

Resolutions of the O'ahu County Democrats Adopted May 11, 2013

OC 2013-01 Equality among Indigenous Peoples of the United States of America

1 Whereas, The O'ahu County Democratic Party continues to support equality in the City and County of
2 Honolulu; and

3
4 Whereas, The O'ahu County Democratic Party has been at the forefront of equal rights among different
5 races; and

6
7 Whereas, The O'ahu County Democratic Party has always advocated for the Hawaiian people of the City
8 and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawai'i; and

9
10 Whereas, The indigenous people of Hawai'i, Native Hawaiians, continue to seek equality as an indigenous
11 people; and

12
13 Whereas, Hawaiian people continue this trek toward equality and fairness; now, therefore, be it

14
15 *Resolved*, The O'ahu County Democratic Party will support legislation for the equal treatment of all
16 indigenous peoples claimed under the jurisdiction of the United States of America; and

17
18 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution will be delivered to all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State
19 Legislature from the island of O'ahu, and Governor of the State of Hawai'i.

OC 2013-02 Urging the Party and Legislators to work together to secure passage of legislation to Legalize or Decriminalize Marijuana

1 Whereas, The O'ahu Democrats support legalization of marijuana by adults for personal use; and

2
3 Whereas, The longstanding prohibition on marijuana use has burdened law enforcement, the courts and
4 the prison system; and

5
6 Whereas, The "War on Drugs" approach has impaired honest discussion about drug use and drug abuse;
7 and

8
9 Whereas, The net effect of the criminalization of marijuana use has been detrimental to public health,
10 safety and personal liberty; and

11
12 Whereas, The Democratic Party has already passed a resolution to legalize or decriminalize marijuana,
13 and

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15 Whereas, The 2013 Hawai'i State legislature was unwilling to pass legislation to legalize marijuana, or
16 even to decriminalize it; now, therefore, be it

17
18 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats call upon the O'ahu Democratic legislators to support legislation
19 to legalize the personal use of marijuana by adults; and be it further

20
21 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats urge the State Democratic Party to make passage of a
22 marijuana legalization bill a priority for the 2014 legislative session; and, finally, be it

23
24 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all Democratic members of the State legislature.

OC 2013-03 Urging the Party and Legislators to work together to secure passage of legislation to Raise the Minimum Wage

1 Whereas, The O'ahu Democrats support a decent, livable wage for all employees; and
2

3 Whereas, The state minimum wage has declined significantly in recent decades so that its purchasing
4 power is much lower than it was years ago; and
5

6 Whereas, The Democratic Party was once proud of its strong advocacy for the rights of working people,
7 with Democratic elected officials leading the way in enacting worker-friendly legislation; and
8

9 Whereas, Tens of thousands of Hawai'i workers earn the minimum wage or close to it; and
10

11 Whereas, The Democratic Party has already passed a resolution to raise the minimum wage, and
12

13 Whereas, The 2013 Hawai'i State legislature was unable to reach agreement on a bill set to hike the
14 minimum wage to \$9 over three years, and
15

16 Whereas, This failure will cause pain to thousands of Hawai'i workers and their families; now, therefore, be
17 it
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19 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats call upon the Democratic legislators to work during the interim to
20 reach an agreement on passing a minimum wage hike at the next legislative session; and be it further
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22 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats urge the State Democratic Party to make passage of a minimum
23 wage hike a top priority for the 2014 legislative session; and be it further
24

25 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats call upon party members to rally to support such legislation in the
26 2014 session as well as press candidates seeking office as Democrats to pledge their support; and finally
27 be it
28

29 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all Democratic members of the State legislature.

OC 2013-04 Support for the O'ahu County Democratic Party Positions by Hawai'i State Legislature

1 Whereas, The O'ahu County Democratic Party has continued to evolve over many years; and
2
3 Whereas, The O'ahu County Democratic Party respects the rights of members and elected officials; and
4
5 Whereas, In the past few legislative sessions many resolutions and platform issues have been turned into
6 legislative bills; and
7
8 Whereas, O'ahu County Democratic Party members who attended these conventions and participated in
9 rules, platform and resolutions to improve the O'ahu County Democratic Party; and
10
11 Whereas, Many of these bills were not heard, voted or supported by elected Democratic legislators; and
12
13 Whereas, These legislators have felt they owe their allegiance to the voters who elected them to office;
14 therefore, be it
15
16 *Resolved*, The O'ahu County Democratic Party will promote legislation that has been supported and
17 passed by the O'ahu County Democratic Convention; and be it further
18
19 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats support a transparent and democratic process by which all O'ahu
20 County Democratic platform resolutions which have been introduced as bills will be heard by Democratic
21 legislators during relevant legislative sessions, and be it further
22
23 *Resolved*, The O'ahu County Democratic Party will insist that all platform issues and resolutions that have
24 passed the O'ahu County Democratic Party Convention and have been introduced as bills at the Hawai'i
25 State Legislature will be heard and voted on by the Legislature; and finally be it
26
27 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution will be transmitted to Officials of the O'ahu County Democratic
28 Party, members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who represent people of the Island of O'ahu and the
29 Governor of the State of Hawai'i

OC 2013-05 O'ahu County Democrats Becomes a Coalition Member of Hawaii United for Marriage

1 Whereas, The O'ahu County Democrats support marriage equality as shown by the passage of the
2 HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS & ECONOMIC JUSTICE plank in the 2012 Platform of the O'ahu
3 Country Democrats; now, therefore, be it
4

5 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats shall become a member of the coalition known as Hawaii
6 United for Marriage, and be it further
7

8 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats shall expend no O'ahu County Democratic funds as a
9 member of Hawaii United for Marriage coalition; and be it further
10

11 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats shall post Hawaii United for Marriage events to their on-line
12 calendar only when they are submitted in the required format and do not conflict with official O'ahu County
13 Democratic events; and be it further
14

15 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats require that the O'ahu County Chair or the chair's designee,
16 shall fill out the Hawaii United for Marriage coalition registration form with the above parameters; and finally
17 be it
18

19 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the O'ahu County Chair, all elected O'ahu County
20 Democrats, as well as to the Honorable Governor of the State of Hawai'i Neil Abercrombie and Lt.
21 Governor Shan S. Tsutsui.

OC 2013-06 Urging the Party and Legislators to work together to Pass Public Financing of Elections

1 Whereas, The O'ahu Democrats support the public financing of elections; and
2
3 Whereas, The effort to pass "Voter Owned Elections" bills has gone on for many years; and
4
5 Whereas, The Legislature in 2008 passed a bill for a pilot program of public financing of county council
6 elections on the Big Island; and
7
8 Whereas, The experience on Hawai'i County has demonstrated public financing can provide a helpful
9 alternative for candidates to run viable campaigns, without having to spend inordinate time soliciting
10 contributions from special interests; and
11
12 Whereas, The option to use public funding for elections has benefited both incumbents and challengers;
13 and
14
15 Whereas, The 2013 session was close to passing a bill which would have provided the option of public
16 financing for candidates to the state House, but failed to reach agreement on a final draft; now, therefore,
17 be it
18
19 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats call upon the Democratic legislators to work during the interim to
20 reach an agreement on passing legislation to provide the public financing option for candidates to the state
21 House as an expansion of the program; and be it further
22
23 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats urge the State Democratic Party to make passage of public
24 financing of elections a priority for the 2014 legislative session; and finally be it
25
26 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all Democratic members of the State legislature.

OC 2013-07 Support Sustainable Communities Plans Process

1 Whereas, The Charter of the City and County of Honolulu currently requires a process which includes a
2 General Plan and Development/Sustainable Communities Plans; and
3
4 Whereas, The current process is an exemplary community-based planning process; and
5
6 Whereas, The Honolulu City and County has adopted these plans starting in 1977; and
7
8 Whereas, These plans are periodically updated; and
9
10 Whereas, The plans and their updates are adopted subsequent to numerous opportunities for the public to
11 participate in the planning process; and
12
13 Whereas, Planning and zoning programs are intended to protect the quality of life for all residents of a
14 community; and
15
16 Whereas, Effective planning and zoning can add to the safety of residential areas as well as protect
17 property values; and
18
19 Whereas, The zoning process is supported and implemented by the building permit process; now,
20 therefore, be it
21
22 *Resolved*, That the O’ahu County Democrats affirm their support of the Honolulu City and County’s current
23 process which includes a General Plan and Development/Sustainable Communities Plans; and be it further
24
25 *Resolved*, That the O’ahu County Democrats affirm their support of the Honolulu City and County current
26 zoning and building permit process.

OC 2013-08 Urging the Party and Legislators to work together to secure passage of legislation to Support Marriage Equality

1 Whereas, The O'ahu Democrats support full marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples; and
2
3 Whereas, The 2013 Legislative session has just ended without passing legislation towards this end, despite
4 the strong numerical dominance of Democratic legislators; and
5
6 Whereas, Hawai'i was once at the forefront of the movement towards marriage equality but has fallen
7 behind many other states; and
8
9 Whereas, Majority opinion in the United States and Hawai'i has moved towards support for such marriage
10 equality; now, therefore, be it
11
12 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats call upon the Democratic legislators to shed their timidity and
13 embrace full marriage equality through support for legislation to this purpose at the next legislative session;
14 and be it further
15
16 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats urge the State Democratic Party to make passage of marriage
17 equality a top priority for the 2014 legislative session; and be it further
18
19 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats call upon party members to rally to support such legislation in the
20 2014 session as well as press candidates seeking office as Democrats to pledge their support; and finally
21 be it
22
23 Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all Democratic members of the State legislature.

OC 2013-9 Urging the Party and Legislators to work together to secure passage of legislation to Extend the Media Shield Law

1 Whereas, In 2008, the Hawai'i State legislature passed a very strong Media Shield Law to protect
2 journalists from having to reveal their sources or share their notes, except in the case of a serious crime;
3 and

4
5 Whereas, This law was hailed by press advocates at the time as the most advanced such law in the
6 country; and

7
8 Whereas, Concerns were raised at the time by some law enforcement officials that such a law might
9 cripple criminal investigations, leading the legislature to insert a "sunset" clause by which the law would
10 expire on June 30th, 2013 unless it were renewed; and

11
12 Whereas, The intervening five years have not shown the shield law has hampered the investigation or
13 prosecution of any serious crimes; and

14
15 Whereas, The 2013 Hawai'i State legislature was unable to reach agreement on the bill, with the House
16 prepared to extend the law for two more years and the Senate wanting to significantly restrict the
17 protections; and

18
19 Whereas, This failure to agree has led to the death of the bill and will result in the Media Shield Law
20 expiring on June 30th, 2013; now, therefore, be it

21
22 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats call upon the Democratic legislators to support a new, strong
23 Media Shield Law, making it a priority at the next legislative session; and finally be it

24
25 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all Democratic members of the State legislature.

OC 2013-10 Relating to the appointment of the State Adjutant General

1 Whereas, The State of Hawai'i National Guard and its Home Land protection comes under the leadership
2 of the State Adjutant General; and
3

4 Whereas, The Hawai'i National Guard and its respective units have served proudly in Iraq and Afghanistan;
5 and
6

7 Whereas, The 29th Infantry Brigade and its attached units namely 100th Bn./442nd Inf. have served
8 proudly; and
9

10 Whereas, members of the Hawaii Air National Guard have served proudly; and
11

12 Whereas, Eleven members of 100th Bn./442nd Inf. have made the ultimate sacrifice in two engagements
13 of active duty with the 29th Brigade; and now, therefore, be it
14

15 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats support any person who has served in the Hawai'i Army or
16 Air National Guard, Army Reserve or affiliated units such as the 100th Bn./442nd Inf. and has graduated
17 from the National War College (or equivalent) to be appointed State Adjutant General; and finally be it
18

19 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all the Democratic members of the Hawai'i State
20 Legislature and the Resolutions Committee of the State Democratic Convention (2014).

OC 2013-11 Support for the Annual Observance of October as Disability Awareness Month

1 Whereas, The U.S. Department of Justice believes that encouraging, and compliance with, the Americans
2 with Disabilities Act (ADA) makes good business sense because businesses can tap into a huge and
3 growing market of people with disabilities and customers with disabilities can gain access to services,
4 products, and employment opportunities; and
5

6 Whereas, Reaffirming the local, state and federal commitment to providing equal opportunity for and the
7 full inclusion in society of, all individuals with disabilities and to encourage business, labor, religious, ethnic,
8 educational, community service groups, and all segments of the civilian and military population to engage in
9 the planning and execution of activities; and
10

11 Whereas, Proclaiming and observing a Disability History and Awareness Month
12 will increase public awareness and respect for people with disabilities in Hawaii
13 and enliven people's understanding and appreciation for the diversity of our country
14 and for people with disabilities; and
15

16 Whereas, In 1945, Congress designated the first week in October as
17 "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week" and in 1988, changed
18 the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month" and directed
19 that appropriate ceremonies take place to enlist public support for, and interest
20 in, the employment of workers with disabilities who are otherwise qualified; and
21

22 Whereas, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which occurs every
23 October, presents an opportunity for Hawaii to acknowledge the many workers with
24 disabilities who strengthen and diversify our nation's workforce; and
25

26 Whereas, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was enacted to end
27 disability-based discrimination, and to promote inclusion, full participation, economic
28 self-sufficiency, and equality of opportunity for all people with disabilities; and
29

30 Whereas, Disability is absolutely under the umbrella of diversity, however many
31 universities and diversity celebration groups do not recognize disability like they
32 do race, gender, and sexual orientation; and
33

34 Whereas, Recognizing disability history and the need for disability employment
35 awareness is a step towards eliminating the stereotypes, ignorance, and other
36 barriers that hinder universal inclusion in the workplace and in our society; and, therefore, be it
37

38 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats support legislation for the annual observation of October as
39 Disability History and Awareness Month; and be it further resolved
40

41 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats support any expansion by The Developmental Disabilities
42 Division of the State of Hawai'i that increases public awareness of the history of disabilities and The
43 Department of Education (DOE) shall be encouraged to provide instruction in the history of disabilities,
44 people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement during the observance of Disability History and
45 Awareness Month and finally be it
46

47 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, members of the Hawai'i Senate and
48 Hawai'i House of Representatives.

OC 2013-12 Support for Unbiased Education on Options of Models of Nationhood for Ka Po'e Hawai'i

1 Whereas, The Kingdom of Hawai'i was an independent nation until 1893 when Queen Lili'uokalani
2 abdicated under duress; and

3
4 Whereas, The 2013 Hawai'i Legislature supported the commemoration of twenty years since the passage
5 of PL 103-150, known as the Apology Bill; and

6
7 Whereas, The Apology Bill supports the right of *Ka Po'e Hawai'i* to establish the nation and government
8 they desire now that they are more cognizant of their Hawaiian culture, language, traditions and history; and

9
10 Whereas, Hawaiians need increased political understanding and the tools to decide which form of
11 government to select: total assimilation by the United States; or an indigenous tribal Hawaiian nation under
12 Indian Law; or a nation totally independent of the United States; and

13
14 Whereas, All inhabitants of Hawai'i want to learn how they will be affected by Hawaiian nationhood, the
15 birthright of Ka Po'e; now therefore be it

16
17 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats support unbiased education on the three choices of nationhood
18 funded by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the advocate for Hawaiian; and be it further

19
20 *Resolved*, That the educational curriculum will include materials from previous sovereignty endeavors: Ka
21 Lāhui, Sovereignty Advisory Council, Hawaiian Sovereignty Elections Council, Hui No'eau, the Native
22 Hawaiian Vote and current 'ohana endeavors; and be it further

23
24 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats support a transparent educational campaign, which will precede
25 any plebiscite or vote; and finally be it,

26
27 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all O'ahu County Democrats that are members of
28 the State of Hawai'i Legislature, the Honorable Governor Neil Abercrombie, the Honorable Lt. Governor
29 Shan S. Tsutsui, related State agencies and Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation.