

Hawai`i Libertarian

Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii

Vol. 19, No. 9, September 2001



From the Chair By Roger Taylor

Cindy Powell and John Orendt joined me for turning in 289 signatures on August 7. We still have 5-600 to go. Jean Frissell and Christina Marsh collected the bulk of these and we thank them. We videotaped turning in the signatures so I will keep you posted as to an air time for our next show.

We had pizza, beer and lively discussions at our August 7 meeting. Our next gathering will be on September 1st at the Liberty Bash at 974 Apokulu Place in Enchanted Lakes, Kailua. We will be convening from 3-7 PM. Please bring a potluck dish to share. You can look up a map and more information on our website <http://www.hi.lp.org> which is being maintained by John Orendt.

At our October 2 meeting will discuss the sad state of affairs in our government school system including the convoluted special ed Felix situation. Libertarian alternatives will be explored. Our November meeting will be a panel discussion or round table talk with the topic titled: The Overlap between Libertarianism and Unitarianism. Mike Young the minister will be our invited guest. While Unitarians aren't typically Libertarians, their front page literature indicates: "...how we shape our world view which is based on freedom rather than a creed, and must come out of our individual experience and cannot be coerced." In December we will be exploring the concept of free enterprise. We will be looking at the smoking ban in restaurants, which some members of the city council are trying to pass.

Another item that we are nurturing along is that of developing a legislative liaison position within the party. We are open to what you might want us to do in terms of legislation. Our major function here will be to track bad bills and testify against them. Government encroachment into our private affairs is an ongoing danger and we will do our part to limit the bad effects of this kind of thinking and action.

Finally, we need to look ahead to what we want to do as far as running candidates in the 2002 elections. Since I have been active in the party we have tried all kinds of approaches including: running for high profile offices, fielding a lot of candidates for lower level offices in the hopes of avoiding ballot access signaturng, and concentrating a lot of party resources on one candidate. If you are thinking about running for office then let us know so we can see how as a party we can help you. ☺

LIBERTY BASH

Saturday, September 1, 3 - 7 PM

974 Apokulu Place, Kailua

Pot Luck Croquet Hot Tub

Bring a Friend

RSVP Noreen Chun 732-2614
Noreen@lava.net

Announcements

Monthly Meeting: See Liberty Bash

Executive Committee Meeting:

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2001, 6 PM
625 Keawe St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

All members welcome.

Meetings and Hike

<http://www.hi.lp.org/meet.htm>

Call for Papers

Articles on timely topics are welcome, and will be printed subject to space limitations, provided they do not grossly contradict Libertarian policies. Please send all contributions by email if possible. Don't bother with fancy formatting. I reformat everything before printing. If you are a Macintosh user, the best approach is to include all contributions in the body of an email message, rather than as an attachment, although my Windows machine can probably read a MS Word document produced on a Mac. ✉

Join the Libertarian Party

On Line: Visit the National Party website at <http://www.lp.org>, click on the *Join Us!* 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 \$25 to:

Libertarian Party HQ
2600 Virginia Ave NW
Washington, DC 20037

Ballot Access

On Wednesday, August 14th, John Orendt, Roger Taylor, Melissa Drugan, and her 3 friends canvassed Fort Street Mall/Downtown and gathered 40 signatures. This was our first go in the HPU area this year. Melissa who is a student at HPU will be helping us organize our OPH booth at the HPU Club Carnival on September 14 on Fort Street Mall. She has several friends who join forces with her. If we give them a lot of support she is likely to organize future events. I am also looking into forming the Libertarian Club at HPU. ✉

Ballot Access Alert

The upshot of this article is that unless we want to take the State of Hawaii to court, the person's Social Security Number must accompany our petition's signatures.

The Office of Elections called the other day and indicated that only 134 of our first 289 signatures were valid; giving us a 46% success rate. Since our lowest success rate in the past has been around 70%, I asked for a meeting with Dwayne Yoshina the chief elections officer. Present at the meeting was Aaron Shoelein from the Attorney General's office. Dwayne was late so I read the law and looked at the petitions. Basically, they didn't even look up people who didn't put a social security number. Of course I objected. We all know how convoluted the law is in this area. The law states that to file nomination papers for candidacy a social security number must be given for each signature. For a person to withdraw their signature from a petition, a social security number must be given. However, when petitioning for ballot access, the law doesn't mention social security number; it just says sign on a form provided by the Office of Elections. They argued that because the law requires SSN's for candidacy and withdrawal, they could require SSN's for ballot access as well. I bluffed by saying that we would be talking to our lawyers. I also said that last time SSN's were optional. Dwayne insisted that SSN's were required, but in fairness since his office didn't clearly indicate the change from the last election cycle, we could turn in all outstanding petitions by that Friday and that these wouldn't be disqualified just on the basis of a missing SSN. Thus I will be turning in another batch of signatures on Friday August 31. However, henceforth, we have to be diligent about getting SSN's when people sign our petitions. Since we only need 638 (instead of 6380, thanks to Tracy Ryan) valid signatures we aren't going to take them to court at this time, but we will leave our options open. ✉

Get Online with Hawaiian Libertarians

Our Website Home Page: <http://www.hi.lp.org>
Open Discussion Group: lph-discuss@topica.com
Announcements: lph-announce@topica.com
National LP Website Home Page: <http://www.lp.org>

Mass hysteria over imagined dangers by Mona Charen

Washington

A single individual files a lawsuit alleging that his wife's terminal brain cancer was caused by a cellular telephone and panic sweeps the industry. Stocks of cellular phone companies plunge overnight. (Though, such is the ingenuity of capitalism that several weeks later several "cancer proof" cellular phones are already in development.)

This story is only the most extreme example of a widespread phenomenon in our society. It is the belief, most fervently cherished by environmentalists - but transmitted through the press to the rest of us - that man's hubris in invention and science is meeting with the terrible retribution of Mother Nature. As Prometheus was punished for bringing fire to man, we are being punished - with cancer in the short run and complete destruction of the ecosphere in the long run - for using pesticides, enjoying air conditioners and building suburbs.

The panics that have proven to be scientifically groundless are familiar. The fright about Alar, a coloring agent on apples, was later proved to be a complete farce. So too was dioxin, once called the most toxic substance known to man.

It is impossible to say how many children have been put at needless risk because schools chose to remove asbestos from school insulation. It turns out that asbestos left in walls and ceilings is quite benign (not to say helpful in retarding fire). It is only when it is ripped out, releasing tiny particles into the air, that it can cause problems.

The simplistic view of nature vs. man that equates nature with benevolence and man with toxicity got an overdue jolt a few months ago with the outbreak of E coli poisoning in the Northwest. Three toddlers died, and 450 others had to be hospitalized after a common bacterium, E coli, was found in fast food hamburgers.

The E coli outbreak could have been prevented. Irradiation - currently in widespread use on medical instruments - is a cheap, safe, and extremely effective means of killing off bacteria like E coli. Yet hysteria about all things nuclear prevents this technology from saving lives.

Americans are peculiarly susceptible to the idea that life can be made risk-free. Perhaps our very success in battling illnesses from polio to trichinosis has given rise to resentment that we continue to be prey to *any* disease at all. Amity Shlaes of The Wall Street Journal has observed that one reason medical costs are better contained under the German system is that "Germans expect to die." Accordingly, they do not run up the huge costs Americans do in the final weeks of life.

Our hysteria about imagined dangers - and our unwillingness to accept the inevitability of some dangers - contribute to our seeming paralysis at analyzing comparative risk. Yes, if a nuclear power plant has an extremely unlikely meltdown, many people would be hurt. But we seem unable to contrast that remote catastrophe with benefits like cleaner air and fewer coal-mining accidents.

In 1958, the Congress of the United States passed a foolish law called the "Delaney clause," which forbids the use of any pesticide that causes cancer in laboratory animals. The trouble is, if you feed enough of any substance to lab rats, they get cancer. The amount of cancer-causing chemicals that occur naturally in mushrooms and broccoli would cause those products to be banned by the Environmental Protection Agency if they were subject to the Delaney clause.

According to Investor's Business Daily, studies show that only 1 percent to 3 percent of cancers are caused by environmental exposure to man-made substances. Yet eating large amounts of fruits and vegetables is urged as a cancer preventative. Moreover, 30 percent of cancers are known to result from behavior, i.e. smoking.

The new chief of the EPA, Carol Browner, made a promising start when she said that the Delaney clause was a scientific anachronism that would jeopardize the abundant U.S. food supply if strictly enforced. That was the most sensible statement to emerge from a government agency in recent memory. Naturally, it was soon recanted. ☹

For more see <http://www.hi.lp.org/AO/evilgreenies.htm>

\$50 Reward: Video Project

If you are interested in becoming Olelo-certified, we are interested in paying for your course fees for the Producer, Camera, and Editor courses. Complete one 30-minute Libertarian program and receive \$50 cash as well as tuition to complete the course series. We seek and reward results. If interested, contact Roger Taylor at 352-5683. ☹

[] I want to help with my monthly credit card pledge * in the amount of:

___\$5 ___\$10 ___\$15 ___\$20 ___other: \$___

* Your credit card statement will show "LPVA".

The LP of Virginia is able to process credit card transactions, and has agreed to do this for LP of Hawaii, and will send us a monthly check including your contributions and others.

Charge my: ___ Visa or ___ MasterCard
Credit Card # _____ Expires: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name on Card: _____

Mail To: 625 Keawe St, Honolulu, HI 96813

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** RR = hawaii.rr.com

*** NS = netscape.net

Published Monthly by the Libertarian Party of Hawaii

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