC is on FaceBook

Our Facebook feed is also visible on our PAC Website - **WWW.OLRWPAC.com**

Ione Gumpfer will be selling school color lei this month - perfect for graduation lei. a portion of each sale will be donated to the PAC. of course, she will have her popular patriotic lei as well.

Visit our online sites to see more information about our PAC and our candidates.

PERSONAL Contributions Only

Oahu League of Republican Women PAC

The following information helps us comply with campaign spending laws:

Individual Donor Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____ E-mail _____
Employer & Occupation information is required for anyone contributing more than \$100 since November 6, 2012.
Employer _____ Occupation _____ ☐ Retired

Political Action Committee or Company Contributions Only

Corporate Contributors - Do you have a contract with the State of Hawaii or any of its counties? ☐ Yes ☐ No

PAC or Company Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Business Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____
Contact Name _____ Title _____

I am contributing	
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____

I'm paying by ☐ check Please make checks payable to Oahu League of Republican Women (OLRW)
I'm paying by ☐ cash We are required to give you a receipt for a cash contribution of \$100 or more.

Paid for by the Oahu League of Republican Women PAC • 725 Kapiolani Blvd • C105 • Honolulu HI 96813

NEWS





Letters to the Editor

Caldwell sells trash pickup fee

'Honolulu Star-Advertiser'

March 7, 2018

There's an old saying that in order to make a sale, "reduce it to the ridiculous." That's what salesman Mayor Kirk Caldwell is trying to do with his plan to impose a new fee of \$5 a month for trash pickup ("City budget figures prompt objections," Star-Advertiser, March 3). For the past two years he has asked for a \$10 a month fee; now he's sliced it in half. Who could possibly object to paying a measly \$5 a month fee, even if we already are paying for trash collection through property taxes? But like rail, it won't take long before the fee doubles and triples so the mayor can make good on his promise to the state that the city would "put more skin in the game." So, this is the beginning of an all-out effort by the city to pay whatever it costs to keep the rail project going. Reduce it to the ridiculous.

Garry P. Smith

NEWSLETTER EDITOR TO RESIGN

I have had the honor of Editing the OLRW newsletter for 10 of the last 12 years. It has been an interesting and educational process and it has kept me very busy.

We have grown from a simple four page newsletter to as much as a full 12 pages in busy times.

We have tried to change things up and find items that inform and challenge our members.

I have had fun, but it has become more & more difficult for me to juggle my personal responsibilities with my work with the league. I will be retiring from the newsletter with the December issue.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW EDITOR.

Please contact Carol if you are interested in taking on this important position or know someone that would be a good fit.

There is lots of time for training at this point, and time to find the right software to transfer all of the info from the current format to a new one.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you all these years. I am looking forward to working with the new editor.

Pam Smith

The *Not Very* Funnies

You laugh, because if you didn't you would cry...



2017-18 OLRW Board of Directors

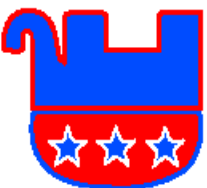
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Ione Gumpfer	Volunteer Coordinator
Pam Smith	Newsletter/Webmaster
Allan Silva	Sergeant at Arms

Upcoming Events

OLRW Volunteer opportunities: contact Ione Gumpfer, OLRW Volunteer Coordinator, at 262-9788 or igumpfer@aol.com

Volunteer at HRP Headquarters

Call 593-8180 for more information and to get shift information.



Mail your check to:

Oahu League of

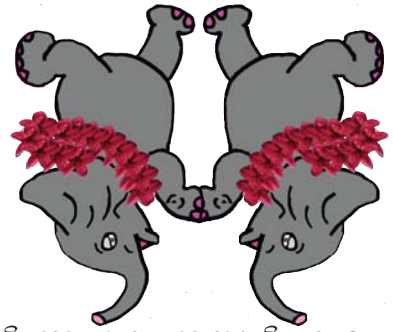
Republican Women

#C-105

725 Kapiolani Blvd.

Honolulu HI 96813

Or bring it to our next meeting



Oahu League of Republican Women Membership Application

Date _____ Birthday _____ Month _____ Day _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail Address* _____

Dues \$35.00 Yearly \$200.00 Lifetime

* Your e-mail address will be added to our OLRW e-mail list for events and PAC requests.