

Hawai`i Libertarian

Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii Vol. 20, No. 5, May 2002



From the Chair By Roger Taylor

I received the official letter from the Office of Elections stating that we now have political party status in the eyes of the State of Hawaii. This is the third election in a row that we had to collect signatures and it will be the last for at least 10 years. People are so fearful of identity theft that they don't want to give up their signature, social security number, address and birth date, which are all required on the petition. It is probably illegal for the State to require a SSN. I hope somebody will take them to court over it. In any case we are free from this burden and we turn our thoughts toward increasing membership, increasing the number of people willing to vote Libertarian, grooming our candidates, fund raising, and all the other necessary jobs to do to keep a party infrastructure in place in Hawaii. On Monday May 6, I will be attending a meeting at the Lt. Governor's Office where the other registered parties will be drawing straws for ballot position and ballot color. I want to get ballot position number uno. Let the Libertarian name be seen first by all voters. If you would like to attend this meeting with me please call me or email me. Four years ago when I attended this meeting for the first time they didn't shuffle the tabs of paper with ballot position on them and they came off 1,2,3,4,5 because people just picked the top tab. We were fifth. In 2000 I demanded a shuffling, but we didn't do any better. I will put intention on picking the one spot. Wish me luck.

Our May 5th meeting will be a short video about Right To Work Laws and afterward Alan Matsuda will moderate a Q&A session. In a phone conversation with Alan, he told me he had invited some notable people outside the party to attend so lets get our own attendance up. It will be on Sunday May 5th at 6:30 pm at Straub Clinic Cafeteria Conference Room at 888 S. King St. I want to thank Alan for responding to my appeal for members to step forward with meeting ideas. We will be looking for topics for July through November. These

meetings will typically focus on candidating and what it means.

Our yearly convention will be on Saturday June 22 here in Honolulu. If you would like to make a presentation or know somebody you would like to be a presenter please let any Executive Committee member know. We will have candidate speeches for sure but want to continue our coalition building by having topics, which are interesting to typically non-Libertarians.

I know tax season is over but I want to take this opportunity to remind you that you can receive up to \$1250 in State tax deductions by contributing to the Party Treasury and 4 candidates. Our treasury has been strong enough for the basics and now that the Elections are soon to be upon us, we will be spending more than usual. Your contributions ensure that our voices of freedom continue to speak. I appreciate every individual who contributes time or money to the Party. ✍

City's BRT Stands for Bad Road Trip By John Orendt

From clowns of the same ilk that brought you the now failed traffic cameras commonly referred to as the "Talivan," we now have the Bad Road Trip -- BRT.

Under City Council Resolution 00-249, the resolution relating to the support of the city's proposed \$1 billion Bus Rapid Transit system, Dillingham Street will become one of the worst traffic areas in the state. Two of the four lanes will be closed permanently, dedicated exclusively to the BRT aka the Bad Road Trip.

Also worrisome about the plan is the city's proposal to close down the left hand turn lanes and run buses through the middle of street with BRT extended buses stopping on the route every two to four minutes and the plan to eliminate all the left turn accesses in the area.

These BRT lanes will hit Honolulu drivers with a double whammy. Just think of the havoc that is caused when even one lane is closed due to a stalled auto.

Unbelievable as it may sound the city plans on closing two lanes to all non-BRT traffic on some of our most congested roads.

As a further insult, the drivers and taxpayers of Hawaii will be footing the bill to have the city make our traffic problems worse, in the worst traffic areas.

To compensate for the 50 percent reduction in lanes there would need to be a 50 percent reduction in car, bus and truck usage just to break even.

Even if this pipe dream came true, there would be no net advantage.

There is a reason there are no private investors racing to fund this exercise in government waste. Only Honolulu's fiscally retarded politicians are so gullible as to buy this scam. It reminds me of the Monorail episode on the Simpsons.

Allow the great people of Hawaii to choose their preferred mode of transport individually. Not until the city's "TheBus" turns profitable will it be time to expand public transport.

Traffic jams are caused by the government not building enough roads. Solution, build more roads. Recommendation, build more roads. Advice -- build more roads. Also widen existing roads. Add a second deck of roads. Sections of the H-1 are jammed most of the time. Please fix.

Driving is a pleasure without traffic jams. Less traffic jams benefit everyone in terms of safety, saved time and fuel. In the saner society of the past, when a car stalled, the occupants and first motorists on the scene would work together to clear the lanes as quickly as possible. Nowadays, it seems the police cause traffic jams and as shown by their inaction have little regard for the stress traffic jams place on the public.

The proper course is to remove any legal or regulatory barriers which stand in the way of free and open competition in transportation. For example, to fill up unused passenger seats in privately owned cars why not encourage hitch hiking. Make it easy and legal for all drivers to accept passengers for hire at existing bus stops. Just think how efficient Hawaii transport would be with thousands of passengers building trust with thousands of drivers by the simple act of negotiating a fair fare.

Competition results in the most efficient use of resources, both capital and human, and results in the greatest prosperity for the people of Hawaii. There is a direct correlation between individual and economic freedom and prosperity. The great people of Hawaii deserve freedom and prosperity. ✍

Announcements

General Meeting:

When: May 5, 6:30 PM meeting will be a short video about Right To Work Laws and afterward Alan Matsuda will moderate a Q&A session.

Where: 888 South King Street. Corner of King and Ward. Straub Clinic Presentation Room, ground floor behind the cafeteria. ✍

Executive Committee Meeting:

When: Sunday, May 19, 6:30 PM

Where: 888 South King Street. Corner of King and Ward. Straub Clinic Presentation Room, ground floor behind the cafeteria.

All members welcome ✍

Join the Hawaii Libertarian Party

On Line: Visit the Hawaii Party website at <http://www.hi.lp.org>, click on the *Join LPH!* Button, and follow the instructions there. While there, look around! You'll find lots of useful info.

By Mail: Call the Hawaii office at (808) 537-3078, or call any of the names listed on the back page, and ask for a membership application. When it comes, fill it out, sign it, and mail it with a check for the annual dues of \$35 to:
Libertarian Party of Hawaii
625 Keawe St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
✍

The Silly Season

By Richard O. Rowland

Every year about this time, Hawaii enters the Silly Season.

Our Legislature reaches the point where bills "cross over" for the second time between the House and the Senate.

Those that pass intact go to the Governor for action, the contentious ones go to what are called "Conference Committees." In those committees, all semblance of public service disappears, as legislative factions take over in gloves off free-for-all combat. And in those contests, all the earlier talk and posturing about moving the state forward, improving the economy, helping the needy, etc., is all forgotten.

Focus is, behind closed doors, "how can I look good and get reelected."

Threats and intimidation from the ones who "have the votes" allow the less powerful to shift and sway to get the best deal.

Original intent of each bill is forgotten in the melee and out comes the final product, sometimes so altered it is opposite the original intent.

But few notice.

They are immersed in the procedure and the desire to get something out or something killed.

It is the worship of form over substance and it produces, all too often, great mischief. Everyone knows that.

Yet they continue to do it over again every year. So, it is silly in the sense that insanity has been described as compulsively doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results each time.

Or to quote Lou Boyd, "Do you, too, find it consoling to remember that you can't get lost if you don't know where you're going?"

Some in the know say these legislators are not silly, or insane or unaware of where they are going.

Instead, they are very consistent in focus, which is: *get elected*, no matter what it takes. If that is so, it's not them that is silly, it's us.

Either way, it's the silly season. Thumbs up, Hawaii. ✍

People of Hawaii Deserve Freedom, and Prosperity

An Open Letter to Lawmakers By John Orendt

Please vote for individual freedom.

There is a direct correlation between freedom and prosperity. The great people of Hawaii deserve freedom and prosperity.

Our great founding father Thomas Jefferson said, "The Government which governs least governs best."

Please put these wise words into practice by cutting government spending.

Vote for free market capitalism.

Vote against socialism in all its insidious forms.

Allow individuals to manage their own money, cut taxes and fees whenever you can.

Taxation is Theft.

What distinguishes welfare (including corporate welfare) from most other transfers of wealth is that the wealth in

question is taken by the government, using force if necessary, and distributed to those who do nothing to earn it or deserve it.

If the same redistribution were performed by you, it would be called armed robbery. That it is performed by the government makes it no less wrong. Taxation is indeed generally immoral. Some taxation may be necessary nonetheless, especially in the short-term. But keeping in mind that taxation is morally equivalent to theft should encourage us all to minimize taxation wherever possible and leave to the market all the tasks that the market has proven capable of doing.

And also to give the market the benefit of the doubt when we are unsure.

Onerous regulations and high taxes and fees are incompatible with freedom and therefore prosperity.

Take action now to remove regulatory barriers to open markets. Take action now to reduce government spending, taxes and fees.

Honolulu Advertiser Supports Submissiveness, Without Questions or Thought

By Richard O. Rowland

Jim Kelly, Honolulu Advertiser executive editor, in a piece entitled "Obeying law paramount in pursuit of the news" says that the newspaper "ethics" policy is clear, "We will obey the law."

This brings to mind a quandary. The Honolulu Advertiser as well as other organizations and individuals throughout society are expected by officials to obey the law, whatever it is and however immoral or impractical or unjust it is. In the Advertiser's case, that is true even if it interferes with the primary duty of the newspaper, which is to keep citizens informed and aware.

But there is a big exception to the "all will obey" philosophy. Most government officials are immune. For example, if a businessperson operates in violation of zoning laws, she will, if she persistently continues the offense after several warnings, be the subject of fines, arrest and even incarceration. But the mayor, his department head, or for that matter, the zoning compliance inspector can decide not to enforce the law and suffer not at all. A policeman will never come for that culprit. If you doubt this, examine the current situation. The mayor has admitted he is not enforcing the zoning laws unless there is a complaint (which means, by the way, that an unethical business can get the city to destroy his popular competitor with a simple phone call).

When told that such enforcement was capricious, the mayor observed that staffing was inadequate to uphold the laws. But he has never advised the City Council that he cannot perform his lawful duty. He has made himself immune from the law. To quote Richard Nixon "When the president does it, that means it is not illegal."

Another example is speed limits. The police can decide there should be a 10 mph tolerance, but the Advertiser reporter, hurrying to a big story cannot, according to Kelly, make such a decision.

Until our "leaders" and enforcers experience some real world restraint and oversight, we should all look to some prudent disobedience, particularly our news media.

If the media fail to do so, they will abrogate their "role as public watchdog" because the so-called public servants will trample them to death with rules, restrictions and laws with which they will abide, just like the Germans and their media did under the Nazi's.

To quote Frederick Douglass: "Find out just what any people will quietly submit to, and you have the exact measure of the injustice and wrong which will be imposed on them."

Jim Kelly supports submissiveness, without questions or thought. The founders of our nation envisioned government officials fearful of the fierce independent wrath and fury of its citizens (and its media). ☞

Freedom Before Democracy

By Stuart K. Hayashi

Almost everyone believes that democracy equals freedom.

Not surprisingly, anti-capitalist activist Michael Moore often invokes democracy. "I've read the U.S. Constitution, and the word 'shareholder' doesn't appear once in it," he says. "It's a *Democracy*." (Actually, the word "democracy" doesn't appear in the Constitution either.)

When campaigning in Hawaii, Green Party 2000 Presidential candidate Ralph Nader said that those who weren't out lobbying for more stifling regulations were necessarily mindless "gazers and gawkers."

His "solution" was that we revive the ancient Greek concept of the "public citizen," which said that all men must be politically active -- or otherwise be ostracized. "Freedom," Nader insists, "is participation in power."

But democracy and freedom aren't always the same. After all, if democracy is so great, then why was Adolf Hitler democratically elected by a majority vote?

Democracy is correctly defined as a political system in which laws or lawmakers are chosen by the majority of voters.

Meanwhile, Nader's claim notwithstanding, freedom is *not* "participation in power," but security FROM power. Specifically, it means that people can rest assured knowing that the power of physical force cannot be initiated upon their life, liberty, or property, by anyone -- not even a government -- even if 100 percent of the population approved.

That is what a good government protects us from; not imposes upon us.

For instance, let's say democratic voting always won out over individual rights. Then, if the majority of the citizens disliked a group of rich people, it could democratically vote on whether they should all be executed, even though they have inflicted no harm to the life, liberty or property of others.

If at least 51 percent of the votes choose "kill," then these rich people are massacred by the state.

Fantasy, you say? Actually, this happened periodically throughout the history of the ancient Greek city-state of Athens. Even back then, the majority claimed to represent "the people as a whole," even if it was only 50.99 percent.

They disregarded the fact that *there never was a* "people as a whole," since every person is an individual, with his own preferences, motives, and life. A "group of people" is only a group of *individuals*, each acting upon his own free will -- never a true collective.

Some might say, "People would never democratically vote for something as awful as mass murder today." That's irrelevant -- no one should even have the *option* to vote on that at all.

America's Founders, such as John Adams and James Madison, may have deeply admired how Ancient Greece took power away from monarchs, but they were also aware of how the nation would become tyrannical if the Greco-Roman tradition were applied fully.

They understood that democratic voting could only work if individual rights always superseded it.

Under a truly free system, if 99 percent of the population lobbied Congress to steal from a whole class of people, the government was to say, "Those people didn't do anything to you, so too bad. We protect rights consistently and majority opinion won't change that."

The Founding Fathers often proclaimed, "This a republic; not a democracy." And, by that, they meant a

“constitutional republic” in which individual rights were adhered to -- as opposed to the “classical republic” of Rome, in which people didn’t vote for every little law, but instead voted for representatives to craft the oppressive rules for them.

That’s why the Founders considered it an insult when others accused them of supporting democracy.

That also explains why James Madison, the father of the very U.S. Constitution that Michael Moore poses as an expert on, distrusted a state empowering “the people.” In the Federalist Papers, he wrote, “Democracy is the most vile form of government.”

John Adams, who famously championed American Independence in the Continental Congress, once stated, “The fundamental article of my political creed is that despotism, or unlimited sovereignty, or absolute power, *is the same in a majority of a popular assembly, an aristocratic council, an oligarch junto, and a single emperor*” (emphasis added).

Whether a government is run by one person or everybody is unimportant. The real question is: Does a particular law -- regardless if it was passed by a monarch or a mass -- protect the rightful ownership of one’s own life and material possessions, or does it deny it?

Before we continue to “make the world safe for democracy,” as the rights-violating President Woodrow Wilson put it, we should actually make the world safe for *individual rights* -- and safe *from* too much democracy. ✍

Ashcroft's Gambit

If a doctor is willing to assist a patient in taking his own life, based on an objective assessment of the patient's hopeless mental and physical state, the law should not stand in his way, said attorney Thomas Bowden, a senior writer for the Ayn Rand Institute.

But because Attorney General John Ashcroft accepts the religious view that human life is a gift from God and that man has a duty to obey God's plan for him, Ashcroft

rejects the idea that an individual has the right to take his own life. So Ashcroft has attacked Oregon's 1997 law legalizing doctor-assisted suicides—by ordering the revocation of the federal drug licenses of those Oregon doctors who assist their patients' suicides with lethal drugs. Loss of this license is a professional death sentence for any physician.

"When religious conservatives like Attorney General Ashcroft use secular laws to enforce their idea of God's will, they threaten the central principle on which America was founded," said Bowden. This principle "finds political expression in the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The right to life includes and implies the right to commit suicide. To hold otherwise—to declare that society must give you permission to kill yourself—is to contradict the right to life at its root. And if we inject religion into our politics, we will be assisting in our own national suicide."

"Eventually," said Bowden, "the United States Supreme Court will decide whether Ashcroft's drug-license gambit is legal, and whether the Controlled Dangerous Substances Act can be used to frighten doctors into ignoring their patients' desperate entreaties. But in the meantime, one thing is clear: there is no rational, secular basis upon which the government can properly prevent any individual from choosing to end his own life."

ARI senior writer **Thomas A. Bowden** is available for interviews on this topic.

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Open Discussion Group: lph-discuss@topica.com

Announcements: lph-announce@topica.com

National LP Website Home Page: <http://www.lp.org>

Special Thanks to **Hawaii Reporter**,
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