

Hawai`i Libertarian

Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Hawai`i

Vol. 19, No. 7, July 2001



From the Chair By Roger Taylor

Themes that I am working with are: Make a presence and make personal contact. Our philosophy has merit but non-initiates seem to need to visualize a person in conjunction with our ideas in order to make an impact. As time goes on I will be following up our press releases with phone calls and over the next year I will also create as many face to face events with the media as I can.

Beginning in October we will be on schedule to air 1 video per month and we will get a regular time slot for our programs. Our first program will be the 2001 convention, which will start with a random schedule in July. Other programs to follow will include meetings, on the street interviews, and collages of shows from the past. We are offering scholarships to people who want to become Olelo certified and who will produce shows with Libertarian content. We are offering this to party members first, but soon I will put up an ad at the Olelo TV station offering this to the general public. Suggested order of courses for a newbie would be: MiniCam (\$35), Editor(\$55), Field Tech(\$55) and then Producer(\$55). There are other more advanced courses (I will probably take the non-linear editing course) that the party will offer to pay for once a person has aired a couple of shows. Tell your friends.

Our Tuesday July 3rd meeting will be at the same place we have been holding our annual convention: 2500 Pali Highway. It is centrally located, plenty of parking, and we will be in the art room so the decorum will be upscale; a good background for our videos. This gathering will have our own members speaking on a theme of the meaning of July 4th. My talk will be something like Independence and Interdependence: Building Community. I will give 2 talks if we don't garner enough volunteers.

Put Liberty Bash 5 on your calendar for Saturday, September 1st. Planning for other monthly social gatherings is in the works. We will include picnics and discussions at local watering holes. We will have a table flag for our area that will look inviting to other patrons of the establishments we visit.

There are several volunteer positions available. Bulk mailing, data base management, data base entry, phone tree, writing articles for the newsletter, and others. I will be covering a lot of this for a while and I intend to attract new people willing to contribute a few hours a month for the sake of Liberty ☺

Olelo Schedule for July Oceanic cable channel 54

2001 Libertarian Convention

Sunday	July 8	3:30 PM
Friday	July 13	8:00 PM
Monday	July 16	4:00 PM
Saturday	July 21	5:30 PM

Reminder: Liberty Bash September 1

Make your plans now! Don't miss it!

Heads Up

**Our monthly meeting on
Tuesday, July 3rd will be held in
the Art Room at 2500 Pali Hwy
at 6:30 PM**

Announcements

Monthly Meeting: 2500 Pali Hwy

Next Meeting: Tue. July 3rd, 6:30 PM

Executive Committee Meeting:

Sunday, July 15, 6:00 PM at LPHI Office, 625 Keawe St.

Meetings

<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, or by snail mail to the editor at PO Box 148, Laie, HI 96762. 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 [/www.hi.lp.org](http://www.hi.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

\$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. ✍

Executive Committee Update

The press release announcing our new officers elected at convention traveled pretty far. Apparently the corporate hierarchy where George Berish works heard that George was Vice-Chair of the Libertarian Party and advised him that corporate policy prohibits associates from being an officer of any other organization, including any political party or even a non-profit. Thus, I talked to George and he told me he would be resigning as Vice Chair. We left it open as far as being an at-large member of the Executive Committee. John Orendt has agreed to accept the Vice-Chair Position. ✍

June 19, 2001

Justice system that is short on justice?

by Paul Craig Roberts

<http://www.washtimes.com/commentary/20010619-19243240.htm>

Justice has been squeezed out of the criminal justice system. Wrongful conviction has become routine as heartless prosecutors and police seek to close cases and mount up convictions. The system today is budget and career driven, justice be damned.

An ever-growing number of books, innocence projects and overturned convictions speak to the unreliability of conviction. A surprising number of death row inmates have been discovered to be innocent of the capital offense for which they were convicted. A criminal justice system that convicts innocents on the serious charge of murder is certain to convict innocents on less serious charges as well.

The rate of wrongful conviction is high because of serious flaws in what passes as "evidence." For example, criminologists know that eyewitnesses are wrong 50 percent of the time. This means that half of inmates convicted by eyewitness testimony are innocent.

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>

Junk science plays a large role in the conviction of innocents. Microscopic hair-comparison evidence has sent many an innocent person to jail. The weakness of hair analysis is well established. For example, it is a known fact that hairs from the same head often do not match. A test of 240 crime labs found error rates in hair analysis of 50 percent, 54 percent, 68 percent and 56 percent. Yet prosecutors desperate for convictions continue to use the junk science of hair comparison to send innocent people to prison.

Because of the activities of law professor Barry Scheck and various law school innocence projects, DNA analysis is bringing about the release of many victims of microscopic hair-comparison in cases where the evidence was kept.

Forensic fraud is another source of wrongful conviction. Believe it or not, crime labs have traditionally been dependent on police budgets and beholden to prosecutors. Consequently, crime labs have tended to be politically sensitive to the needs of police and prosecutors for evidence. Often the labs withhold caveats and present ambiguous results as compelling evidence. In some instances, the labs actually create the needed evidence.

A suspect's confession usually convicts him. But in many cases the confession is false. There are various causes of false confessions. Some people with low IQs get through life by being agreeable and telling authority figures what they want to hear. In other cases, confession is propelled by a need, at least once in their life, to be the center of attention. Sometimes police claim a suspect confesses, knowing that people will tend to believe the police and not the suspect.

A growing number of wrongful convictions result from the disreputable practice of paying inmates and police informants with money or reduced prison time for testimony that either identifies a suspect in unsolved cases or convicts a suspect against whom there is no other evidence. In the vast majority of cases, "snitch" testimony is unreliable, and those convicted by it are innocent.

Bad lawyering also plays a role. Lawyers have been known to sleep through their client's murder trial. Public defenders are often overwhelmed with cases and cannot prepare. Many lawyers are simply unaware of the junk character of much forensic evidence and do not know how to challenge it.

Misconduct by police and prosecutors are one of the main causes of wrongful conviction. Both police and prosecutors suppress exculpatory evidence that points to the suspect's innocence. Once upon a time prosecutors presented the case for and against the suspect and left it to the jury. But today suspects do not receive the benefit of the doubt.

Police and prosecutors coerce witnesses and knowingly use false testimony. When this isn't enough, they fabricate evidence. In an analysis of 62 known wrongful convictions, Mr. Scheck found that prosecutors suppressed exculpatory evidence in 43% of the cases, knowingly used false testimony in 22% of the cases, coerced witnesses in 13% and fabricated evidence in 3% of the cases.

Police suppressed evidence in 36% of the cases, fabricated evidence in 9%, and lied in other ways in 55% of the cases.

What can be done to halt the railroading of innocents? Reforms could be instituted, such as making crime labs independent and substituting DNA evidence for junk forensic science. Coercive plea bargains could be halted. Prosecutors and police could rededicate themselves to justice and restore the integrity of the criminal justice system.

The public could read books such as Mr. Scheck's "Actual Innocence" and Donald Connery's "Convicting the Innocent" and become aware that there is a high probability that the suspect on trial is an innocent person.

Until the system is reformed and the public becomes aware, we cannot presume a connection between conviction and guilt. ✍

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* Your credit card statement will show "LPVA".

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Charge my: ___ Visa or ___ MasterCard

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Libertarian Party of Hawaii Officers

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Vice Chair	John Orendt	843-0617	hi-lp@despammed.com
Secretary	Jerry Murphy	941-3281	gsm425@hotmail.com
Treasurer	John Spangler	7342925	jspan@hotmail.com
At Large	Ken Lindsay	293-5277	kenlindsay@RR**
	Guy Monahan	485-5015	monahang001@RR**
	Geo. Berish	533-6002	g@America-3.org
	Stuart Hayashi	623-0877	stuhayashi@hotmail.com
	Aaron Anderson	935-0300*	aaronanderson1@NS***

Contacts:

Maui

Big Isle

Kauai

Molokai

* Preceded by 1-808

** RR = hawaii.rr.com

*** NS = netscape.net

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625 Keawe St, Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 537-3078 June
2001 <http://www.hi.lp.org>

Libertarian Party USA

(800) 682-1776

<http://www.lp.org>

Council of Ex-State Chairs

(Sr. Advisers to Exec. Committee)

Mile Rossell (808) 532-7300

Ken Schoolland (808) 676-0825

Tracy Ryan (808) 534-1846

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John Orendt, Editor (808) 843-0617

Contributors: Roger Taylor



Libertarian Party of Hawaii

625 Keawe St.

Honolulu, HI 96813

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