

Hawaii Libertarian

Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii

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LPH MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FALLING!

HONOLULU -- Membership renewals in the Libertarian Party of Hawaii have dropped significantly during 2006. Since the national party organization ceased coordinating membership renewals for the various state parties, many of our fellow Hawaii Libertarians have allowed their memberships to expire.

Depending almost exclusively upon membership dues, the LPH has started to experience financial hardship when funding Libertarian events, supporting local candidates, and publishing this newsletter. Active participation and financial contributions are what keep our party alive and vigorous. Without your support, our party will not maintain it's strong presence in the State of Hawaii.

Beginning in early 2006, the LPH Membership Office began sending out reminders to those of us whose membership had lapsed. Other than our regular, monthly donors and occasional larger donations, we have received only about half a dozen regular membership renewals. While our occasional large donors help us out a great deal, this does not give us long-term viability. We need continuously-renewed memberships to sustain us.

In 2007, our state will be considering a whole slew of proposals which will directly affect each of us.

Most recently in the news was the City Council's decision to proceed with the mass-transit plan, often referred to as "The Train." This recent vote by the Council paves the way for a billion-dollar mass-transit system, paid for with our tax dollars. Whether a rail system or another mass-transit system is ultimately selected, one thing has become clear: we will be shouldering most of the long-term costs.

When our legislature convenes later this month, they will be considering a Libertarian-backed proposal to

decriminalize prostitution in Hawaii. While this potential bill has received favorable support in the polls, it needs the active and public support of our party to make it out of committee hearings and onto the floor for a vote. If this bill isn't important enough for us to back and debate and write about, then it won't be important enough for our legislators to consider either. Controversial bills tend to get noticed by our elected officials, and we need this proposal to receive the public discussion and consideration that it deserves.

Another important bill we anticipate seeing before our legislators this session is one relating to the decriminalization of marijuana. As this bill is still in the process of being drafted, we cannot give details regarding its content at this time.

As the 2007 legislative session gets underway and will be considering various bills that will directly affect our taxes and will determine who of us are committing criminal offenses, it is very important to keep informed and to participate in our legislative process.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is our best vehicle for guarding our freedoms and preventing their erosion in the future. Security does not mean surrendering our Constitutional rights, nor does it mean that we should surrender our cherished privacy. ■

Libertarian Party (National) Membership & News

Want to continue or start receiving the national Libertarian Party newsletter? For \$25 per month, you can become a sustaining member, which includes a subscription the the *LP News*.

Please visit www.lp.org and select the "Are you a member?" button to find out more about membership in the national party.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes December 10, 2006

Present: Tracy Ryan, Larry Bartley, Tim Lucey, John Spangler, Roger Taylor

Absent: Ozell Daniel, Talifaitasi Satele

Minutes: By Roger Taylor

1. Membership renewals are going very slowly. Nobody renewed this last month. Tim will start following up renewal letters with phone calls starting in January.
2. The question arose about whether we could sell ad space in our newspaper or website. Tracy seemed to think it would interfere with our non-profit mailing rate that we get from the post office, but it may be a possibility if anybody knows for sure contact somebody on the Exec Committee.
3. We have a perpetual need for volunteers. Our wish list includes a couple of take charge people who can help with the day to day stuff (like getting newsletter to the bulk mail facility) as well as political stuff (like letters to the editor about the smoking ban or even organizing a protest.)
4. For the upcoming legislative session we need to get together a lobbying group. We can increase our effectiveness by identifying allies for specific issues and forming relationships with them. We are looking to some of our younger more energetic members to take part in this.
5. Kurdish contact not available for public discussion on middle east.
6. Mulkerns' daughter and other UH Libertarians to be asked by Tracy to intern during 2007 legislative session.
7. We need to start planning the 2007 Hawaii State Convention. Need to select/invite keynote speaker.

LPH WEBSITE

<http://www.libertarianpartyofhawaii.org/>

Check out the LPH home page and add your thoughts to our blog space, browse archived newsletters, read about Party history, take the "World's Smallest Political Quiz," and contribute to the LPH...

Libertarian Party of Hawaii Executive Committee meetings are open to members and invited guests. Please feel free to join us on the third Sunday of every month at the Straub Hospital on Beretania St. Physicians' Cafeteria.

Our next EC meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21st at 6:30 PM. Those wishing to join us for dinner should arrive at 6PM. Parking is free in the Straub garage after 6PM on Sundays.

VOLUNTEERS NEED!

Telecommunications Coordinator We need a talented, technically-oriented volunteer to manage our video operations. This involves editing event and interview footage and working closely with Olelo Television personnel to prepare LPH materials for broadcasting.

Preferred candidates will have some video production experience, a car, and are able to volunteer some time on a regular basis each month. This is a critical position in the LPH as it is one of our best avenues to get our message out to the community and provide our candidates with media exposure.

Newsletter/Bulk Mailing Assistant We're looking for a volunteer to help us with our monthly mailings, primarily The Hawaii Libertarian newsletter. The responsibilities of this position include affixing mailing labels to the newsletter, sorting bulk mail by ZIP Code, and delivering our newsletter to the airport post office each month.

Preferred candidates will have a car and can volunteer about 1-2 days each month.



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HAWAII GAS TAX INCREASED BY
NEARLY 11¢ PER GAL ON JANUARY 1ST

Everyone is invited to contribute thoughts, start a discussion, contribute to a discussion, or post an article. To join the Libertarian Party of Hawaii's on-line discussion board simply send a blank email to lph-discuss-subscribe@topica.com .



FROM THE CHAIR

By Tracy Ryan

We have survived another year as a viable political party. Despite shortages of money and volunteers the few, the strong, the loyal, continue to hang tough not willing to leave the field to a future of authoritarian rule. Congratulations to all of you who have run for office, written letters to the editor, contributed your time and money to

the party, or to any of the organizations we tend to support.

Looking forward to 2007 my greatest sense of optimism comes from the increasing numbers of young persons who are taking an interest in us. Between the group of college students that Aaron Anderson was able to get involved in his campaign and the HPU students influenced by Ken Schoolland we are beginning to get the numbers we need to make a difference. What still awaits is a clear plan from these kids as to how they see their organization and goals moving forward. The EC stands ready to support them, but I realize their success will depend on them taking initiatives not us giving directives. One thing we are trying to work on now are legislative internships. Several people are interested and Senator Slom is as always willing to help.

Our 2007 legislative agenda is being set, assuming we will be able to have the people to move it forward. A bill to decriminalize prostitution has been drafted. Opinion sampling I have done over the years tells me the majority of men would support this bill. Women are more iffy, but we have the support of several local leaders in the women's community. The problem we face is the legislator's ability to ignore issues that seem controversial. This same problem may affect a bill we are expecting to see drafted by the Drug Policy Forum on marijuana decriminalization. I have thought about trying to organize support for repealing the excessive smoking ban that passed last year, but haven't had the time. Other than these specific issues we have our usual support for small business and the gun owners, and our opposition to the train.

A lot of party members have issues and ideas they would like to suggest the EC and I spend our time on. "Why aren't I spending my time doing the things they want done" is usually the way this is put to me. I sincerely wish those who want to work on projects to work on putting together funding, alliances, volunteers, etc needed themselves. The EC will give suggestions, but support will depend on how much the requester is willing to do on their own. ■

MONTHLY CREDIT CARD DONORS please contact Jeff Mallan, (info on back cover), to ensure he has your correct billing address for your card.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF HAWAII MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Full Membership (Includes Newsletter)

I certify that I do not advocate the initiation of force to achieve social or political ends.

Signature

Date

Please enclose an annual dues check for \$25 made out to the *Libertarian Party of Hawaii*.

Newsletter Subscription Only

Please initial here:

Send completed application to:

Tim Lucey

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LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF HAWAII

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