

2006 Platform of the Hawaii Republican Party

*"In great states, citizens have the power and opportunity to choose, create and control their own level of well-being, security and prosperity."
The 2000, 2002, 2004, and 2006 Platform Committees*

Equality, Unity, and Diversity through Respect for Individual Rights:

As the Party of Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony and Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, Hawaii's Republicans are committed to the belief that all people are created equal with unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Hawaii's Republicans seek to unite people around a set of commonly held ideals and not divide them according to their differences. Hawaii's Republicans believe that the ultimate expression of diversity is respect for each person's right to be treated as an individual.

Importance of the Family:

Hawaii's Republicans believe that the basic building block of America is the family, and that economic success and well-being for Hawaii's families is best achieved through: (1) a free enterprise system that creates opportunities for families to prosper, (2) an education system that gives its citizens the skills and knowledge they need to compete successfully anywhere in the world, and (3) a system of criminal and civil justice that vigorously protects families while it ensures swift justice for criminals.

Role of Government:

Hawaii's Republicans believe that government responsibility and authority should reside as close to its citizens as possible. This belief respects the right of Hawaii's communities to have more local control over significant governmental actions. We demand an end to the stifling amount of government control over Hawaii's economy and the unnecessary amount of government interference in the lives of Hawaii's citizens. We will end this by seeking to restrict the role of government to those activities that are beyond the ability of the private sector operating in free, open and law-abiding markets.

Prevent Corrupting Influence in Government:

The goal of Hawaii's Republicans is to create a vibrant multi-party system of moral, ethical and law-abiding leaders that will ensure integrity in government and unleash the powerful reforming influence of checks and balances that America's founders worked so hard to establish. Doing so will create an open, honest form of government free of cronyism and favoritism where every citizen can expect equal opportunity and respect and have their faith in government confirmed.

ECONOMY

Hawaii’s Republicans want to create an economy that provides meaningful jobs for all. We want everyone to earn enough to provide more than just the necessities for all families. We can do that if our economy is free from restrictive regulation and high taxes so that anyone with a vision can start a business that meets its needs and provides jobs. Open markets, fair competition free from politics in providing products and services to government, minimal government interference with the economy and lower taxes will free the people of Hawaii to increase our economic growth. Many new businesses will create more jobs for the people of Hawaii so that our families do not have to move to the Mainland and those that have left can return. We believe in and will support community-based planning, the development of a diversified, sustainable economic base and the creation of a user-friendly government that fosters small business development and fair competition for all businesses.

Hawaii’s Republicans advocate:

- Lower taxes and fees to create an economic climate that produces growth, including an end to the excise tax on food, medical services and housing rent.
- Raising the standard deduction for state income tax to match the federal level.
- Lower cost of government through more efficient management of public resources.
- Elimination of unnecessary government regulation and layers of bureaucracy that increase the cost of government, the cost of living, the cost of conducting business and the cost of creating jobs in Hawaii.
- An end to the duplication of state and county services and redundant statutory requirements. Duplication of state and county highway maintenance is an obvious example of wasteful spending.
- A reform of workers compensation insurance to curb abuse and the implementation of stronger penalties for fraud in order to lower premiums.
- Eliminating inappropriate barriers that prevent potential insurance providers from competing in Hawaii on an equal footing with the present providers of insurance services.
- Tort and litigation reform to protect individuals and state and county government from frivolous lawsuits that tie up the courts and drive up costs to consumers and taxpayers.
- A diversified economic base built by the people of Hawaii—not government—so that they are free from high taxes and burdensome regulations. Then we can create jobs in new and existing businesses that take advantage of Hawaii’s position in the center of the Pacific.

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- Recognition and encouragement of tourism’s important role in our economy to assure its continued success as Hawaii’s people work to diversify our economy.
- An appreciation of and welcome to our armed forces in Hawaii. They must be given credit for protecting our country and acknowledged for the economic and community benefits they provide.
- Continued development of tropical and diversified agriculture to reduce Hawaii’s dependence on imported food and to give us products to export.
- Recognition of the University of Hawaii system as essential to our economic well being. It contributes a well educated workforce that is proficient in high technology fields; it gives us trained and skilled managers, and innovative, committed entrepreneurs able to create jobs and compete in the global marketplace.
- Assured adequate funding for the University of Hawaii’s programs in basic and applied research, technical assistance and technology transfer efforts. These fields help business that can create new jobs in Hawaii as well as providing higher education opportunities for Hawaii’s citizens.
- Repeal of the Jones Act and Passenger Vessel Service Act to provide us with the benefit of increased competition that will result in lower shipping costs to and from the West Coast and other ports and to increase tourism to Hawaii.
- Eliminating inappropriate barriers that prevent potential providers of inter-island shipping and transportation from competing on an equal footing with the small number of existing providers.
- Encouraging, with community support, development of economically feasible and environmentally appropriate new and existing ports, airports, and other shipping facilities on neighbor islands to accommodate direct international and mainland shipments. This should create transportation jobs on neighbor islands and lower costs for the products we consume.

EDUCATION

The future of Hawaii depends on a high quality education that will provide citizens the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century. We expect our educational system to assist in preparing our children to be productive citizens in their adult lives. Hawaii's Republicans support a restructuring of public education in our State from a top-heavy, unresponsive statewide bureaucracy to a community-based, locally administered school system. We believe the State's responsibilities in education should be to: 1) ensure funding equity, 2) enforce general standards of excellence, 3) develop realistic evaluation procedures, and 4) uphold Federal requirements for students with special needs.

Hawaii's Republicans advocate:

Preschool:

- Expanding private-sector pre-kindergarten education for Hawaii's children through tax exemptions to accredited schools.
- Providing personal income tax deductions (or credits) for parents with students attending pre-kindergarten schools.

Kindergarten, Elementary, Intermediate/Middle and Secondary Education:

- Putting 90% of the fiscal resources into the hands of the schools' principals.
- Encouraging the Board of Education (BOE) to establish a fiscal system based on the concept of achieving measurable results, together with the weighted student formula focused on equal educational opportunities that identifies all aspects of the Department of Education (DOE) education budget.
- Conducting an independent management and fiscal audit of the DOE.
- Encouraging parental or guardian involvement in their children's education.
- Placing governance, oversight and support at the local level to reflect unique community strengths and needs and be fully accountable to their particular communities.
- Replacing the existing Board of Education with locally-elected boards and county school districts. With this, the DOE at state level will be composed of a small cadre of measurably-qualified senior education advisors.
- Establishing measurable performance standards in every discipline taught in K - 12, and holding parents, students, teachers, and principals accountable for results based upon a regimen of annual criterion-specific academic testing of all students.

- 1 □ Establishing an academic curriculum for every grade level and every academic
2 discipline from K - 12. This curriculum should include a vocational option at
3 the senior high school level through a student-centered learning environment.
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- 5 □ Ending the practice of ‘social promotions’ by testing each student at the end of
6 each academic year to determine academic readiness to proceed to the next
7 grade.
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- 9 □ Reviewing excellence in teaching and educational administration, using
10 objectives and measurable criteria.
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- 12 □ Supporting the intent of the Federal “No Child Left Behind Act of 2001”.
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- 14 □ Providing additional charter authorities and giving charter schools a fair share of
15 funding for facilities as well as operations.
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- 17 □ Establishing a Hawai’i Master Teacher Program to create Master Instructor
18 positions for National Board Certified Teachers to serve as mentors for new
19 teachers and assist schools with low student achievement scores.
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- 21 □ Advocating an environment where students can learn and teachers can teach,
22 and where disruptive influences are addressed through prompt, appropriate
23 disciplinary action.
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25 **Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education:**

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- 27 □ Working closely with business and industry representatives to develop and refine
28 training programs.
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- 30 □ Expanding the focus of and requirements for college, career and technical
31 education at the high school and community college level to assure Hawaii’s
32 students are prepared to join the diverse workplace of the 21st century.
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- 34 □ Having an open dialogue between local BOEs and community college chancellors
35 to implement a high school vocational program as an adjunct to increase access to
36 community college education and career and technical education programs to
37 increase high school graduation rates and skill development.
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- 39 □ Encouraging a vocational high school option with provisions for education credits
40 for graduation for third and fourth year high school students who can profit from
41 educational enrichment or career and technical education in addition to the current
42 high school curriculum.
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44 **The University of Hawaii System:**

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- 1 □ The University’s role in instruction, research, and service is compromised by a
2 variable and uncertain allocation of financial resources. The work of the
3 University cannot be based upon political contests for limited and constantly-
4 changing resources, but must be based upon defined goals for higher education in
5 Hawaii. In support of the University, the focus of government should be to
6 stabilize the financial aspects of the institution--Board of Regents, administration,
7 faculty, students--to do their job and build upon the financial base with its own
8 capabilities. In this endeavor, the University system must be free from political
9 interference.
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- 11 □ Legislating a funding standard that would enable the University to be competitive
12 with the top 25% of national state-supported universities.
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- 14 □ Advocating that the Hawaii Legislature establish a realistic policy stating
15 explicitly what percent of the total costs each student in the University system
16 must pay for his/her higher education.
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- 18 □ Supporting constitutional autonomy of the Regents of the University to control
19 the University budget so that it can efficiently function in research, instruction,
20 and community service.
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- 22 □ Limiting the University Regents to a single ten year term and ending the
23 requirement that they be residents of Hawaii.
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- 25 □ Allowing the University to retain the funds it generates internally without regard
26 to, and in addition to, State funding.
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NATIVE HAWAIIANS

The members of the Hawaii Republican Party, the party of Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole, value the traditional Hawaiian culture and recognize it as the essence and spirit of our island home. We believe that the resolutions of issues facing Hawaiians are matters for Hawaiians to resolve.

Hawaii's Republicans advocate:

- Providing every qualified native Hawaiian beneficiary on the waiting list an opportunity for home ownership or land stewardship on homestead land.
- Resolution of the claims that were filed by native Hawaiians for the mismanagement of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands by the collaboration of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Attorney General, Administration/Executive Branch and the legislature.
- Making it possible for individuals to secure their homesteads for themselves and their families by supporting the provisions of loans for the purpose of building a primary residence on their homesteads.
- Encouraging Hawaiians to support initiatives leading to implementation of Hawaiian self-determination by popular vote of the Hawaiian people.

FAMILY, SOCIAL AND HOUSING ISSUES

FAMILIES:

The strength of Hawaii emanates from the strength of our diverse population and the strength of our families, strengths founded on belief in God, mutual trust and respect, parental responsibility and community involvement. Government's role is to engender an environment in which families can build on this foundation.

Hawaii's Republicans advocate:

- Abstinence-based education by community organizations to help prevent teen pregnancy, teach our youth the responsibilities of parenthood, and stress the importance of a strong and viable family unit.
- Parental/Guardian involvement and notification in all matters of their children's health and education.
- Private sector initiatives and organizations which work to find loving and caring families for neglected children.

SOCIAL SERVICES:

Government programs which promote dependency have undermined the values of individual initiative and community responsibility in many of our citizens.

Hawaii's Republicans advocate:

- Social welfare programs which strive to empower people to become self-sufficient and to liberate them from dependency on public assistance.
- Government programs which will bring dignity and respect to our homeless including the implementation of job training and placement, instilling a sense of accomplishment and pride leading to self-sufficiency.
- Restructuring of our state's current social service programs into a comprehensive, integrated system which holds accountable all program administrators in terms of achievement toward clear and defined goals.
- Maintenance of a social services system which provides a safety net for those who are truly in need.
- Innovative, integrated programs which are designed to move people from being tax users to being taxpayers and which restore self-esteem and dignity to the individual.

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- Increasing decision makers’ and citizens’ understanding of the barriers for people with disabilities.

HOUSING:

Safe, secure and decent housing is essential to the quality of life of all Hawaii’s residents, and we recognize that the most successful housing program in history has been the American free enterprise system.

Hawaii’s Republicans advocate:

- Creation of an economic environment which facilitates development of housing programs in response to current needs and encourages home ownership.
- Streamlining the land use and permitting process to facilitate housing and reduce the costs to the consumer.
- Increasing funds for affordable housing projects by allowing the issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds.
- Government involvement in creating partnerships with non-profits in the development of special needs housing which is generally not served by the private sector.
- Government involvement in the administration of rental assistance programs to ensure access to housing for our most needy families.
- Granting counties’ control of land use decisions and encouraging streamlining of the permitting process to facilitate the lower cost of housing.

VETERANS:

The Armed Services are sworn to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Our military is an integral part of our life in Hawaii.

Hawaii’s Republicans advocate:

- Recognizing and commending the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves for their sacrifices for our nation.
- Recognizing the sacrifices of our veterans’ families.

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- Supporting initiatives that strengthen and enhance the quality of life for veterans and their families in Hawaii.

GOVERNMENT

Hawaii's economy cannot support the present cost of state government. We believe that controlling the size of state government and eliminating government wastes is essential to the long-term economic health of Hawaii and its people. We support increased efficiency, leveraging of resources and an end to unnecessary duplication in government. We believe that a strong multi-party system will provide the checks and balances so desperately needed in our state to address the abuses of current laws that are being ignored by government leaders. Government's role is to serve all of Hawaii's people, taking into consideration the uniqueness and importance of Hawaii's multi-island diversity and not be self-serving to elected officials.

Hawaii's Republicans advocate:

- Decentralizing government services to the counties through appropriate funding.
- Creating, where appropriate, partnerships between the Government and the private sector to give taxpayers the best service at the lowest possible cost.
- Streamlining the permit and licensing process to make government user-friendly and to reduce costs to consumers and businesses.
- Reducing the size and cost of state government by applying sound business management practices.
- Using technology to consolidate and improve administrative and support functions.
- Implementing a performance-based budget that creates specific, meaningful, and measurable goals for government.
- Consolidating overlapping departments within state and county agencies which duplicate efforts such as city and state road crews.
- Supporting fiscal policy that will finally implement the state constitutional mandate calling for the Legislative Auditor to conduct complete audits of all government finances, including "special funds", and making the results open to public review.
- Increasing penalties for voter fraud.
- Demanding accountability from the State Office of Elections and requiring an automatic recount of votes in close races.

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- Restoring voter confidence in state elections by requiring election results be posted at each precinct as soon as the polls close.
- Opposing the counting of blank votes on our state ballots as a vote cast.
- Reviewing voter lists and registration practices to ensure all ballots cast are legitimate.
- Continuing support for initiative, referendum and recall.
- Holding a Constitutional Convention.
- Demanding term limits.
- Demanding Civil Service reform.
- Encouraging all of Hawaii’s schools and universities to assist in voter registration of all eligible students and to foster well-informed voter participation.
- Mentoring the young people of Hawaii to actively take part in leadership roles in governmental affairs.
- Prudent maintenance, replacement, and enhancement of Hawaii’s critical infrastructure, including roads, sewers, water supply, airports, and harbors.

HEALTH / HEALTH CARE

The Hawaii Republican Party believes that high quality medical care at affordable prices should be available to all the people of Hawaii. A truly competitive medical market place must be created because free market solutions are preferable to expanding the role of government. A large factor is each individual's responsibility to maintain good health and to be able to choose the level and kind of health care they need.

Hawaii's Republicans advocate:

- Increasing healthcare options including, but not limited to, Health Maintenance Organizations, Preferred Provider Organizations, low and high deductible plans, group health insurance plans for trade groups and the self employed and Medical Savings Accounts.
- Eliminating the General Excise Tax on all health care services because it is a regressive tax that harms the poorest and sickest members of our society.
- Increasing availability of health insurance coverage by encouraging new health plan providers to enter the Hawaii market, use of tax credits for small businesses and a fair cost sharing with employees.
- Promoting private long-term care and providing tax credit incentives.
- Providing financial incentives for health care professionals trained in Hawaii if they practice in Hawaii.
- Enhancing health services for Hawaii's mentally ill, disabled and neediest residents.
- Properly maintaining and updating Hawaii's public hospitals.

JOB

Our goal is to empower the people of Hawaii by expanding employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. Fundamentally, jobs are created in the private sector through free enterprise. The Hawaii state government must foster business opportunities by reducing unnecessary rules and regulations.

Small businesses are the engines of growth and job creation. They generate 80 percent of Hawaii's new jobs and 60 percent of our State's gross domestic product. Hawaii's Republicans are committed to the survival, the revival, and the resurgence of small business. Small business is a force for social, political, and economical progress. Hawaii's Republicans support regulatory reforms that will encourage businesses to provide job opportunities with long term potential to raise the standard of living for Hawaii's families.

We also recognize that both private and public sector unions in Hawaii have advanced the economic status of all citizens, thus providing an essential element in the health of the business community. This includes a fair salary for all working people.

Hawaii's Republicans advocate:

- Supporting a fair home-office deduction so important to start-up businesses.
- Assuring that a person who inherits a family business or farm will not have to sell it to pay inheritance taxes.
- Increasing, strengthening, and reinvigorating business development efforts to provide socially and economically disadvantaged individuals the opportunity for full participation in our free enterprise system.
- Partnering between the public and private sector that allows for managed competition. This will ensure that the public receives more efficient and cost-effective services while creating expanded job opportunities.
- Increasing access to capital to expand, export, and attract new products and technologies to the markets of Hawaii.
- Defending the right of workers to organize and supporting the concept of collective bargaining.
- Eliminating mandatory collection of union assessments for political purposes.
- Protecting an employee's right to decide anonymously whether or not to make a political contribution.

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- Working with management and labor, along with the institutions of higher education, to update job training programs by employing the latest technology available.

ENVIRONMENT

Hawaii is the most beautiful and unique place on earth and all of us share a deep concern for the environment. We know that a healthy environment and a sound economy are both essential to our prosperity and quality of life. We believe that by working together, we can both preserve our environment and expand our economy to benefit current and future generations.

Hawaii's Republicans advocate:

- Protection of our clean air and clean water.
- Protection of our fragile watersheds and aquifers.
- Development and implementation of a water conservation plan.
- Desalination, reclamation and reuse of wastewater as an alternative source of water.
- Clean, efficient businesses, industries, and government agencies that recycle and re-use materials to the maximum extent feasible.
- Preservation of our special Hawaiian lifestyle and sense of place.
- Strong, results-oriented enforcement of environmental laws with an emphasis on unregulated landfills and toxic runoff.
- Economic development for communities that balance the man-made and the natural environment.
- Land use, zoning, and water resource decisions to be made only at the county level.
- Responsible stewardship by government and citizens of our natural resources and the environment.
- Protection of our parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wild lands and waters.
- Effective protection of threatened and endangered species in their native habitats with extensive community involvement in making reasonable decisions, based on good science, regarding the designation of critical habitat.
- Increased use of alternative power sources of non-polluting technologies other than fossil fuels.
- Increased community involvement in landfill siting and public utility commission decisions.

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- Investigation into new technologies to reduce our waste stream.
- Eventual elimination of overhead utility lines.
- Protection of our shorelines and coastal zone through effective management, implementation and enforcement of existing laws.
- Elimination or control of invasive species.

CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Hawaii's Republicans believe in a free and open society. We are the party of personal freedom. With freedom comes the responsibility to maintain respect for our laws and judiciary. Hawaii's Republicans support strong homeland security initiatives which guard our cities, towns, and neighborhoods against all acts of terror. We must keep our communities safe and uphold victims' rights, while ensuring swift justice for the perpetrators of crime.

Hawaii's Republicans advocate:

- Community based programs that empower people to prevent or reduce crime, such as neighborhood watch and community policing.
- Judicial reform to ensure trust and accountability in our judicial system. We support measures that let voters determine whether a judge should be retained after initial appointment.
- Strict penalties and stronger emphasis on victims' rights in trials, sentencing procedures, and restitution by criminals to their victims.
- Keeping the age of consent at 16.
- Stricter penalties for predators and abusers of children, spouses, seniors, and other vulnerable citizens.
- Incarceration of Hawaii's prisoners in a manner that is accountable and effective.
- Keeping perpetual criminals and violent criminals incarcerated.
- Mandatory medical confinement, treatment and monitoring of convicted criminals with substance abuse problems.
- Expanded monitoring of probationers and parolees to reduce problems with repeat offenders.
- Prohibition of profit-driven law enforcement.
- Compensation for all law enforcement officers, including correction officers and fire fighters that adequately reflects their dangerous professions.
- Emphasis on prevention and treatment of first time drug users with appropriate penalties for repeat offenders and users.
- Imposition of strict penalties for those who profit from illegal drugs, especially crystal methamphetamine.

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- Programs to reduce domestic violence.
- Enforcement of existing gun laws.
- Enforcement of existing speeding laws.
- Legislation allowing wiretaps, following federal law, and “Walk & Talk” and “Knock & Talk” programs to be used as tools in the war on drugs.
- All traffic fines and forfeitures to be retained by the Counties.
- Protecting all citizens from identity theft through proactive legislation, public education, and the provision of significant criminal penalties against offenders to include restitution for the victims.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Hawaii’s Republican’s value the expertise, experience, and wisdom of senior citizens. Our senior citizens play a major role in Hawaii and we seek their continued participation and involvement.

Hawaii’s Republicans advocate:

- Encouraging seniors to become mentors of our young people.
- Expanding and adding senior citizen centers throughout the state.
- Providing incentives to develop additional affordable housing and assisted living housing for low-income seniors.
- Community efforts that provide respite for family members from the stress of constant care of their elders.
- Expanding services and programs such as the “Going Home Program” and tax incentives so that seniors have the opportunity to live at home.
- Day care centers where seniors can interact with children.
- Planning for long term health care through tax credits for a portion of long term health care premiums.
- Protecting all seniors from abuse, identity theft, consumer and other fraud and scams directed toward them.
- Protecting seniors by requiring criminal background checks for healthcare employees.
- Providing programs through which businesses, schools, colleges, and universities can utilize the wealth of knowledge and experience our senior citizens have to offer.
- Reaffirming that public and private sector retirement pay and pensions, including Social Security, will remain exempt from state income taxes and support enacting exemptions for all other retirement income from trusts, annuities, 401Ks and IRAs.
- Legislation to allow insurance companies to discount automobile insurance for seniors taking a state certified Driver Safety Program offered by such organizations as Association of American Retired People (AARP).