

**O‘AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS  
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 2017 CONVENTION**

- 2017-01 Opposing Increase in Short-Term Vacation Rentals on O‘ahu
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## O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-1

### Opposing Increase in Short-Term Vacation Rentals on Oahu

Whereas, The O'ahu General Plan (GP) is currently in its Second Public Review Draft, and proposed revisions to the GP would allow short-term vacation rentals in TOD (transit-oriented development) areas, permit small-scale community-oriented visitor accommodations in non-resort areas, and call for utilizing our unique natural environment by creating and promoting recreational venues; and

Whereas, In 1989 the City and County of Honolulu "grandfathered" existing Bed and Breakfast (B&B) and Temporary Vacation Rentals (TVRs), then numbering only 49 and 826 respectively; and

Whereas, In 2008, there were an estimated illegal 1,200 TVRs on O'ahu; and

Whereas, The number of tourists on O'ahu has exploded and reached nearly 9 million in 2016, and Hawai'i has reached the point of saturation and visitor overdose, with a visitor-to-resident ratio of 6-to-1; and

Whereas, From 2015 to 2016, online accommodations seller Airbnb alone expanded exponentially on O'ahu, adding 6,804 units (+93%); and

Whereas, A report issued on November 8, 2016 for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) estimates over 27,000 vacation rentals in the State are advertised online, the overwhelming majority of which appear to be illegal; and the report also confirmed that 34,402 (or 69.7%) of all the advertised properties were owned by persons who reside outside of Hawai'i and only 30% of these advertised properties were owned by Hawai'i residents; and

Whereas, A study by the American Hotel and Lodging Association found that 85% of the O'ahu revenue for Airbnb is from the rental of entire homes, not rooms, with Mayor Kirk Caldwell stating that "[t]he new study by the American Hotel & Lodging Association shows a trend that has become increasingly clear to city officials — illegal short-term rentals place a burden on O'ahu's residential neighborhoods"; and

Whereas, A recent report by the state Department of Economic Development & Tourism determined that Hawai'i will need 65,000 more homes by 2025 for occupancy by bona-fide residents; now therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly objects to any proposed revisions in the O'ahu General Plan that allow TVRs in TODs or anywhere else on O'ahu; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the City and County of Honolulu to take all appropriate action to enforce and to enhance the laws and ordinances against TVRs; and be it

*Ordered*, that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, City Manager, and Corporation Counsel of the City and County of Honolulu, and to all members of the Honolulu City Council.

## O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-2

### Urging that Hawai'i's Entire Congressional Delegation Support Medicare for All.

Whereas, The United States of America retains its status as the only advanced industrialized nation on the planet that lacks universal healthcare; and

Whereas, By virtue of its failure to adopt universal healthcare, the United States of America has statistically the worst medical outcomes and the highest costs of medical care among all advanced industrialized nations; and

Whereas, The Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") has changed the American public's expectations regarding access to medical care, moving expectations part-way, but only part-way, toward the expectation that healthcare is a human right, to which all persons in the United States should be entitled; and

Whereas, Even under Obamacare, millions of Americans remain uninsured for healthcare and hundreds of thousands of people suffer bankruptcies due to medical bills, even though many of them are insured; and

Whereas, If the United States adopted a system of universal healthcare, our national healthcare costs can reasonably be expected to shrink by 30%, while at the same time enhancing our 225 year-old national aspiration toward "pursuit of happiness"; and

Whereas, For well over a decade, US Representative John Conyers of Michigan has introduced a bill, **beginning in 2003** in the US Congress, HR 676 to extend Medicare for all people; in its latest iteration, the "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act" has attracted over 90 co-sponsors, including Representative Tulsi Gabbard; and

Whereas, US Senator Bernie Sanders is planning to introduce similar "Medicare for All" legislation in the US Senate sometime within the next several weeks, which should be given support by our US Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono; and

Whereas, The spectacular failure of House Republicans to repeal Obamacare may present an opening for the United States to adopt universal healthcare as simply and straightforwardly the best way to advance our national needs; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge all members of the US Congressional Delegation, including Representative Colleen Hanabusa, from the State of Hawaii to strongly support Medicare for all legislation in the Congress; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawai'i Congressional delegation.

### O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-3

#### **Urging the Department of Health to Protect Our Aquifer from the Leaking Underground Storage Tanks at Red Hill**

Whereas, clean, unpolluted drinking water is a basic human right; and

Whereas, O'ahu's primary aquifer, the southern aquifer of O'ahu is connected to a water system that provides clean drinking water for over 600,000 residents who live in the area between Hālawā and Hawai'i Kai; and

Whereas, The southern aquifer of O'ahu is 100 feet beneath the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility; and

Whereas, Since its construction in the 1940s, the U.S. Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility has leaked more than thirty times over the course of six decades, leaking a total of 155,000 gallons of fuel; and

Whereas, The Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility does not meet current best available technological standards for underground storage tanks; and

Whereas, In January 2014, tank #5 of the facility leaked between 27,000 and 40,000 gallons of jet fuel into the environment; and

Whereas, The Navy has not cleaned up the fuel leaked from these tanks and this fuel can move in the groundwater system, potentially contaminating other nearby water wells; and

Whereas, Water samples from the groundwater beneath the tanks show traces of naphthalene, total petroleum hydrocarbons diesel (TPH-d), and other petroleum contaminants that are hazardous to human health; and

Whereas, In September 2015, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and the US Navy agreed to an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) that was issued by the US Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) and State Department of Health (DOH); and

Whereas, The timeline of the AOC is expected to take 22 years to complete and is deemed too long by the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i to be putting our island's primary drinking water source at risk;

Whereas, In 1992, the state legislature directed the department of health to adopt rules requiring the upgrading or replacement of underground storage tanks to prevent releases from these tanks; and now therefore be it

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i hereby urge the Governor and the Hawai'i State Department of Health to enact rules that require that underground storage tanks more than 18 years old be upgraded; and be it further

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Governor and the Department of Health to require the use of secondary containment and protection from corrosion; and be it further

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party urge the Governor and the Department of Health to require that all prior fuel releases be cleaned up; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of the Department of Health, the members of the Hawai'i state legislature, and the Hawai'i Congressional delegation.

## O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-4

### **Urging the State to rethink its plans to build a massive new O'ahu jail**

Whereas, From 1977 Hawai'i's prison population increased 1,385%, from 397 prisoners in 1977 to 5,800 prisoners today (of which 1,600 are housed in Mainland prisons contracted by the State) while during the same time the State's overall population increased only 52%; and between 1977 and 2016 Hawai'i's incarceration rate increased 841%, from 43 prisoners per 100,000 population in 1977 to 405 prisoners per 100,000 population in 2016; and if Hawai'i were a nation, it would be among the top 20 incarcerators in the world; and

Whereas, In 2010, Hawai'i's Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches committed to working with the Council of State Governments Justice Center's nationally recognized criminal justice policy experts to advance the Justice Reinvestment Initiative in Hawai'i; and

Whereas, In 2014 and 2016, the Hawai'i State Legislature has allocated a total \$10.4 million for siting expenses to relocate and replace the O'ahu Community Correctional Center – OCCC; while the State Senate has allocated \$66 million to “jump-start” a proposal to relocate OCCC to Halawa Valley in addition to substantially expanding the capacity of the Halawa Correctional Facility; and

Whereas, The larger community and the HCR 85 (2016) Task Force working on correctional reform have been excluded from important talks about the future of our correctional system for the next 50 to 100 years; and

Whereas, As of February 28, 2017, 51% of the population of OCCC were pre-trial detainees, some of whom are incarcerated merely because they cannot not post \$50 bail; and the State's plans for a new O'ahu jail regrettably fail to reflect any awareness of the need to reduce incarceration by such methods as waiving bail in minor cases; and

Whereas, In 2016, 74% of people imprisoned statewide were serving sentences for the lowest level of felony (Class C), or for misdemeanors, or parole or probation violations; and increases in Hawai'i's incarcerated population have been driven by non-violent lawbreakers and individuals having mental health and substance misuse challenges, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and homelessness; and

Whereas, Hawai'i's annual corrections operating budget, now standing at \$211 million, and “tough on crime” policies have only made us poorer, not safer; and

Whereas, The analysts from the Council of State Governments who conducted the research on Hawai'i's criminal justice system ***NEVER*** recommended building more correctional facilities, with public funding, or through public-private partnerships; and

Whereas, It is unconscionable to build more prisons when more cost-effective and evidence-based strategies exist such as fully implementing Justice Reinvestment Initiative, reforming the bail system, and developing diversion programs such as LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) and the Community Court Outreach project before expanding space for Hawai'i's incarcerated individuals; now therefore be it

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the State to delay plans for any new correctional facility until the HCR 85 Task Force, with full participation from the larger community, completes its recommendations for reforming Hawai'i's Correctional System, and be it further

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i encourage a seat at the table for the larger community and the HCR 85 Task Force to discuss and make recommendations for the future of corrections in Hawai'i, and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Director of the Department of Public Safety, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the members of the public safety committees of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

## O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-5

### Urging the City & County of Honolulu to Restore Thomas Square as a Public Park

Whereas, Thomas Square in Honolulu is the site of a ceremony on July 31, 1843, at which Admiral Richard Darton Thomas of the British Navy "restored" the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Hawai'i after sovereignty had been purportedly seized by another British official; and

Whereas, What is known to many as the great celebration of *Lā Ho'ihoni'ea*, is held annually at Thomas Square on the anniversary of the day of the restoration of the Hawaiian Kingdom; and

Whereas, Thomas Square is currently also where many gather for American Indian Pow-Wows, community meetings, picnics, displays and sales of plants and arts and crafts, distribution of food to houseless persons, and other active uses of the park; and

Whereas, Parks and other shared spaces in general are some of the last places of refuge for individuals and groups from the pressures of society; and

Whereas, Thomas Square is State land that has been protected by State law as a public park since 1925, when the Territorial Legislature enacted a statute, currently codified as HRS §46-65.5 ("the Thomas Square Statute"), that states, with no ifs, ands, or buts, that "Thomas Square shall be maintained as a public park"; and the City administers Thomas Square pursuant to an agreement with the State; and

Whereas, The City now appears to want to substantially modify the uses of Thomas Square and to make substantial physical alterations to the Thomas Square Park itself, to add revenue-generating functions and facilities that are incompatible with the long-established traditional uses of Thomas Square, in order to make Thomas Square an adjunct to the City's Blaisdell Complex; and the City has asked the State to approve City actions that would remove Thomas Square from the jurisdiction of the City's Department of Parks and Recreation and move it to the City's Department of Enterprise Services, precisely for these purposes; and

Whereas, The City is now planning to spend nearly ten million dollars in purported upgrades to Thomas Square Park over the next several years, a sum that indicates an intent to transform the very nature of the Park; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the administration of the City and County of Honolulu to cease all proposals and activities that would transfer administration of Thomas Square away from the Department of Parks and Recreation, and to restore Thomas Square to its prior configuration and usage patterns; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the Governor of the State of Hawaii, and the members of the Honolulu City Council.

## O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2017-6

### **Thanking Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono for Opposing the Nomination of Neil M. Gorsuch to the US Supreme Court**

Whereas, President Trump nominated a person to fill a vacancy on the US Supreme Court that should have been filled by President Obama; and

Whereas, It has become extremely clear that President Trump's nominee, Federal Circuit Court Judge Neil M. Gorsuch, has views and has made rulings that are far out of the judicial mainstream, and indeed recent analyses show that, if confirmed, he would be by far the most extreme member of the Court — substantially more reactionary than Justice Scalia, and even well to the right of Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas; and

Whereas, Judge Gorsuch's decisions show a disturbing pattern of right-wing activism and neo-feudal beliefs, twisting the law to find in favor of corporations and other economically powerful interests; and

Whereas, Judge Gorsuch was the author of the infamous *Hobby Lobby* decision, in which he embraced the novel viewpoint that corporations are people, and then he extended that position to say that corporations should be able to impose their owners' religious views on their employees' medical care — preventing women from accessing contraception through their insurance plans; and

Whereas, In another example of his neo-feudal views, his dissent in *TransAm Trucking v. Administrative Review Board*, the "frozen trucker case," Judge Gorsuch argued that even though Congress had passed a law that explicitly protects a trucker from being fired for refusing to operate a truck when it might imperil the driver's or the public's safety, the company was free to fire a trucker whose trailer brakes had frozen, because the trucker had unhitched his cab to drive to safety, despite the fact that, if he hadn't, he risked freezing to death in subzero weather, or imperiling himself and the public by trying to drive a fully-loaded trailer without working brakes; and

Whereas, Hawai'i's US Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono voted against the nomination of Judge Gorsuch to the US Supreme Court and joined in a filibuster to prevent the nomination from being approved; and

Whereas, the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly disapprove of Judge Gorsuch's judicial philosophy and strongly oppose his presence on the US Supreme Court; now therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i thank Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono for opposing the nomination of Neil Gorsuch to the US Supreme Court and for their decision to join in a filibuster against his nomination; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Senators Schatz and Hirono.

## O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-7

### **Opposing the Construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline.**

Whereas, The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), is a nearly 1,200-mile long pipeline designed to transport 470,000 barrels of crude oil every single day from North Dakota to Illinois, where another pipeline would transport that crude oil to terminals and refineries along the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, A section of the Dakota Access Pipeline is designed to cross lands claimed by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe that contain both sacred sites and Lake Oahe on the Missouri River, the primary source of clean drinking water for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's reservation land; and

Whereas, Construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline pursuant to this design requires that a portion of the Pipeline run underneath Lake Oahe and cross under the Missouri River; and

Whereas, The construction, maintenance, and operation of the Dakota Access Pipeline are anticipated to have major disruptive effects on both the supply of clean water and the preservation and use of lands and sites that are historically and culturally important to indigenous peoples located on or originating from the areas surrounding the Pipeline's route; and

Whereas, The critical importance of access to clean water, for both practical and spiritual reasons, is a value that is shared between the indigenous peoples of the American West and Native Hawaiians; and

Whereas, The Dakota Access Pipeline should be abandoned for at least three broad reasons: First, its construction is in violation of the treaty rights of the Standing Rock Sioux and other Native American tribes; Second, it poses extreme dangers of rupture and pollution of vast areas of land; and Third, it promotes great dependence on fossil fuels whose consumption is gravely endangering our planet; and

Whereas, Both Hawaiian tradition and contemporary Hawai'i jurisprudence both recognize the right to access clean water as fundamental and subject to the highest standards of protection for present and future uses, and demonstrate key principles unifying the values of Hawai'i and the Sioux Tribe; and

Whereas, In *Robinson v. Ariyoshi*, 65 Haw. 641 (1982), a seminal decision that set the course of Hawai'i's water law, the State Supreme Court found that, by the reservation to the King of ownership of the surface waters in the Hawaiian kingdom, "a public trust was imposed upon all the waters of the kingdom" and "the public interest in the waters of the kingdom was understood to necessitate a retention of authority and the imposition of a concomitant duty to maintain the purity and flow of our waters for future generations and to assure that the waters of our land are put to reasonable and beneficial uses; This is not ownership in the corporeal sense where the State may do with the property as it pleases; rather, we comprehend the nature of the State's ownership as a retention of such authority to assure the continued existence and beneficial application of the resource for the common good."; and

Whereas, In recognition of the kinship and shared essential cultural value of the protection of water between the indigenous peoples of North America and the Hawaiian archipelago; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i express their support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their continued opposition to the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline and other actions that threaten the Tribe, its access to clean water, the preservation of its sacred and important lands, and the continued existence of its culture, people, and nation; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council, the President of the United States, the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior, the Omaha District Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, and all members of Hawai'i's Congressional delegation.



## O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-08

### **Calling for the Hawai'i State Legislature to Require a Management Plan for Hawai'i's Sacred Sites to be Developed by the State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources**

Whereas, There have been several instances of vandalism of Hawai'i's sacred places, the most recent being in June 2016 when *Kaniakapupu* was defaced; and

Whereas, These sacred places are of interest to tourists and many are publicized on websites of tourism companies; and

Whereas, Citizens of our community, many of whom are Hawaiian civic club members, voluntarily care for these sacred sites; and

Whereas, These sacred places remind us of a once rich history of the native people of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, These sacred places have spiritual and cultural significance at which Native Hawaiians and others practice the Hawaiian culture; and

Whereas, The Department of Land and Natural Resources, has published a brochure titled, "*NĀ WAHI PANA, Respecting Hawaiian Sacred Sites*"; and

Whereas, The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC) who recently held its meeting in Hawaii affirmed the important role of native people in caring for mother earth; and

Whereas, The IUCN also acknowledged the role that governments play in upholding the values of native people in caring for the *'āina*; and

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i request that the Hawai'i State Legislature require a management plan for Hawai'i's sacred sites be developed by State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources; and

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i request that the following organizations be consulted in the development of the management plan for Hawai'i's sacred sites: *Kaniakapupu (Ka Lei Maile Ali'i)*; *Kūkaniloko (Wahiawa Hawaiian Civic Club)*; *Ulupō Heiau (Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club)*; *Mauna'ala (O'ahu Council)*; and the Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i; all members of the Hawai'i State legislature that are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Chairperson of the State of Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources; Chair, Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees; President of the O'ahu Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; all O'ahu County Democrats that are members of the Hawaii State Legislature; and the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

## **O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-09**

### **Regarding a Blind Person's Right to Parent**

Whereas, Blind individuals continue to face unfair, preconceived, and unnecessary societal biases as well as antiquated attitudes regarding their ability to successfully parent their children; and,

Whereas, Blind individuals face these biases and preconceived attitudes in family and dependency law proceedings where custody and visitation are at stake and in public and private adoption, guardianship, and foster care proceedings; and,

Whereas, Because of these societal biases and antiquated attitudes, children of blind parents are unnecessarily being removed from their parents' care or being restricted from enjoying meaningful time with their parents; and

Whereas, Children are being denied the opportunity to enjoy the experience of living in loving homes with blind parents or other blind care takers; and

Whereas, The legal system in the State of Hawai'i provides no procedural safeguards to ensure that blindness and its assumed consequences are not used as determinants of the fitness of a parent or prospective parent; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to pass new legislation that will protect the best interests of children parented by blind individuals or children who could be parented by blind individuals through the establishment of procedural safeguards that require adherence to the Americans with Disabilities Act and respect for the due process and equal protection rights of blind parents or prospective blind parents in the context of child welfare, foster care, family law and adoption; and be it further

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i request that the legislation specify that a parent's blindness shall not serve as a basis for: denial or restriction of visitation or custody in family or dependency law cases, denial of participation in public or private adoption, denial of foster care or guardianship, when the visitation or custody, adoption, or foster guardianship is determined to be otherwise in the best interest of the child; and that, where a parent or prospective parent's blindness is alleged to have a detrimental impact on a child, the party raising the allegation bears the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the behaviors are endangering or will likely endanger the health, safety or welfare of the child; and that, if this burden is met, the blind parent or prospective parent shall have the opportunity to demonstrate how the implementation of supportive parenting services can alleviate any concerns that have been raised, that the court may require that such supportive parenting services be put in place, with an opportunity to review the need for continuation of such services within a reasonable period of time; and that, if a court determines that a blind parent's right to custody, visitation, foster care, guardianship, or adoption should be denied or limited in any manner, the court shall make specific written findings stating the basis for such a determination and why the provision of supportive parenting services is not a reasonable accommodation that must be made to prevent such denial or limitation; and be it further

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i offer full support to any and all blind parents whose right to parent becomes threatened because of low expectations of blind people; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, State Department of Human Services, and all O'ahu County Democrats who are members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

## O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-10

### **Support for the Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment Act of 2017**

Whereas, The Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment Act of 2017 (H.R. 1377) was introduced in the United States House of Representatives on March 7, 2017; and

Whereas, The Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment Act of 2017 has the same goal as the Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment Act of 2015 and the Fair Wages for Workers with Disabilities Act, which was introduced in the previous two congresses, namely to phase out the use of Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and

Whereas, The National Federation of the Blind has repeatedly passed resolutions that support this legislation each time it has been introduced, affirming a long-held goal to repeal Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act and to end the practice of paying people with disabilities subminimum wages; and

Whereas, As demonstrated by the states of Vermont, which has no entities that hold Section 14(c) certificates, and New Hampshire, which on May 7, 2015, signed a bill into law prohibiting entities from paying individuals with disabilities less than the minimum wage, special wage certificates are no longer needed; and

Whereas, There exist ten (10) entities in the State of Hawai'i holding Section 14(c) special wage certificates from the United States Department of Labor authorizing them to pay subminimum wages to workers with disabilities; and

Whereas, Over eighty organizations support the repeal of Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, further illustrating the growing trend against this discriminatory practice: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i commend all cosponsors of H.R. 1377, the Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment Act, for continuing to shepherd this legislation through this Congress and for having the courage to support a bill that will ensure that Americans with disabilities have access to integrated and meaningful employment opportunities; and be it further

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i call upon the Education and Workforce Committee of the US House of Representatives to conduct an immediate hearing on H.R. 1377 in order to facilitate informed debate and to learn the truth about the employment capacity of people with disabilities; and be it further

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge Senator Brian Schatz, Senator Mazie Hirono, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, and Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard to cosponsor the Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment Act of 2017; and be it further

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge O'ahu Legislators and City Councilmembers to introduce comparable legislation at the local level, requiring that workers with disabilities be protected by the same minimum-wage laws which protect able-bodied workers here in Hawaii; and be it further

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i call for the immediate passage of the Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment Act of 2017 by the United States Congress and for the President of the United States to sign it into law; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Senator Brian Schatz, Senator Mazie Hirono, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, all members of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all O'ahu County Democrats that are members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Mayor of the County of O'ahu, members of the O'ahu County Council that are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

**O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-11**

**Rescinding & Replacing OC Resolutions 2016-11 and 2013-03 to Increase Minimum Wage to \$15 an hour**

Whereas, The O'ahu County Democrats **Resolution OC 2016-11 urged the State Democratic Party and Democratic legislators to work together to secure passage of legislation to raise the minimum wage; and**

**Whereas, Even with the recent small increases in the minimum wage, the legal minimum wage is has less purchasing power than it did in 1968; and**

**Whereas, Several cities like New York, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington DC have raised their minimum wage to higher than Hawaii's even though Honolulu has one of the highest costs of living and the current legal minimum wage is far below what economists estimate is needed for a minimal "living wage; and**

Whereas, O'ahu County Democrats support the right of all citizens to earn a living wage; now, **therefore, be it**

**Resolved, That OC Resolutions 2016-11 & and 2013-03 be rescinded; and be it further**

**Resolved, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i call upon the Democratic legislators to work during the interim to reach an agreement on passing a minimum wage of \$15 an hour at the next legislative session; and be it further**

**Resolved, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i explore the possibility of raising the minimum wage at the county level; and be it further**

**Resolved, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the State Democratic Party to make passage of a minimum rate hike to \$15 an hour a top priority for the 2018 legislative session; and be it further**

**Resolved, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Democrats call upon party members to rally to support such legislation in the 2018 session as well as press candidates seeking office as Democrats to pledge their support; and be it**

**Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all Democratic members of the State legislature and Democratic Party members serving on the Honolulu City Council.**

## **O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-12**

### **Urging State Legislators to Refrain from Fundraising While the Legislature Is In Session**

Whereas, State legislators are public servants beholden to the various constituencies that elected them to serve; and

Whereas, The legislative session occurs on a part-time basis during less than half of a given calendar year; and

Whereas, Legislators can better serve their constituents during this brief but important time period if their attention is solely dedicated to legislating and not to fundraising, which can be engaged in during the remainder of the year; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully urge officials elected to the state legislature to refrain from engaging in campaign fundraising during the course of a given legislative session; and be it further

*Ordered*, That copies of this Resolution be distributed to all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

**O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-13**

**Respectfully Urging Legislative Committee Chairs to Hear Bills and Resolutions Supported By the Democratic Party of Hawai'i as Legislative Priorities**

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i subscribes to a party platform of ideals and goals created from within its membership as adopted at its county and state conventions; and

Whereas, The party platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i guides the directives and actions of its members in pursuit of the goals outlined in the platform; and

Whereas, The members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i who hold elected office are delegates to county and state conventions and help shape the party platform to reflect the evolving ideals of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i as directed by their constituents; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully urge members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i whom are elected to the state legislature and serve as committee chairs to schedule hearings on bills and resolutions formally supported by the Democratic Party of Hawai'i as legislative priorities in accordance with the ideals and goals outlined in the party platform and party resolutions; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this Resolution be distributed to all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

## **O‘AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-14**

### **Condemning Congressional Action Violating The Privacy, Safety, and Security of Hawai‘i Residents in their Use of the Internet**

Whereas, The U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate have passed Joint Resolutions - S.J.Res. 34 and H.J.Res. 86 - disapproving rules of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to protect the Privacy of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services Customers; and

Whereas, The President of the United States is likely to sign said resolutions; and

Whereas, Hawai‘i residents need internet services to access personal healthcare information, important medical documents, government services, job applications, financial transactions, entertainment, and other important information in myriad fields all the time; and

Whereas, Consumers cannot reasonably access indispensable opportunities without utilizing Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and cannot avoid providing ISPs with incidental access to their own critical, secure, unique, and confidential information including medical data, financial history, social security numbers, precise geolocation, and application usage; and

Whereas, Consumers do not freely and voluntarily intend to allow such information to be taken, and used or sold by ISPs, while, however, the purpose of the Joint Resolutions is to purport to allow ISPs to legally sell consumers’ critical, secure, and unique information, in a manner that is contrary to the rights and expectations of users, and an abuse of consumers’ rights; and such legislation constitutes a taking of property without due process of law; and

Whereas, Hawai‘i residents would be unable to reasonably avoid providing critical, secure and unique information while using an internet service; and

Whereas, The sale or other disclosure of such information without the free and knowing consent of consumers would jeopardize their physical safety, security, and privacy, and expose them to serious dangers of identity theft, physical harm and other liabilities; and

Whereas, Members of the telecom industry donated to the most recent campaigns of 265 members of Congress who supported these Joint Resolutions a total of \$9.1 Million; now therefore be it

*Resolved*, That O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i in no uncertain terms condemn S.J.Res.34 and H.J.Res.86, and urge President Donald Trump to veto said resolutions if action has not yet been taken, and be it further

*Resolved*, That O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urge the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to challenge such Congressional actions as violations of our due process rights, nationally; and be it further

*Resolved*, That O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i thank Senators Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz, and Representatives Tulsi Gabbard and Colleen Hanabusa for voting against S.J.Res.34 and H.J.Res.86; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to President Donald Trump, Speaker Paul Ryan, members of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegations, the EFF and the ACLU.

## O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-15

### **Urging the Legislative and Executive Branches Of State and Municipal Government To Prioritize Sustainability Across All Sectors Of Economic Development, Infrastructure and Public Policy as a Primary Goal**

Whereas, The definition of sustainability is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;” and

Whereas, Traditional Hawaiian society was able to sustain a thriving population with advanced agriculture, aquaculture and wise management of land and natural resources; and

Whereas, Global climate change presents an urgent threat to the Hawaiian islands through sea level rise, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, drought, flooding, temperature changes, species extinction, infectious disease and other impacts; and

Whereas, The nature of our island archipelago is one of limited resources, space and carrying capacity; and

Whereas, Hawai'i has made progress in energy and food security but still relies upon foreign fossil fuel for 80 per cent of its energy generation, as well as imports a majority of its food supply; and

Whereas, There is a moral obligation and real responsibility to act as good stewards of the land and the people and its unique flora and fauna for the current and future generations; and

Whereas, Protection of our natural environment and natural resources benefits and sustains our economy and livelihoods, health and well-being, and enjoyment of Hawai'i's open spaces, parks and trails, coastlines, bodies of water and other recreational opportunities; now therefore be it

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge State and County officials to work toward ensuring that all further plans for economic development, infrastructure upgrades, energy and food production, housing and all other sectors of public policy be researched, designed, executed and maintained with the core idea of achieving sustainability as a primary goal; and be it further

*Ordered*, That copies of this Resolution be distributed to all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.



## O'AHU COUNTY CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2017-16

### **Calling on the Hawai'i State Legislature and Governor to Support Energy Storage Incentives**

Whereas, Hawai'i is a world leader in renewable energy and clean technology, passing the nations first 100% clean energy goal; and

Whereas, 11% of Hawai'i's green jobs were construction jobs (according to the 2010 State of Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Research & Statistics Office), many in the solar industry, and Hawai'i achieved the highest rate of rooftop solar per capita in the nation; and

Whereas, Recent policy and market changes have made it burdensome for Hawai'i residents and businesses to adopt rooftop solar and has causes many local solar businesses to decline; and

Whereas, Battery storage is needed to stabilize the energy grid and reduce points of oversaturation, which has limited residents and businesses from accessing interconnection agreements; and

Whereas, Deploying grid technologies that increase the dynamic delivery of more affordable and cleaner electricity to residents and businesses is an example of a modern day *ahupua'a* and, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge passage of bills that support this resolutions intent such as House Bill 1593 and Senate Bill 665 introduced in the regular 2017 session, and similar measures to increase residents access to clean and affordable energy; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and Majority Leaders of the Hawai'i State Legislature and the Hawai'i State Governor