

Libertarian Party of Hawaii

June 2011
News

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Coming events:

Libertarian Party of Hawaii Executive Committee Meeting

When: SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2011, 6:00PM–7:00PM

Where: [JIM HENSHAW'S HOUSE](#)
649 KANAHA STREET
KAILUA, HI

The meeting will start promptly at 6:00PM. I'll provide beer, wine, and soda on ice. Feel free to bring snacks or pupus if you're so inclined. We have a large agenda and limited time. So far, no computer has been made available for Skype connections. Neighbor islanders should call and set up a connection at least 5 minutes prior to the start time.



Jim Henshaw
jhenshaw@hawaii.rr.com

2011 Hawaii Libertarian Party Convention Report

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011

by Tracy Ryan

**Mary Ruwart, Lee Wrights, Dick Rowland speak.
John Carroll seeks Libertarian nomination for US Senate seat.**

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii held its first convention in almost four years Saturday at the Unitarian Church 2500 Pali Highway. A core group of activists participated in speeches, discussions, elections, and networking. Party Chair Ken Schoolland opened the day with introductions. Long time GOP stalwart and former legislature John Carroll announced that he felt himself more a libertarian than anything else and would seek the LP nomination for the US senate seat being vacated by Dan Akaka.

Presidential candidate R. Lee Wrights of Texas made a [keynote speech](#) that focused on the US preoccupation with wars and how we as libertarians need to be more active in our opposition. Careful to point out that as a former veteran with a deep appreciation for our military personal he is no pacifist, he discussed the deference in defending our country and simply meddling elsewhere. In addition to our foreign wars we need to look at stopping the many domestic “wars” such as the war on drugs. Other failed “wars” he mentioned were Lyndon Johnson’s war on poverty and the war on ignorance started with Jimmy Carter’s creation of the Federal Department of Education.



As president Wrights would sit down with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and ask them to draw up logistical plans to withdraw all of our troops from foreign wars in sixty to ninety days. He would then approach the executive department budget to be presented to congress with massive cuts in programs and spending.



After a break Alan Matsuda and Dick Rowland made presentations. Alan as in past conventions added a bit of political humor. Dick was honored with an award from the party for his lifetime service to the cause of liberty. Dick is the current president and founder of the Grassroot Institute. His talk focused on how to bring people along into libertarianism who may not even know they are libertarian.

Featured speaker Mary Ruwart of Texas [gave a speech](#) that focused on how libertarians can be effective without holding elected office. Ms. Ruwart is a well known libertarian author and challenger for the party's 2008 presidential nomination. Dr. Ruwart is a researcher by trade who looks at numbers. She talked about the electoral results for the 2008 ultimate nominee Bob Barr and how they were no better than other far less known LP nominees of the past. She discussed the wasted vote syndrome. She went on to talk about the many examples of success had by the Libertarian Party in activism. The fight against Clinton's national health care plan was very much driven by our people. Mary herself made over a hundred radio presentations. Libertarian activist Steve Kubby was largely responsible for proposition 215 in California that led to medical marijuana. This has become a powerful national movement.

New party officers were chosen. State Chair will be Jim Henshaw of Kailua. Jim is a former Aide to State Senator Sam Slom, and a committed libertarian letter writer and advocate. Sex workers rights advocate Tracy Ryan a two time former Chair will take on the role of Vice Chair. Newcomer Matt Bowler was elected Secretary and holdover John Spangler was elected to continue as Treasurer. Three attendees were elected as At Large members of the Executive Committee; Larry Bartley, Patric Brock, and outgoing Chair Ken Schoolland. In addition neighbor islanders Dave Hudson of Hilo and Jeff Mallan from Kauai were nominated to serve as the last two committee members.

The events were highlighted by the presence of several members from the early days of the party including former Chair Mike Rossell and Don Johnston. Mr. Johnston presented an offer of funding help for bona fide candidates who have set up a campaign committee by December first of this year. Several people talked about conventions from the 1970's and 80's that were big and exciting with close to 200 people. Substantial money from mainland sources was helpful in putting these events together.

New Libertarian Party of Hawaii Officers:

Chair:	Jim Henshaw	jhenshaw@hawaii.rr.com
Vice Chair:	Tracy Ryan	tracyar@hawaiiantel.net
Secretary:	Matthew Bowler	mcbowler@gmail.com
Treasurer:	John Spangler	jspan@hotmail.com

Hawaii County Chair:	David Hudson	HUDSOND010@hawaii.rr.com
Honolulu County Chair:	Tracy Ryan	tracyar@hawaiiantel.net
Kauai County Chair:	Jeff Mallan	lightwriter@hawaiiantel.net
Maui County Chair:	Pat Brock	pbrock@hawaii.rr.com

New Executive Committee Members:

Larry Bartley	barteng@hawaii.rr.com
Pat Brock	pbrock@hawaii.rr.com
Dave Hudson	HUDSOND010@hawaii.rr.com
Jeff Mallan	lightwriter@hawaiiantel.net
Ken Schoolland	ken.schoolland@gmail.com

What If Right Made Might

Reimagining the Assassination of Bin Laden

By Ted Rall

"We're a nation of laws!"

May 11, 2011

President Obama murdered Osama bin Laden. I am surprised that the left has been so supportive--not of the end result, but of the way it was carried out.

Imagine if the killing had gone down the same exact way, but under Bush. Armed commandos invade a foreign country, storm into a suburban neighborhood, blow a hole in a house and blow away an unarmed man in front of his 12-year-old daughter. The guy is a murder suspect. Mass murder. But there's no attempt to arrest him or bring him to justice. They spirit his bloody corpse out of the country and dump it into the ocean.

Osama bin Laden was suspected ordering of one of the most horrific crimes of the decade. He might have been taken alive. Yet Obama's commandos killed him. A big part of the puzzle--the key to the truth, who might have led us to other people responsible for 9/11--is gone.

Barack Obama is our Jack Ruby.

Liberals would be appalled if this had happened four years ago. They would have protested Bush's violations of international law and basic human rights. They would have complained about killing the Al Qaeda leader before questioning him about possible terrorist plots. They would have demanded investigations.

But this happened under Obama. Which means that even liberal lawyers who ought to (and probably do) know better are going along. At a panel discussion at the Justice Institute at Pace Law School, University of Houston law professor Jordan Paust asserted: "You can [legally] use military force without consent in foreign countries."



"At some point a sovereign state [such as Pakistan] that's harboring an international fugitive loses the right to assert sovereignty," added Robert Van Lierop.

Paust and Van Lierop are, respectively, a leading opponent of torture at Guantánamo and a former UN ambassador known for his activism on climate change. Both are "liberal."

In the U.S., conservatives and "liberals" agree: Might makes right. America's military-intelligence apparatus is so fearsome that it can deploy its soldiers and agents without fear of retribution.

Might makes right.

In 2007, for example, U.S. Special Forces invaded Iran from U.S.-occupied Iraq in order to kidnap Iranian border guards. It was an outrage. In practical terms, however, there was nothing the Iranians could do about it.

The United States' 900-pound gorilla act might go over better if we weren't a nation that constantly prattles on and on about how civilized we are, how important it is that everyone follow the rules. For example:

"We're a nation of laws!" Obama recently exclaimed. "We don't let individuals make their own decisions about how the laws operate."

He wasn't talking about himself. This was about PFC Bradley Manning, the soldier accused of supplying the big Defense Department data dump to WikiLeaks. Manning has been subjected to torture including sleep deprivation and forced nudity--treatment ordered by Obama.

Truth is, the Constitution, our treaty obligations and our stacks of legal codes are worthless paper. We're not a nation of laws. We're a nation of gun-toting, missile-lobbing, drone-flying goons.

U.S. officials do whatever they feel like and then dress up their brazenly illegal acts with perverse Orwellian propaganda. "I authorized an operation to get Osama bin Laden and bring him to justice," Obama claimed, as if blowing away an unarmed man in a foreign country was the moral equivalent of filing an extradition request with the Pakistani government and putting him on trial before 12 unbiased jurors in a court of law.

Justice is a legal process. It is not a military assault.

When considering the legality or morality of an act it helps to consider different scenarios. What, for example, if Pakistan had military power equal to ours? Last week's lead news might have begun something like this:

"Pakistan has intercepted four U.S. helicopters over its airspace, forced them to land, and taken 79 'heavily-armed commandos' as prisoners. According to Pakistani military officials, the incident took place about 100 miles from the border of U.S.-occupied Afghanistan. 'They didn't stray across the border accidentally. This was a deliberate act,' said a Pakistani general. President Asif Ali Zardari has asked Pakistan's nuclear weapons infrastructure has been placed on high alert as the parliament, the Majlis-e-Shoora, considers whether to issue a declaration of war..."

Or let's assume a different reimagining. What if the United States really was a nation of laws?

Then the news might look like the following:

"Bipartisan demands for Congressional investigations into the assassination of alleged terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden quickly escalated into demands for presidential impeachment after reports that U.S. forces operating under orders from President Obama invaded a sovereign nation without permission to carry out what House Speaker John Boehner called 'a mob-style hit.' Standing at Boehner's side, Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi decried Obama's 'cowboy antics' and said she had received numerous phone calls from the relatives of 9/11 victims furious that true justice had been denied. Meanwhile, in New York, U.N. secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon moved for sanctions against the United States..."

In fact, no one knows whether Osama bin Laden was involved in 9/11.

They suspect. They feel.

They don't know.

For what it's worth, he denied it:

"Following the latest explosions in the United States, some Americans are pointing the finger at me, but I deny that because I have not done it," bin Laden said in a statement released on 9/16/01. "The United States has always accused me of these incidents which have been caused by its enemies. Reiterating once again, I say that I have not done it, and the perpetrators have carried this out because of their own interest."

Why should we believe him? Why not? He admitted his responsibility for the East Africa embassy bombings in 1998.

Interestingly, the FBI never mentioned 9/11 on his "wanted" poster.

There was the famous "confession video"--but it was translated into English by the CIA, hardly an objective source. Arabic language experts say the CIA manipulated bin Laden's discussion of what he had watched on TV into an admission of guilt. For example, they changed bin Laden's passive-voice discussion to active: "[the 19 hijackers] were required to go" became, in the CIA version, "we asked each of them to go to America."

"The American translators who listened to the tapes and transcribed them apparently wrote a lot of things in that they wanted to hear but that cannot be heard on the tape no matter how many times you listen to it," said Gernot Rotter, professor of Islamic and Arabic Studies at the Asia-Africa Institute at the University of Hamburg.

Other OBL communiqués appear to take credit for 9/11--but there's a possibility that he was trying to keep himself relevant for his Islamist audience. Anyway, a confession does not prove guilt. Police receive numerous "confessions" for high-profile crimes. They can't just shoot everyone who confesses

I'm not angry that Bin Laden is dead. Nor am I happy. I didn't know the guy or care for his ideology.

I'm angry that, without a trial or a real investigation, we will never know whether he was guilty of 9/11--or, if he was, who else was involved.

Our Jack Ruby, Barack Obama, made sure of that.

Ted Rall is the author of "The Anti-American Manifesto."

His website is tedrall.com.



Editorial

How many of us are there?

I first became interested in libertarianism in 1980, when I read a Party flyer that cannabis consumption, by way of freedom & personal choice, ought to be the choice of the consumer.

I have wondered for some time how many libertarians might be in Hawaii and my town. Maybe we are neighbors. When asked in a TV interview during the 2010 campaign, ‘How many Libertarians are there in Hawaii?’ I hazarded a guess of 50.

In order to really find out I had to agree to publish this newsletter. My findings are unclear.

I was given several spreadsheets of names & addresses of people who have in some way been involved with the Libertarian Party of Hawaii. When combined they total to about 120. It was more than I prognosticated, yet dwarfed by the number who selected Libertarian candidates in the 2010 election. Apparently there are more liberty voters in Hawaii than anybody really knows about.

For my part, as a Ron Paul campaigner in 2008, I have included folks I met in that effort to our Libertarian Hawaii News mailing list.

If anyone knows someone else who believes in the “non-aggression” principle of freedom, please forward me their contact information, that they may be included in our future transmissions. I promise, if anyone complains enough, I will take them off the list.

I look forward to sending information to tens of thousands, dare I say, hundreds of thousands of Hawaiians interested in freedom.

Patric R. Brock
Editor & Publisher, Libertarian Hawaii News
PO Box 1866
Kihei, HI
96753
pbrock@hawaii.rr.com

 **THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF HAWAII**
Membership Application

Dues:
\$20
per
year

option

A

I want to join the Libertarian Party of Hawaii.

please
print

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

"I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Enclosed is \$20 for my first year's dues only or a larger check for dues plus a donation.

Contributions are not Federally tax deductible.
Up to \$250 may be Hawaii income tax deductible.

We are required to report your occupation & employer to the FEC for donations over \$200 per year.

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

option

B

Instead of joining I'd just like to be on the mailing list

Mail this form to:

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii

PO Box 1866
Kihei, HI 96753



Or join on-line at:

www.libertarianpartyofhawaii.org/membership.html