

ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE

Section 1. The name of this organization is the **ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS** ('Ahahui Sīwila Hawai'i), hereinafter referred to as the "Association".

Section 2. The Association is incorporated by the State of Hawai'i as a non-profit corporation and shall operate in conformity with its Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 3. The Association's principal office shall be in the State of Hawai'i.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The purposes of this Association are:

- a. To organize, charter, coordinate and provide guidance and opportunities for leadership training to the Hawaiian Civic Clubs.
- b. To advocate positions endorsed by the Association at its annual Convention, or approved by the Board of Directors, as appropriate.
- c. To actively participate in the promotion, perpetuation and practice of long-held traditional Native Hawaiian attitudes and values that dignify all human life and that are the underpinnings of our culture that comprise a unique, rich and enduring legacy of the indigenous people of Hawai'i.

Section 2. The objectives of this organization are:

- a. To unite our members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding.
- b. To promote the theory and practice of the principles of good government and good citizenship.
- c. To take an active interest in the civic, economic, health, and social welfare of our community and particularly, the activities of those agencies and organizations who are responsible for the improvement of the conditions of the people of Hawaiian ancestry, and to support programs of benefit to them and to the community at large. This interest will be pursued with a commitment to the right of Native Hawaiians to self determination with a sensitivity for the traditional cultural values and assets of the Hawaiian people and our culture.

- d. To provide a forum for the full and free discussion of all matters of public interest.
- e. To honor, fulfill, protect, preserve and cherish all sources, customs, rights and records of Native Hawaiian traditions, including but not limited to oli, mele, mo'olelo, mo'okū'auhau, cemetery and/or burial areas and the historic sites of the Native Hawaiian people; to actively encourage the teaching, learning and use of 'ōlelo Hawai'i; generational and traditional resource practices as handed down through traditional and customary practices; and to protect the endemic and indigenous flora and fauna of Hawai'i nei.
- f. To actively encourage and assist in furthering the education and leadership development of those of Native Hawaiian ancestry via Native Hawaiian designed and controlled models of education. To promote greater sensitivity from educational institutions for the special needs and values of Native Hawaiian students. To promote Native Hawaiian culture, language and traditions for all.
- g. To actively assert and defend the cultural, traditional knowledge, and intellectual property rights of the Native Hawaiian people, of kūpuna, and cultural practitioners.
- h. To protect, respect and promote the inherent rights of Native Hawaiian people that derive from our political, economic, and social structures and from our culture, spiritual traditions, histories, and philosophies, especially our rights/kuleana to our lands, territories and resources.

ARTICLE III – TAX EXEMPT STATUS

Section 1. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

- a. The income or net earnings of the Association shall not inure to the benefit of any member or individual.
- b. The Association is not organized for profit and no part of the assets, income or earnings shall be used as dividends, or other withdrawals, or distributed to any of its members or officers, except for services actually rendered.
- c. In the event of dissolution of this Association, its net assets remaining after payment or provision for payment, of all debts and liability of this nonprofit corporation shall be distributed to one or more organizations having purposes similar to those described in the Association's purposes

and exempt under 501 (c)(3) or 501 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code in a manner consistent with applicable law.

Section 2. 'Ahahui Sīwila Hawai'i

- a. The 'Ahahui Sīwila Hawai'i is a non-profit organization established exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and tax exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs shall be the sole member of 'Ahahui Sīwila Hawai'i.
- b. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, as the sole member of 'Ahahui Sīwila Hawai'i, shall elect the Board of Directors of 'Ahahui Sīwila Hawai'i, and consent in writing to amendments of the bylaws of 'Ahahui Sīwila Hawai'i.

ARTICLE IV - PROHIBITIONS

Section 1. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs shall not endorse or recommend any candidates for elective political or public office.

Section 2. No officer or member club of this Association shall use the Association as a means of furthering the political aspirations of any person.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this Association shall consist of Hawaiian Civic Councils and Clubs duly organized and chartered under the provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND BOARD STAFF

Section 1. **Officers** - The officers of this Association shall be the President, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President and the Treasurer. The officers shall also be Directors of the Association.

Section 2. **Directors** - Directors shall include the Council Presidents and Association Directors (one Director for every seven clubs or major portion thereof per Council and that there be a proviso that each council shall have at least one Director). Each Council shall meet prior to the Convention to select its President and Association Directors, as provided in Article I. section 2 of the By-Laws. They shall meet with the Association officers to formulate policies and procedures of the Association when the House of Delegates is not in session.

Section 3. **Board Staff** - The President will appoint a recording and a

corresponding secretary to serve as staff to the Board.

Section 4. **Immediate Past President** - The Immediate Past President shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors with full rights, privileges and powers accorded other members of the Board.

Section 5. **Executive Committee** - The Executive Committee of the Association shall consist of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Immediate Past President.

Section 6. **Qualifications** - In order to serve as an officer, director or staff to the Board of this Association, a person must be a member in good standing of a member club. The Pelekikena of the Association shall be of Hawaiian ancestry.

ARTICLE VII – ORGANIZATION

Section 1. **Levels** - This organization shall be built on three levels, as follows:

- a. The Association.
- b. Councils of the districts.
- c. Hawaiian Civic Clubs.

Section 2. **Hawaiian Civic Club** - All Hawaiian Civic Clubs now in existence and any new clubs which may be formed hereafter and chartered by the Association shall be known as “Hawaiian Civic Clubs” or its Hawaiian translation. While each club is autonomous, the acceptance of the Charter by a club shall be a ratification and agreement on the part of the club to be bound by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association. All clubs so organized shall be under the jurisdiction of the Council for the district in which they are located.

Section 3. **Councils** - There shall be a Council in each of the following districts:

- a. The O’ahu Council: Ke One o Kākuhihewa – for the Island of Oahu
- b. The Hawai’i Council: Moku o Keawe – for the Island of Hawai’i
- c. The Maui Council: Nā Hono A’o Pi’ilani – for the Islands of Maui, Moloka’i, Lāna’i, and Kaho’olawe
- d. The Kaua’i Council: Moku o Manokalanipō - for the Islands of Kaua’i and Ni’ihau
- e. The Mainland Council: Nā Lei Makalapua – for the Continental United

States and Alaska

Section 4. Each Council shall have the power to formulate its own Constitution and By-Laws consistent with the Association's Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 5. **Association Board of Directors** - The Association Board of Directors shall be composed of the following:

- a. The President of the Association, who shall also be the Chair of the Board of Directors.
- b. The First Vice President.
- c. The Second Vice President.
- d. The Immediate Past President.
- e. The Councils' Presidents.
- f. The Treasurer.
- g. Association Directors.

ARTICLE VIII – PER CAPITA DUES

Section 1. Per Capita dues shall be paid annually to the Association no later than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the next annual Convention. The amount of said dues shall be established on the basis of a budget approved by the Board of Directors of the Association and submitted to the Convention for possible modification and adoption.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended only at an annual or special Convention of this Association by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the delegates assembled. Proposed amendments to the Constitution offered at an annual Convention shall be submitted to the President of the Association and circulated to each club by the Planning and Policy Committee no later than 60 days prior to the next convention, and may be submitted by the Executive Committee of the Association, the Association Board of Directors, any Association Standing Convention, ad hoc or other Committee, any Council, or any Chartered Club.

ARTICLE X - MOTTO

Section 1. This Association shall have as its motto, the statement of

Kamehameha III Kauikeaouli which is as follows: “UA MAU KE EA O KA ‘ĀINA I KA PONO” the sovereignty of the land has been perpetuated in righteousness.

ARTICLE XI – RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. The conduct of the business of the Association shall be guided by the provisions of its Constitution and By-laws and when applicable, the most recently revised version of Robert’s Rules of Order.