

2026

Las Vegas Hawaiian Civic Club
Constitution



Las Vegas Hawaiian Civic Club

As separated from the consolidated Bylaws which were approved by the Membership on October 16, 2017 and incorporating Amendments developed between 2017-2026.

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CONSTITUTION OF THE LAS VEGAS HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

ARTICLE I – NAME AND CHARTER (*Ha‘awina ‘Ekāhi - Inoa a me Palapala Ho‘ohui*)

Section 1: This organization shall be known as the Las Vegas Hawaiian Civic Club, herein referred to as “LVHCC” or “the Club”.

- a. Club Motto (*Mākia*)--The motto of this Club shall be “*Kūlia E Loa‘a Ka Na‘auao*” (Strive to Obtain Wisdom).
- b. Club Colors (*Nā Kala*)--The Club colors shall be red and gold (*‘Ula‘ula a me Kula*).
- c. Club Flowers (*Nā Pua*)—The Club flowers shall be the carnation and *Ohai Ali‘i*.
- d. Club Song (*Mele*)—The Club song shall be “*He Hawai‘i Au*” (I am Hawaiian).

Section 2: LVHCC was chartered by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) on July 28, 1989. LVHCC has further been recognized in the State of Nevada since November 17, 1989 as a non-profit, 501(c)(4) business and shall operate within its adopted Constitution and Bylaws. This club shall be located in the City of Las Vegas, within Clark County, in the State of Nevada.

Section 3: The Club, as chartered, is an autonomous entity reporting to the AHCC of the State of *Hawai‘i*. In addition, LVHCC falls under the jurisdiction of the managing entity known as the Mainland Council of the AHCC (*Na Lei Makalapua*).

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES (*Ha‘awina ‘Elua - Pono a me Pahuhopu Hāiki*)

Section 1. The purposes of this Club are:

- a. Actively participate in the promotion, perpetuation and practice of traditional Native Hawaiian values and cultural expertise of Native Hawaiians.
- b. Perpetuate the traditions, songs (*Mele*) and chants (*‘Oli*), culture, customs, and Hawaiian language of Hawai‘i and to encourage their use.
- c. Promote educational projects for the benefit of any race with a primary emphasis on people of Hawaiian ancestry or *Hawai‘i* born.
- d. Initiate and to advocate for positions endorsed by the membership of this Club and the AHCC Board of Directors.

Section 2. The objectives of this Club are as follows:

- a. Unite our members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding.
- b. Promote the theory and practice of the principles of good government and good citizenship, guided by Native Hawaiian values.
- c. Participate in activities that promote the civic, economic, social, health, education, housing, and social welfare of our community (*Lāhui*) particularly reference to the people of the *Lāhui* as defined by the AHCC to be people of Hawaiian ancestry, people born in Hawai‘i but not of Native Hawaiian descent,

and those Hawaiian at heart to support programs, organizations, and activities of those agencies and organizations who are responsible for the improvement of the *Lāhui*.

- d. Provide a forum for our members to fully and freely discuss matters of public interest and programs beneficial to the Hawaiian Community.
- e. Preserve and perpetuate the culture and traditions of *Hawai'i nei*.
- f. Encourage the teaching, learning, and use of *‘Ōlelo makuahine* (the Mother tongue).
- g. Actively assert and defend the cultural and intellectual property rights of the Native Hawaiian peoples.
- h. Provide funds for scholarships to be awarded to the *Lāhui* of the Club for *Keiki, Haumana, Makua, and Kupuna* to assist in furthering their education and betterment of life.

Section 3. The Club purposes and powers shall be to exercise all rights of a nonprofit corporation under Federal and State laws and enter into business transactions that do not conflict with Federal or State statutes for nonprofit organizations.

ARTICLE III – TAX STATUS (*Ha‘awina ‘Ekolu – Ku ‘Ole I Ka ‘Auhau*)

Section 1. The Club is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the General Non-Profit Corporation Law of the State of Nevada, Section 501c(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701(f) of the Revenue and Taxation Code. The income or net earnings of this organization shall not inure to the benefit or profit of any LVHCC individual.

Section 2. The Club 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.

Section 3. Upon dissolution of the Club, the Board of Directors shall, upon payment of all liabilities to the AHCC and Mainland Council of the AHCC, dispose of all the remaining assets by distribution to a like fund or a foundation or organization organized and operated exclusively for charitable or educational purposes and exempt from Federal Income Tax as an organization described in Section 501c(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE IV – PROHIBITIONS (*Ha‘awina ‘Eha – Pāpā ‘Ana*)

Section 1. Political Advocacy. LVHCC can engage in political advocacy and while this is not our primary purpose, guidelines for endorsement must be clarified to ensure LVHCC is not seen as specifically advocating for only one political entity or side.

Section 2. LVHCC Representation. No LVHCC member will promote him or herself as an “official representative” of the Club without the approval of the *Pelekikena* and ratified by the General Membership.

Section 3. Conflict of Interest / Ethical Code of Conduct. Directors and Officers will not use their position for financial gain, maintain impartiality, and adhere to an ethical code of conduct to maintain a high level of trust with the Club Membership.

Section 4. Fundraising. All fundraising conducted on behalf of the Club and/or its committees, activities, or programs must be approved by the Officers and Directors. LVHCC is a 100% volunteer organization. No member in an elective, appointive, or committee level position shall receive any salary, goods, services, or other forms of compensation for his or her services rendered on behalf of the Club.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP (*Ha‘awina ‘Elima – Noho Lālā Ana*)

The Club shall have members who freely join and constitute the entirety of the Club who are not coerced into becoming a part of LVHCC.

Section 1. Membership.

- a. A member in good standing is defined as:
 1. An individual who is an adult, eighteen (18) years or older
 2. Current in their membership dues with the Club
- b. Membership categories. The Club’s membership is composed of several categories with varying dues types. Every member of the Club shall have the right to decide the type of membership that best suits his or her purpose.

Section 2. Termination of Membership.

- a. Automatic suspension of membership will occur if any member is delinquent in their dues over sixty (60) days from the date of renewal at which point they are no longer members in good standing. If not resolved after six (6) months automatic termination will occur.
- b. Automatic termination will occur if an member steals or destroys LVHCC property, documents and files including electronic files; are convicted of any felony; are suspected of fraud and/or collusion of LVHCC finances; violate the Constitution or Bylaws including the Oath of Office by an elected Board Member; non-adherence to the philosophy and purpose of the LVHCC; fails to follow the responsibilities of their elected position; or death.
- c. Right to appeal termination as a member. Any member suspended or terminated from LVHCC shall have the right to appeal within thirty (30) days of notification of this action. The procedure for appeal is detailed in the Policy and Procedures Manual and must be submitted in writing for the Board of Directors to review. The Board will have final determination on all appeals.

ARTICLE VI – ORGANIZATION (*Ha‘awina ‘Eono – Kukulu ‘Ana*)

LVHCC shall be composed of an approved Membership, elected, and appointed Directors and Officers brought forth by the membership of the Club. The LVHCC *Pelekikena* is empowered by executive privilege to appoint staff members, *Komike* Chairs, and fill vacancies of elected Directors and Officers should a position go without an elected person.

Section 1. Elected Officers and Directors. This organization shall be composed of the following elected Directors and Officers. Roles and responsibilities are further detailed in the Bylaws.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <i>Pelekikena</i> * | President* |
| 2. <i>Hope Pelekikena Mua</i> * | 1 st Vice President* |
| 3. Hope Pelekikena ‘Elua | 2 nd Vice President |
| 4. <i>Kākau `Ōlelo Ho‘opa‘a</i> | Secretary |
| 5. <i>Pu‘ukū</i> | Treasurer |
| 6. <i>Na Alaka‘i</i> | Directors |
| 7. Mainland Council <i>Koho Mua</i> | Mainland Council Representative |
| 8. <i>Pelekekina ‘Iho Nei</i> | Immediate Past President (advisory not elected) |

*Must be of Native Hawaiian¹ descent as defined in U.S. Code, Title 42, § 11711 (3)(B): “The term Native Hawaiian means any individual who is a descendant of the aboriginal people, who prior to 1778, occupied and exercised sovereignty in the area that now constitutes the State of Hawaii, as evidenced by — (i) genealogical records, (ii) Kupuna (elders) or Kama‘aina (long-term community residents) verification, or (iii) birth records of the State of Hawaii.”

Section 2. Eligibility Requirements for Elected Positions. All individuals must be members in good standing, have been a member for no less than one year, with all dues paid up to date, and physically reside in the State of Nevada. The positions of *Pelekikena* and *Hope Pelekikena Mua* require individuals who are Hawaiian or part Hawaiian ancestry.² The positions of *Pelekikena* and *Nā Hope Pelekikena* requires no less than two (2) consecutive years as an LVHCC member in good standing.

Section 3. Succession to the Elected Office of *Pelekikena*. The order of succession to the position of *Pelekikena* of the LVHCC in the event a vacancy occurs for whatever reason will be as follows:

- a. *Hope Pelekikena Mua*;
- b. *Hope Pelekikena ‘Elua*; however, if not of Native Hawaiian descent then;
- c. General Election for the position of *Pelekikena*.

Section 3. The Board of Directors (BOD). The BOD consists of the Executive *Komike* (Officers), *Na Alaka‘i* (Directors), *Koho Mua*, and *Pelekikena ‘Iho Nei*.

Section 4. Executive Committee (*Komike*) Officers. The Executive Officers of this organization shall be the *Pelekikena*, *Hope Pelekikena Mua*, *Hope Pelekikena ‘Elua*, *Pu‘uku*, *Kākau ‘Ōlelo Ho‘opa‘a*, and *Pelekikena ‘Iho Nei*. The Executive *Komike* is responsible for the day-to-day administration of Club business. The *Pelekikena ‘Iho Nei*

¹ For purposes of this and all other affiliated governing documents the terms *Kanaka Maoli*, *Kanaka ‘Ōiwi*, Hawaiian, and Native Hawaiian shall be construed in historical continuity with the Hawaiian Kingdom’s recognition of its native subjects, as acknowledged in *Rex v. Booth* (1847), and, for contemporary administrative purposes, in accordance with applicable federal and Hawai‘i state law, including but not limited to 42 U.S.C. § 11711(3), 25 U.S.C. § 3001 and § 4221, and Hawai‘i Revised Statutes § 10-2.

² Ancestry may be established through reliable documentation, including recognized genealogical records, Hawai‘i State birth records, or verification by *Kūpuna* (elders) or *Kama‘āina* (long-term community residents), the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Hawaiian Registry Program, or Kamehameha Schools *Ho‘oulu* Verification Services.

shall serve as a member of the Executive *Komike* in an advisory role and is granted the rights to vote and represent LVHCC in matters approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Return of Records and Property. Each and every elected Director or Officer and/or appointed individual or former member who is or has served in a capacity whereby they were, past or present, responsible for maintaining LVHCC property or documents will surrender them within ten (10) days following departure, removal, or resignation from the position(s) they occupied.

Section 7. Non-Compliance. Any elected Director, Officer, and/or appointed individual serving in a capacity of a coordinator, *Komike* chairperson, or staff position who does not return club records or property as directed under Section 6 above will automatically lose their membership with the Club as voted by the LVHCC Board. Per Article X, Section 5 below, additional penalties may be imposed for non-compliance.

ARTICLE VII – ANNUAL CONVENTION AND MAINLAND COUNCIL

REPRESENTATION (*Ha‘awina ‘Ehiku – ‘Ahahui Makahiki a me ‘Aha Hō‘ailona*)

Section 1. Annual Convention. LVHCC, as an autonomous Club reporting directly to the AHCC, will elect delegates to represent the Club at Convention. These delegates will include the LVHCC *Pelekikena* and the Mainland Council *Koho Mua*. Delegates will be empowered to vote in the interests of LVHCC during Convention proceedings. The *Pelekikena* shall lead the LVHCC delegation at all Annual conventions sponsored by the AHCC. In the event the *Pelekikena* is unable to attend the Annual Convention, a designated representative will be identified in his or her stead.

Section 2. Convention Attendance. With the exception of Corporate, Associate Partner, or Friends of LVHCC Membership, regular members may represent the Club as a Delegate at all Conventions sponsored by the AHCC provided they are members in good standing and have been elected by the general membership to represent LVHCC. The determination of LVHCC delegates follows the AHCC metric of one Club delegate per ten (10) LVHCC members in good standing as identified during the submission of annual Per Capita fees.

Section 3. Mainland Council of the AHCC meetings. The *Pelekikena* and Mainland Council *Koho Mua* will represent LVHCC as voting delegates at quarterly, and other directed special, meetings of the Mainland Council. LVHCC is allowed up to three total voting delegates per Mainland Council direction. Should the *Pelekikena* and/or *Koho Mua* (or both) be unavailable to attend these meetings, three LVHCC members in good standing may be designated by the LVHCC Board of Directors to represent LVHCC in their stead.

ARTICLE VIII – RULES OF ORDER (*Ha‘awina ‘Ewalu – Lō‘ina o Ho‘omalū*).

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The Club Constitution; Bylaws; amendments to said documents; other policies and procedures adopted by this Club; and local, state, and federal ordinances and laws take precedence. Should they be silent on a matter or issue, the current version of Robert’s Rules of Order will be applied.

Section 2. Quorum Definition. General Membership and Board of Director Meetings require a quorum to conduct official business for Members attending in person and via electronic (virtual) platforms. For the purposes of this organization, a quorum is defined as half (50%) of the elected Board of Directors of the Club.

Section 3. Voting. All Members in good standing may vote during LVHCC meetings. Corporate, Associate partner, and Friends of LVHCC members do not have voting rights to ensure no conflict of interest is created. There will be no vote by proxy or mail-in voting allowed. A vote during an electronic meeting where a member is deemed present at the meeting shall be considered valid. The *Pelekikena* will not vote during LVHCC meetings unless the vote encounters a tie resulting in the *Pelekikena* having one (1) vote to break the tie.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS (*Ha‘awina ‘Eiwa – Ho‘ololi ‘Ōlelo Pāku‘i*)

Section 1. Amendment Timeline for Submittal. Any proposed revision or amendment to the LVHCC Constitution or Bylaws must be first presented to the LVHCC Board of Directors, prior to the General Membership approval, by the Chair of the Policy & Procedure *Komike*. The amendment must then be circulated for review by the membership for thirty (30) days prior to the General Membership Meeting when the proposed amendment will be voted on. The amendment will be maintained in a separate amendment document until such time as it can be incorporated into the Constitution and/or Bylaws.

Section 2. Amendments Approval. The LVHCC Constitution and Bylaws may be revised or amended by a two-thirds majority vote of members present, and in good standing, at a regular General Membership Meeting.

ARTICLE X – REVENUE AND FINANCIAL (*Ha‘awina ‘Umi – Loa‘a a me Waiwai*)

Section 1. Income and Expenses. All income generated shall be used to carry out the objectives and purposes of the Club. All expenses incurred by the Club shall be for lawful business activities and shall be in accordance allowable activities. Documentation of all income generated as well as expenditures shall be recorded and kept by the *Pu‘ukū*.

Section 2. Bank Accounts. The Club will maintain a minimum of one (1) operating and one (1) disbursement set of accounts established by approval of the LVHCC Board for the sole purpose of generating financial interest which, overall, supports LVHCC objectives. Funds can be transferred between accounts only upon the authority of the Board. Additional accounts to support operating budgets for standing and other *Komike* may be established only upon approval of the Membership.

Section 3. Salaries. No member in an elective, appointive, or other position shall receive any salary or gift for his or her services rendered on behalf of the LVHCC.

Section 4. Fund Raising. All fund raising conducted on behalf of the Club, and/or its *Komike*, activities or programs must be approved by the Directors and Officers.

Section 5. Penalties. Any Member, Director, or Officer of the Club found stealing, mishandling funds, or embezzlement shall be subject to prosecution in accordance with State or Federal law upon approval by the Membership.

ARTICLE XI – PER CAPITA, CONVENTION REGISTRATION, AND MEMBERSHIP FEES (*Ha’awina ‘Umi Kumākahi – E po’o Kanaka, ‘Aha ho’oku’ikahi, ame Ka noho’na hoa Uku*).


Section 1. Per Capita. Per Capita to the Mainland Council and AHCC shall be paid annually no later than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the next annual convention of the AHCC. The amount paid shall be established by the Mainland Council and AHCC. LVHCC will submit a roster of current members in good standing with the Per Capita payments.

Section 2. Convention Registration. Registration fees are for elected and alternate LVHCC delegates that attend convention. Payment to the AHCC will occur no later than 30 days prior to the convening of the next annual AHCC convention. The amount paid shall be established by the AHCC.

Section 3. LVHCC Membership Dues. LVHCC will determine membership dues in the categories of *Makua, Haumana, Kupuna, ‘Ohana*, Charter (only for 1989 original members), Corporate, Associate Partner, and Friends of LVHCC.

ARTICLE XII – DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS LIABILITY INSURANCE (*Ha’awina ‘Umi Kūmālua – Alaka’i ame Luna Nui Kuleana Palapala Ho’opa’a*). The Club shall provide adequate liability coverage of all its Directors and Officers on an annual basis. Such coverage will include crime and fidelity coverage related to potential dishonest acts by Club members for personal gain potentially resulting in loss of LVHCC monies and securities (see Article X, Section 5). A copy of such liability coverage will be maintained by the *Pu’uku* and shall be made available for review by the Membership.

ARTICLE XIII – IMPOSSIBILITY PROVISIONS (*Ha’awina ‘Umi Kumakolu – Mea hiki ole he ai i Hoahuia*). In the event of an emergency, such as, but not limited to, a natural disaster, a virus, or government restrictions, such provisions of this Constitution, as deemed necessary, may be suspended by LVHCC Board of Directors at a regular or special meeting. Any suspension under this provision must describe a compelling interest for the suspension and include specific dates for when the suspension is to start and end.



Pelekikena Pulima