



BINATIONAL COUPLES IN PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

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State Dems gather in Kona

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The Hawaii County Democratic Party's picnic was the place to see and be seen Sunday evening, as both Democratic candidates for governor, at least five candidates for lieutenant governor and a handful of local candidates stopped by.

The high number of politicians in attendance prompted Hawaii Democratic Party Chairman Dante Carpenter to forgo long speeches to give the out-of-town candidates more time to speak with their supporters.

"This is the place to be," Carpenter said, as he left the party. "We want to make sure the Democratic party is well represented in every office."

All the candidates present at the party kept to one message: The neighbor islands are important.

"There would not be a Honolulu-centric administration," gubernatorial candidate Neil Abercrombie said, if he is elected. "I'm in it for the long run."

His opponent for the Democratic nomination, outgoing Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann, also attended Sunday's event, but left early to catch an airplane, supporters said.

Candidates for lieutenant governor brought the same message. State Senator Gary Hooser, who represents Kauai, noted the more than three decades he has lived on a neighbor island as something that sets him apart in the field of Democrats seeking that nomination.



We the people ...



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Alex Farnham of Kailua Kona passes out "Gold Doubloons" to the happy keiki during Kailua-Kona's 4th of July parade; Members of the Kealakehe Neighborhood Watch lead the parade down Kuakini Highway; The Latino American Association's Uncle Sam marches Sunday; Mitsuo Oura, left, and Sunao Kadooka, members of the famed 100th Battalion, 442nd "Go for Broke," wave to the crowd.



More Independence Day photos from the Kona parade and Waimea rodeo inside

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