

Libertarian Party of Hawaii

Editor: Roger Taylor

Party Chair: Ken Schoolland

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Open House General Membership Meeting

Home of Ken Schoolland and Li Zhao
94-1072 Alelo St.
Waipahu, HI
(Waikele)

Sunday, May 16th
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Enjoy camaraderie, conversation, and party news with fellow travelers. You are also invited to attend the Executive Committee Meeting that starts at 5:30. Since Li will be preparing a small feast, please

RSVP

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Scenes from the 2010 Tea Party Tax Day Protest Rally

By Jim Henshaw

I didn't know what to expect at the 2010 Tea Party Rally at the state capitol, never having been to one before. I'd heard liberal commenters and reporters derogatorily describe "teabaggers" as a bunch of racist old white Republican men, but confirmation bias is a bitch – people tend to see what they want to see, point the cameras at the people and signs in a crowd that match their preconceived narrative, and block out inconvenient bits that cause cognitive dissonance and wreak havoc with their most cherished beliefs.

So, when I arrived at the rally, I meandered through the crowd – the entire crowd – trying to see them as individuals, and not bit actors in a collective narrative.

The first impression that struck me is that this was a flag-intensive bunch. People carrying flags – people wearing flag shirts – flag hats --flag pants -- flag ties, some with little flag tie tacks in case you somehow thought they might be ambivalent about the whole patriotism thing. Mostly American flags, but some yellow Gadsden “Don't tread on me” flags. No rainbow flags, though. Not that kind of a crowd.

People gave speeches about flags. I talked with (well, more like “listened to” – politicians loooove to speak) Representative Kim Pine, who had gotten into a pissing match that day with Senator Will Espero over the cause of the demise of Pine's flagpole bill, though I was distracted by her stylish and expensive-looking snakeskin (?) shoes. I'd heard Will Espero give his side earlier that day. Apparently there are two eerily similar but parallel universes existing in Ewa Beach, with no apparent points of overlap between these two separate realities. Flagsflagsflags.

But enough about that rot. Let's go down the MSM liberal talking point checklist, “a bunch of racist old white Republican men”:

“A bunch of” – maybe so. I'd guess there were perhaps 1,000 attendees, jammed solid into the area from the Capitol steps by the Father Damien statute out to the roadway, with people overflowing on the edges, and hanging out at the capitol railings overhead.

“Racist.” No visible indications of that whatsoever. No racist signs, no ethnic slurs, nada.

“Old.” Nope. The crowd ran the gamut, from the adorable pre-teen kids waving signs to passing cars honking back, to elderly people, and every age in between.

“White.” No again. An ethnically diverse Hawaii crowd, perhaps more Kailua than Kalihi in average melanin levels, but a crowd that would look conspicuously out of place at, say, an Iowa corn feed.

“Republican” – quite a few. Definitely a center-right skew. Lot of Charles Djou T-shirts, Republican politicians, a blue and red Reagan T-shirt with the slogan “Right” mocking the Obama “Hope” poster. But also libertarians and objectivists (a black “Who is John Galt” sign, a speaker quoting from “Atlas Shrugged”) and Constitutionlists (an Oath Keeper T-shirt on someone with a military-grade physique and haircut).

“Men.” Men, women, and at least one T-girl.

The speeches: hmmm, how do I put this tactfully? Rick Hamada – quit hogging the damn mike. Seriously, STFU. Let other people speak. OK, not so tactful. One does one's best. ;)

The Tea Party movement is supposed to be a grassroots, leaderless non-organization. This lack of top-down,

command and control order was most noticeable at the microphone, where allegedly 2 minute speeches often ran waaaay over, blatantly ignoring the moderator who kept breaking out an orange “Wrap It Up” sign. It’s not Congress, folks. Give a speech, not a filibuster.

Applause lines: mentioning the flag (natch), Glenn Beck, home schooling, cutting taxes, cutting spending, cutting taxes AND spending. Did I mention taxes or spending? If not, my bad. ;)

The three best speeches IMHO were all delivered back-to-back by the three teenagers who took the mike (disclosure: I’m not totally objective, since one of them was my daughter). They wowed the crowd, especially the freshly scrubbed, insanely articulate and polished home schooled kid, Ryan something or other, who is clearly Going Places. And, if my normally tomboyish daughter’s gushing comments on the car ride home was any indication (“He’s sooo cute and smart! And such pretty blue eyes!”), Ryan is on the verge of getting himself a new girlfriend, whether that’s his intention or not.

Ryan, if you’re reading this, four words of advice: Run far. Run fast. The Rasmussen women, once they put their crosshairs on a man, are Terminator-strength relentless. They do not stop until they have fulfilled their objective. Unless you like tall smart blonde sassy Valkyrie tomboys, in which case slow down and let her catch you.

That is all.

HEALTH CARE CRISIS IN AMERICA: IS GOVERNMENT THE CURE OR THE CAUSE?

By Ken Schoolland,
April 30, 2010

In crisis, people usually turn to government. It is easy to sympathize with the clamour for government action, but there are unintended consequences.

1) Does the government have a good record at operating insurance?

Hardly. The two largest government insurance programs are Social Security for retirement and Medicare for elderly health care. Four-fifths of the \$60 trillion in Federal debt liabilities are due to mismanagement of these two programs. This is more than \$400,000 per household in America. These two insurance programs alone are on track to bankrupt the nation. This is not a good recommendation for another government insurance program.

2) Does the government contribute to the rising cost of health care?

Yes. Rising costs are due to government interference with open competition and consumer choice. The power of competition is enormous and often underappreciated.

HEALTH CARE GUILDS

Throughout history governments have restricted competition to benefit special interest guilds. Health care has been no exception.

According to historian Ronald Hamowy, early medical licensing laws in America originated from Europe when physicians relied heavily on symptomatic treatments of bloodletting, blistering, and the administration of massive doses of compounds of mercury, antimony, arsenic, other poisons.

These licensing laws were repealed when traditional forms of medicine were discredited and popular new forms of medicine emerged using more natural remedies. By 1870, these new philosophies of medicine accounted for one physician out of every eight in America.

Entry into the market was open and low-cost access was available through an abundance of private medical schools. The number of medical graduates in the U.S. equalled the combined output of medical schools in Britain, France, Austria, and Germany.

Low cost health care allowed more people to afford these services, but this was not welcomed by many physicians who wanted the government to restrict competition in order to raise prices. Rather than proving themselves through voluntary certification, demonstrated effectiveness, and competitive choice, the American Medical Association (AMA) sought to eliminate rivals through the erection of legal barriers.

CUTTING HEALTH CARE OPTIONS

The AMA, says Hamowy, succeeded in this manner: 1) establishing over 400 medical licensing laws in order to restrict the number of new physicians; 2) replacing the proprietary medical schools with non-profit institutions that trained fewer students at greater cost; and 3) eliminating competing philosophies of medicine.

Hamowy's research found that these laws always included "grandfather clauses" that exempted older AMA physicians from meeting the requirements. In 42 states the refusal or revocation of a license was based, not on incompetence, but on violations of the AMA code.

This code forbade such things as advertising or cooperating with heterodox practitioners. The ban on advertising made it impossible for consumers to make informed judgements about physician records of performance, success, or even prices. And the ban on working with "irregular practitioners" froze eclectics and homeopaths out of "approved" hospitals. Soon, all non-AMA forms of healing for compensation were outlawed.

In 1928 the former head of the AMA's Council on Medical Education said, "the reduction of the number of medical schools from 160 to 80 (resulted in) a marked reduction in the number of medical students and medical graduates. We had anticipated this and felt that this was a desirable thing."

Economist Roger Leroy Miller reports that the number of physicians dropped during a 30-year period from 157 per 100,000 population to 132. The number of medical schools training Afro-Americans dropped from seven to two. The number of women physicians actually declined. And, says economist John Goodman, the number of Jewish student admissions declined by twice the national average.

Using similar methods of control, says Goodman, private proprietary hospitals declined in number from an estimated 2441 in 1910 to 1076 in 1946. Though there had been a rapid growth in the overall number of hospitals in earlier years, this trend came to a stop. As prices rose, many people could no longer afford care and others were denied the benefits of improved innovation, quality, and service that come from competition.

LICENSING vs. CERTIFICATION

Is it possible to allow both the assurances of quality and the positive benefits of low cost, good service, and varied innovation? Yes. This is possible by replacing licensing with certification.

What's the difference? With licensing, politicians and government officials are the decision makers about what is to be allowed or not. There is little or no real competition between providers.

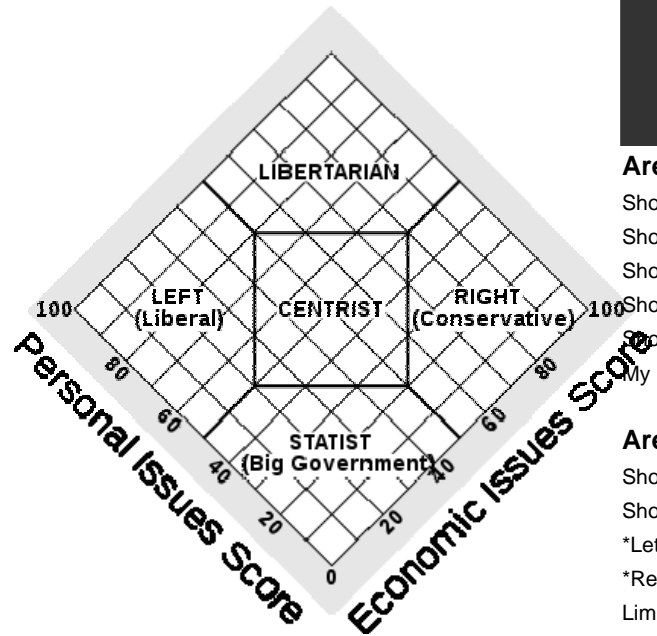
With certification, the consumers, with advisors of their choosing, are the decision makers about health care. Providers must win consumers over by proving to them that their remedies are worthy.

The implementation of a new government mandated health insurance scheme may shift the payment of bills from some people to others. But this will not solve problems arising from a lack of competition and choice in health care.

Some hospitals report that as much as 80% of patients check in with lifestyle related diseases: smoking, drinking, bad driving, diet, lack of exercise, etc. Removing the cost to patients will not result in healthier lifestyles.

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World's Mightiest Political Quiz

Circle **Y** when you agree, **M** for "maybe" or "unsure" or, **N** for No

Are you a self-governor on Personal issues?
 20 10 0
 Should the government censor speech, the media or internet? N M Y
 Should military service be voluntary with no draft? Y M N
 Should there be laws regulating sex between consenting adults? N M Y
 Should there be laws regulating adult possession and use of drugs? N M Y
 Should there be a National ID card? N M Y
 My PERSONAL self-governor score - **add columns.**

Are you a self-governor on Economic issues?
 20 10 0
 Should the government give money and favors to business N M Y
 Should the government regulate trade N M Y
 *Let people control their own retirement: privatize Social Security Y M N
 *Replace government welfare with voluntary charity Y M N
 Limit Federal gov't spending to its Constitutional functions Y M N
 My ECONOMIC self-governor score - **add columns**

Comments to : Larry Bartley 262-4088
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* © by the Advocates for self-government, Inc
 This Political Quiz is adapted from an original idea by David Nolan.

This quiz is a revision of the World's Smallest Political Quiz
 Eliminating the double negatives.

We invite you to join the Libertarian Party of Hawaii

Believing in and understanding of the pledge is central to Libertarianism. You may join by signing below:

I do not believe in nor advocate the initiation of force to advance social or political goals.

 Signature Date

We ask for a voluntary \$25 donation. You can join online at www.libertarianpartyofhawaii.org or you can send your signed pledge and donation to the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, 713 Ulumaika St, Honolulu, HI 96816