

**BYLAWS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII**

These Bylaws are intended to supplement the Constitution (“**Constitution**”) of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Hawaii (“**Grand Commandery**”).

**ARTICLE I: GENERAL**

**Section 1.1 Effectiveness.** These Bylaws shall apply to the Grand Commandery and to all constituent Commanderies within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery. These Bylaws shall at all times be subject and subordinate to the Constitution and the Laws and Regulations (“**Grand Encampment Laws**”) of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States (“**Grand Encampment**”), and if there is any conflict or inconsistency between these Bylaws and the Constitution and Grand Encampment Laws, the latter shall control.

**Section 1.2 Powers of the Grand Commandery.** Pursuant to its Charter, the Grand Commandery has executive, legislative and judicial authority and power over all Constituent Commanderies in the State of Hawaii, subject only to the authority and power of the Grand Encampment.

**Section 1.2a Legislative power.** The legislative authority of the Grand Commandery shall include without limitation the right to adopt and promulgate at its own convenience, and to amend or repeal at its own pleasure all laws, rules and regulations applicable to and binding upon itself and all Constituent Commanderies, until so amended or repealed.

**Section 1.2b Executive power.** The Grand Commandery may exercise generally all such authority and power as may be necessary to carry out and effectuate its own legislation and that of the Grand Encampment, to the extent applicable. Among other things, it may grant dispensations and charters to establish and perpetuate Constituent Commanderies within the State of Hawaii, and revoke or suspend the same, and may issue special dispensations for all purposes permitted by any of the provisions of the Constitution and these Bylaws.

**Section 1.2c Judicial power.** The Grand Commandery shall have a fundamental right and power to adjudicate all violations by any Constituent Commandery, by any member thereof, and by any Knight Templar in the State of Hawaii, any of the laws, rules and regulations under the Constitution, these Bylaws or the Grand Encampment Laws. This power and authority may be delegated to any Constituent Commandery. The Grand Commandery may also decide and adjudicate any dispute between its Constituent Commanderies, or between a member and the Constituent Commandery of which he is a member, or between individual Knights Templar subject to its jurisdiction.

**Section 1.3 Definitions.** As used in these Bylaws, a “**in good standing**” means being current in all membership requirements of an organization of which one is a member (e.g., dues fully

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paid) and who has not been suspended or expelled from such organization. A **“Knight Templar”** is a Royal Arch Mason upon whom the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, Order of Malta and Order of the Temple have been conferred by an organization recognized by the Grand Encampment as having authority to confer the same. A **“Constituent Commandery”** is a Commandery in the State of Hawaii operating under the jurisdiction, authority and supervision of the Grand Commandery of Hawaii.

## ARTICLE II: CONCLAVES

**Section 2.1 Business to be conducted at conclaves.** All business of the Grand Commandery shall be conducted at the Annual Conclave or at such Special Conclaves held at the times and subject to the notice requirements, if any, as may be specified in the Constitution or these Bylaws; provided, that any proposed action to be taken at a Special Conclave must be specified in the notice of the meeting.

**Section 2.2 Joint conclaves.** The Annual Conclave and any Special Conclave may be combined with any similar meeting called by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Hawaii (**“Grand Chapter”**) and/or the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Hawaii (**“Grand Council”**), provided that such combined meeting complies with all the applicable laws, rules and regulations of all affected Grand Bodies (and their governing bodies) and the agenda of such combined meetings is mutually agreed upon by such bodies; and provided, further, that any agreement to hold a joint or combined meeting shall allow any Grand body to withdraw from any such joint meeting at any time upon prior notice of at least six (6) months. Representatives from the Grand Commandery, Grand Chapter and Grand Council shall meet sufficiently in advance of the relevant joint meeting to decide on said agenda, the manner of opening, closing and conducting business, etc., and to give proper notice to their respective members and constituent bodies.

**Section 2.3 Notices.** All notices shall be transmitted by the Grand Recorder (or by such other person as may be designated by the Grand Commander), and may be sent by email, facsimile or similar electronic transmission, unless: (a) the intended recipient requests written notice, or it is known he does not have the means of receiving electronic transmission of notices; (b) the notice concerns any matter which may result in imminent suspension or expulsion from membership, in which case notice must be sent by certified mail; or (c) written notice is required by the Constitution or Grand Encampment Laws.

**Section 2.4 Waiver of time requirements.** Any and all deadlines and other time requirements concerning the introduction and review of legislation, notice of meetings and the like may be waived upon the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present at any meeting, provided that such waiver does not violate any provision of the Constitution and Grand Encampment Laws, other than said deadlines and time requirements.

**Section 2.5 Order of business.** At the Annual Conclave, the following shall be the order of business, unless determined otherwise by the Executive Committee:

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1. Opening
2. Reception of visiting dignitaries
3. Report of the Credentials Committee
4. Memorials
5. Approval of minutes
6. Official communications
7. Financial (Treasurer's) report
8. Approval of bills and other payables
9. Grand Commander's report
10. Committee reports
11. Old business
12. New business
13. Election of officers
14. Announcement of appointments
15. Installation of officers
16. Adjournment

The order of business at any Special Conclave shall be similar to the Annual Conclave, excluding such matters which will not ordinarily be on the agenda (e.g., Reception of dignitaries, election). Minutes may be read or distributed in writing. No business shall occur after the election of officers.

**Section 2.6 Quorum.** A quorum at any Annual or Special Conclave shall consist of at least nine (9) voting members, in person or by proxy. No business may be transacted at any Conclave unless a quorum is present, and no meeting may be adjourned and continued to another date unless a quorum is present at the time of adjournment.

**Section 2.7 Voting.** Each of the following members of the Grand Commandery shall have one (1) vote each:

- (a) each incumbent elected officer;
- (b) each Past Grand Commander who is also a current member of a Constituent Commandery;
- (c) each incumbent Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General of a Constituent Commandery;
- (d) each Past Commander of a Constituent Commandery who is also a member of that Constituent Commandery.

*provided, however,* that none of the foregoing persons shall have more than one (1) vote, regardless of the number of titles or ranks he may hold, except that proxies (if allowed) shall count as the vote of the grantor of the proxy, and the Grand Commander, or other presiding officer shall have one (1) additional vote to break a tie.

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**Section 2.8 Eligibility to vote.** At any Conclave the Credentials Committee (and in their absence, the Grand Recorder) shall determine the eligibility of any voting member to vote. To be entitled to vote, it must be clearly established that the member holds one of the offices, ranks or titles described in Section 2.7, and is a Knight Templar in good standing. If there is any dispute concerning the eligibility of a member to vote, such dispute may be decided in good faith by the Grand Commander, whose decision shall be final.

**Section 2.9 Attendance.** Any Knight Templar in good standing may attend any Conclave, whether or not he is entitled to vote.

**Section 2.9. Procedure at meetings.** The Grand Commander or other presiding officer shall be in charge of all conduct at a Conclave, and may order any member to be removed from a meeting if he disrupts or fails to act in an orderly manner. All votes may be by voice, a showing of hands or by ballot, as the presiding officer desires in his discretion; provided, however, that all contested elections shall be by secret ballot, counted by three unbiased tellers appointed by the presiding officer; provided, further, that upon the request of at least three (3) members, a showing of hands or a secret ballot shall be required. Robert's Rules of Order and similar treatises are guidelines only, and while they should be considered, are not binding upon any Conclave; the final arbiter of parliamentary procedure at any Conclave is the presiding officer, whose decision is final and may not be appealed.

**Section 2.10 Presentation of business.** All business to be considered at any Conclave must be submitted in writing to the Grand Recorder at least ninety (90) days prior to the relevant meeting, and shall be signed by its proponent, and shall be reviewed by the Grand Commander and other Committees, if required under the Constitution and these Bylaws.

**Section 2.11 Installation.** The elected and appointed officers shall be installed before the close of the Annual Conclave and shall hold their respective offices until their successors are installed. The installation may be public or private at the option of the incoming Grand Commander. If an officer is unable to be present for good reason, he may be installed by the Grand Commander at an appropriate place with such ceremony as the Grand Commander deems appropriate, as soon as practicable following the close of the Annual Conclave, not to exceed sixty (60) days. If an elected officer is not installed within said sixty (60) days, the office shall be declared vacant and the Grand Commander may appoint any qualified member of the Grand Commandery to fill the vacant office for the remainder of his term or until another officer is elected and installed to fill the vacancy.

### ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

**Section 3.1 Qualifications.** An elected officer+ of the Grand Commandery must be: (a) a Knight Templar in good standing; (b) who is also a member of a Constituent Commandery in this jurisdiction; and (c) is also either a Past Commander of a Constituent Commandery or a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery; provided, that the Grand Treasurer or Grand Recorder need not be a Past Commander or Past Grand Commander.


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**Section 3.2 Powers and duties of the Grand Commander.** The Grand Commander possesses all executive and judicial powers of the Grand Commandery during intervals when the Grand Commandery is not in session, except the granting of charters; provided, that the exercise of such powers shall be subject to reversal or modification by the Grand Commandery; and provided, further, that the Grand Commander may not reverse or modify any legislation, rule or law prescribed by these Bylaws, the Constitution or the Grand Encampment Laws. Among such powers, the Grand Commander shall have the power without limitation; (a) to grant dispensations to form new Constituent Commanderies; (b) to supervise, suspend and/or take over the operations of any Constituent Commandery; (c) to suspend any officer of a Constituent Commandery for good cause; (d) to delegate and transfer any trial of a Constituent Commandery or Knight Templar; (e) to supervise the Grand Commandery officers; (f) to preside at all Conclaves; (g) to appoint representatives of the Grand Commandery for any purpose; (h) to fill vacancies in office in accordance with these Bylaws and the Constitution; and (i) generally to supervise all Knights Templar in this jurisdiction. It shall be the Grand Commander's duty to carry out all executive functions common to the office and within the power and authority of the Grand Commander.

**Section 3.3 Powers and duties of the Deputy Grand Commander.** It shall be the duty of the Deputy Grand Commander to assist the Grand Commander in the discharge of his duties generally and at all the Conclaves, and in his absence, death, resignation or inability from any cause to perform the functions of his office, to preside. In the case of succession as provided under the Constitution, the Deputy Grand Commander shall be charged with all powers and duties of the Grand Commander.

**Section 3.4 Powers and duties of Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General.** It shall be the duty of the Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General to assist the Grand Commander in the discharge of his duties generally and at all the Conclaves, and in case the Grand Commander or Deputy Grand Commander is unable to perform because of death, resignation or inability from any cause, the Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General shall preside, in order of their rank. In the case of succession as provided under the Constitution, they shall be charged with all powers and duties of the Grand Commander.

**Section 3.5 Duties of Grand Treasurer.** The Grand Treasurer shall receive from the Grand Recorder and give a receipt for all monies belonging to Grand Commandery, keep proper books of account thereof, and, immediately upon the receipt of said monies, deposit the same to the credit of Grand Commandery in a bank or banks selected by the Grand Treasurer with the approval of the Grand Commander. Funds on deposit shall be withdrawn upon the signatures of both the Grand Treasurer and Grand Commander. If either of said officers is unavailable, the signature of the Grand Recorder may be substituted for the Grand Treasurer, and the Deputy Grand Commander for the Grand Commander. The Grand Treasurer shall attend all Conclaves, and at the Annual Conclave shall render a complete and detailed accounting for the funds received and disbursed in the twelve months preceding the Annual Conclave.

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**Section 3.6 Duties of the Grand Recorder.** The Grand Recorder shall: (a) record and distribute when appropriate all transactions (including without limitation minutes) of the Grand Commandery proper to be written; (b) receive, duly file, and safely keep all papers and documents addressed or belonging to the Grand Commandery; (c) present all communications to the Grand Commandery or any representative of the Grand Commandery as may require action at any meeting or Conclave, or which may be of interest or concern to such assembly; (d) keep the Seal of the Grand Commandery, if any, and affix the same to any of its official acts or that of the Grand Commander; (e) collect all monies due or paid to the Grand Commandery, keep a correct account thereof, pay the same over to the Grand Treasurer and take his receipt therefor; (f) report, at each Annual Conclave, a detailed account of all monies received and disbursed during the twelve months preceding the Annual Conclave, clearly showing the source of receipts and to whom disbursements were made; (g) report to the Executive Committee on a current basis the failure of any Constituent Commandery to pay any amounts or submit such reports as are due to the Grand Commandery; (h) receive and send correspondence on behalf of the Grand Commandery, including without limitation all reports to the Grand Encampment and all announcements and notices to the members of Grand Commandery and its Constituent Commanderies; (i) keep all books, papers and archives of the Grand Commandery, including without limitation all lists and records pertaining to membership and activities of its members and Constituent Commanderies; and (j) generally, to perform similar acts as may be subject to the will and pleasure of the Grand Commander.

**Section 3.7 Trustees.** The Grand Commandery may adopt a standing resolution to elect such Trustees as may be deemed advisable to take custody of and invest its funds. Such Trustees shall be elected to staggered terms and any vacancy in a trusteeship shall not be filled by appointment, but by special election.

**Section 3.8 Examination of accounts.** At least thirty (30) days before any Annual Conclave, the Grand Commander shall appoint an Audit Committee of at least three (3) qualified individuals to perform an informal "audit" or examination of the accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, who shall, at the Annual Conclave report on the propriety of the same and make recommendations, if any, as the Committee may deem advisable.

**Section 3.9 Duties of Grand Lecturer.** The Grand Lecturer shall serve as the custodian and supervisor of the Ritual for this jurisdiction, shall hold such schools of instruction as may be necessary or advisable to teach the Ritual to the various Constituent Lodges, and shall otherwise be the chief arbiter and resource for Ritual used by Commanderies in the State of Hawaii.

**Section 3.10 Duties of appointed officers.** The appointed officers of the Grand Commandery shall have such duties as are usually associated with such offices in the Constituent Commanderies, and all of them shall serve at the pleasure of the Grand Commander.

**Section 3.11 Manner of address.** The Grand Commander shall be addressed as "Right Eminent Grand Commander"; the Deputy Grand Commander "Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander"; the remaining officers of the Grand Commandery "Eminent (title of office)". When

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introducing or referring to an Officer, the honorary title shall immediately follow his the name, e.g., "Sir Knight John Doe, Right Eminent Grand Commander." The official title shall be used by an officer only when necessary to designate his rank or official station, e.g., "I am Sir Knight John Doe, Grand Commander", not "I am Sir Knight John Doe, *Right Eminent* Grand Commander".

**Section 3.12. Oath of office.** Each officer shall take the following vow before being installed, in accordance with the installation ceremonies prescribed by the Grand Encampment:

"I, (Name), do promise and vow that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, and the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been chosen, to the best of my ability."


#### ARTICLE IV GRAND COMMANDERY FUNDS

**Section 4.1 Revenue.** The revenue of the Grand Commandery may be derived from the following sources: (a) per capita tax levied upon the Constituent Commanderies, which shall always be equal and uniform, in proportion to their membership, and taking into account similar fees payable to the Grand Encampment; (b) fees and assessments charged for dispensations, charters, diplomas and other documents issued under its authority, and generally to defray expenses and support programs of the Grand Commandery; (c) funds, dues, and proceeds of all property of dissolved Constituent Commanderies within its jurisdiction; (d) voluntary gifts or bequests; (e) fund-raising benefits and programs. At each Annual Conclave the Grand Commandery shall issue a schedule of fees, assessments, per capita taxes to be charged each Constituent Commandery for the following year, which shall be voted upon and approved by the Conclave.

**Section 4.2 Budget.** At each Annual Conclave the Finance Committee shall prepare and present a budget for the twelve (12) months following such Annual Conclave, which shall take into account all anticipated expenditures and revenue.

#### ARTICLE V CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

**Section 5.1 Formation.** A Constituent Commandery in this jurisdiction is formed during the recess of the Grand Commandery under letters of dispensation from the Grand Commander, or it may exist by virtue of a dispensation or charter issued by the Grand Commandery. It possesses only those powers and rights which are delegated to it by authority under which it is formed or held. No dispensation for a new Commandery shall be issued, except upon the petition of nine or more Knights Templar in good standing, who need not demit from the Constituent Commandery of which they are then a member. No Constituent Commandery can be constituted until it is provided with a suitable asylum, properly furnished. No dispensation shall issue until full payment of all fees required by the Grand Commandery.

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**Section 5.2 Powers and duties of Constituent Commanderies under dispensation.** A Constituent Commandery under dispensation has the same jurisdiction and the same rights and powers as a Chartered Constituent Commandery, except that its officers cannot be elected or installed, nor can it be represented in Grand Commandery until it has been chartered. Knights created in a Constituent Commandery under dispensation are members thereof and sustain the same relation to it and to other Knights Templar as those Knighted in Chartered Commanderies. All Constituent Commanderies under dispensation shall return said dispensation and all books, papers and reports to the Grand Commandery at the next succeeding Annual Conclave and after returning said dispensation, shall not meet or conclave for any purpose or action until after such Constituent Commandery shall have been duly constituted and its Charter delivered. A Constituent Commandery under dispensation shall pay no dues or assessments to the Grand Commandery until after it has been constituted.

**Section 5.3 Organization.** As soon as convenient after the Grand Commandery shall have granted a Charter, the Grand Commander, or his proxy, shall convene the Knights of the new Commandery, open the same and preside at an election of officers. Immediately thereafter, he shall install the officers chosen, giving them such instructions as he deems needful and proper and shall require the Recorder forthwith to return to the Grand Commander a roster of the elected officers, with the time of the Stated Conclave.

**Section 5.4 Powers and duties of Chartered Constituent Commanderies.** A Constituent Commandery consists of at least three Knights Templar from at least three separate Commanderies and acting under a lawful warrant, or at least nine Knights Templar acting under a lawful dispensation or charter. Every Constituent Commandery has the right to receive petitions from those within its jurisdiction who possess the necessary qualifications for membership, to elect petitioners by unanimous vote only and to confer the Orders upon them.

**Section 5.5 Consolidation.** The consolidation of Constituent Commanderies is governed by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, 9, 46, Chap. 9, Section 169.

## ARTICLE VI ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

**Section 6.1 Qualifications for the Orders.** A Constituent Commandery is authorized to confer the following three degrees of the Commandery: (a) the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross may be conferred only upon a Royal Arch Mason in good standing; (b) the Order of Malta only upon a Knight of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross in good standing; and (c) the Order of the Temple only upon a Knight of the Order of Malta in good standing, who professes a belief in Christianity. There is no residency requirement. Until said three Orders of Knighthood have been conferred upon an applicant he is not a member of the Constituent Commandery and is therefore not required to pay dues.

**Section 6.2 Petitions.** Petitions for the Orders shall be made on printed forms furnished by the Grand Commandery and shall state: (a) all Masonic lodges of which the petitioner is a current

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member in good standing; (b) the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of which he is a member in good standing; (c) the Commandery to which he is applying; (d) his full name, date of birth, residence and occupation; (e) a declaration that the petitioner is a firm believer in the Christian religion; and (d) that the petitioner has read and fully affirms the statements contained in the petition and has personally signed the same. The petition must be signed by two members of the Commandery to which the applicant is petitioning, who shall vouch for the good character and Masonic standing of the petitioner and that they recommend favorable action. Unless a candidate elected to receive the Orders shall present himself within twenty-four (24) months after receiving notice of his election, the petition shall be void and he shall forfeit the fee unless the Commandery shall otherwise direct.

**Section 6.3 Election to membership.** Election to receive the Orders of Knighthood must be by unanimous vote, and at the discretion of the Commander, may be by voice vote; provided, that upon request of at least three (3) Knights present in the Asylum, the vote shall be by secret ballot. Every member present when a ballot on a petition is taken is required to vote unless excused by the Commander of the Constituent Commandery before the balloting has commenced. The Commander may order one re-ballot before the result has been announced and before any member of the Commandery has left the Asylum. A vote that is not unanimous shall be considered a rejection of the application.

**Section 6.4 Objections before voting.** When an objection is made either in open Commandery, or to the Commander individually, the application cannot be voted upon, and if within sixty (60) days after the objection, it is not withdrawn, the application shall deemed rejected. The fact of the objection and not the name of the objector shall be entered upon the minutes and shall be equivalent to a rejection by ballot.

**Section 6.5 Objections after election.** Objections to an application after election are embarrassing to the applicant and to the Constituent Commandery, and should be discouraged unless the objector can show substantial validity for his objection. The Commander shall appoint qualified Knights to investigate such validity, and only upon substantiation of the reason for the objection, shall the applicant be deemed rejected.

**Section 6.6 Renewal of rejected application.** The petition of a rejected applicant cannot be renewed until the expiration of at least six (6) months after such rejection. If a rejected petitioner applies to any other Constituent Commandery, his petition cannot be acted upon at any time within six (6) months after his rejection, without the unanimous ballot of the Constituent Commandery where he was rejected.

## ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be altered or amended by vote of two-thirds of the members present at any Annual Conclave or any Special Conclave called for the purpose. Notice of any proposed amendment must be presented in writing at any duly-called conclave at least ninety (90) days prior to voting on the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment must be reviewed first, by the

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Jurisprudence Committee and reported on to the Grand Commander within thirty (30) days after proposal, and then reviewed by the Executive Committee within thirty (30) days thereafter. The Jurisprudence Committee and/or Executive Committee may make any changes to the proposed legislation, with the consent of the proponent. The proposed amendment shall then be distributed to the voting members of this Grand Commandery and to the Recorders of each Constituent Commandery (to be read to their respective members at its next stated conclave) at least thirty (30) days prior to the conclave at which the proposal shall be voted on. If there is any failure to meet the deadlines imposed in this Section, the delay shall be tacked onto the next deadline, and may not be voted on unless: (a) the meeting date for the Special Conclave is moved to comply with this Section; or (b) the voting members at the conclave by a two-thirds vote waive the deadlines described herein; provided, that under no circumstances shall the date and time of the Annual Conclave be moved for purposes of complying with this Section.

DULY ADOPTED DURING 2013, AND RE-APPROVED ON APRIL 4, 2019



Juliant Walsh, KCT  
Grand Commander

ATTEST:

Kristin [Signature]  
Grand Recorder