

The background of the cover is a photograph of the interior courtyard of the Hawaii State Capitol building. The architecture is modern, with a high ceiling supported by numerous vertical concrete beams. A central circular area on the ground floor is cordoned off with black stanchions and ropes. In the distance, through the open courtyard, a large palm tree and a monument are visible, along with a view of the surrounding green landscape and hills under a clear sky.

ACLU OF HAWAII

2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Campaign for Smart Justice Hawai'i



Between 1980 and 2017, Hawaii's incarcerated population rose by **472 percent**.



Smart reforms will cut incarceration rates in half and challenge racial disparities within the criminal legal system. Our current system tears apart families and communities, and makes us less safe.

This session, the ACLU of Hawai'i will ask the legislature to rethink current practices around the collection of unpaid traffic fines, practices that often lead to and perpetuate cycles of poverty and incarceration. We will push for solutions that repeal counterproductive driver's license "stoppers," and require courts to scale traffic fines to individual motorists' ability to pay.

We will push for transparency in how our county prosecutors' offices operate. Despite being the most influential players in our criminal legal system, prosecutors publicly disclose shockingly little about their practices.

The ACLU of Hawai'i will support measures to create "earned time" credits to reward inmates with good behavior, and measures that reduce penalties for low-level drug possession. We will defend against attempts to reinforce our state's outdated and disproven approach to corrections, and will fervently oppose measures that criminalize poverty.

In 2018, **12%** of people incarcerated were in for a drug-related charge or conviction.



Education Justice



We know that draconian systems of school punishment make it more likely that kids will become entangled in the adult criminal legal system later on in life. This is commonly known as the

Kids in Hawai'i schools can be suspended for up to **92 days** for merely *smelling* like cannabis.

There is a better way.

"school-to-prison-pipeline," and Hawaii's students are suffering. This is why the ACLU of Hawai'i will push to completely eliminate out-of-school suspensions for elementary school students and cap all suspensions for all students at 10 days per year. We will also advocate for the state to require the Department of Education to collect and analyze comprehensive civil rights data so the public can be sure that students are being treated fairly and equitably.



Privacy & Technology

The ACLU of Hawai'i will continue to advocate for increased protections against unwarranted invasions of privacy, both by the government and private entities. We will defend the right of Hawai'i residents to maintain control over their personal information, whether that information is the content of an email account, or one's unique genetic characteristics. Facial recognition technology is particularly ripe for abuse in the hands of government and raises significant civil rights concerns. This is why ACLU of Hawai'i supports a full ban on government use of this technology, and a ban on private use unless the subject has provided clear, discrete, written consent.

Reproductive Freedom

The ACLU of Hawai'i, alongside Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawai'i, will fight to increase abortion access by eliminating unnecessary and burdensome barriers to care. We will push for legislation to allow qualified healthcare providers to provide abortion care. We also support bills that require comprehensive reproductive health services, including abortion, to be covered by insurance with zero copay for patients.

Workplace Fairness & Equity

Hawaii's workers are guaranteed zero weeks of time off when they need to care for a new child or a seriously ill or injured family member. This exacerbates gender gaps in the workplace since women are still disproportionately burdened with family care responsibilities. The ACLU of Hawai'i supports a state-run social insurance program that provides sixteen weeks of paid family leave with a higher percentage of wage replacement for lower earners.

The ACLU of Hawai'i will also support antidiscrimination measures that reduce the stigma of incarceration and ease re-entry by decreasing the look-back period for prospective employers' access to court records.





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