

December 2022

Nicholas Ochs is best known as the founder of the Hawai'i Proud Boys chapter and for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot on the U.S. Capitol. He was sentenced to four years in prison for his part in the insurrection.

He also made headlines in Hawai'i in 2020 when he unsuccessfully ran as a Republican for a State House seat in District 22, which includes Waikīkī. He lost to Democrat Adrian Tam, but Ochs still garnered 2,869 votes — 29.7% of all votes in that race.

This 2018 story is one of the first on the local Proud Boy movement. Noe Tanigawa interviewed Ochs, then a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa student who was organizing the Proud Boys on O'ahu.

This story has received praise and criticism over the years. We acknowledge the pain in many people's reactions. This was never about giving Ochs a platform, but rather understanding more about this person.

While many people may not be comfortable with a group like this being in our community, we felt it was important for our listeners to know that it does exist here.

He showed himself for what he is in his own words, and we have confidence in our listeners being able to hear that.

A previous version of this story included a one-hour long unedited version of Noe's interview. Acknowledging listeners' concerns that it gave Ochs a platform, it has since been removed.

The intent here was to add content and context that could help lead to a deeper understanding of one of the threads of a story of great importance for both our community and our country.

– HPR News