

**O'ahu County Democrats, Democratic Party of Hawai'i**  
**2019 Convention Minutes**  
**Moanalua High School Cafeteria**  
**Saturday, May 4, 2019**

Dr. Richard Halverson, called The 2019 O'ahu County Democrats Convention to order at **8:10 AM**.

Chair Halverson called upon Jacob B. Aki to open the convention with an *Oli*, which was followed by the playing of the National Anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner* and *Hawai'i Pono'i*

**ADDRESSES BY GUEST SPEAKERS**

Chair Halverson recognized the following Guest Speakers who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i to address the delegates:

State Senator from Hilo Kai Kahele; US Representative Ed Case; and Keali'i Lopez, Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

**Initial CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Chair called on Credentials Committee Co-Chair Christine David to present the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee: as of 8:30AM the Committee reported that there were 199 delegates and 13 Guests, and move that the roll of the delegates submitted be the official roll of the voting members of the 2019 O'ahu County Convention pending a final report.

THE PRELIMINARY REPORT WAS ADOPTED PENDING A FINAL REPORT.

**STANDING RULES OF THE CONVENTION**

Chair Halverson directed delegates' attention to the Convention Standing Rules in the delegate packets. As provided by Section 12 of the County Bylaws, the O'ahu County Committee adopted these convention rules developed by the Rules Committee at the January 26, 2019 meeting.

Without objection or question the attached standing rules of the 2019 O'ahu County Convention in the form circulated were accepted as circulated.

**CONVENTION AGENDA**

Chair Halverson recognized Co-chairs Dylan Armstrong and Erynn Fernandez of the Convention Planning Committee Myra who moved the proposed Convention Agenda as distributed to all delegates at registration. The convention agenda was adopted without objection.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Chair Halverson appointed Dr. William Puette, Professional Registered Parliamentarian, as convention parliamentarian; Jun Shin as Sergeant-at-Arms and Benjamin H. Park as Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms for the 2019 O'ahu County Convention; Martha E Randolph as Recording Secretary; and Daniel Jacob as Convention Scribe.

Registration was closed at 9:00 AM

### **THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE**

Co-Chairs Leimomi Khan and T.J. Jasper delivered the report of the Affirmative Action Committee. The new Affirmative Action Plan was distributed with the committee's written report. The Plan, having been adopted by the O'ahu County Committee at its March meeting, no further action was required.

### **THE PLATFORM COMMITTEE REPORT**

Co-Chairs Melodie Aduja, and Donald Koelper delivered the report of the Platform Committee and moved that the recommended changes in the Committee's Report be adopted with the proviso that the Secretary of O'ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary. The recommended amendments to the Platform of the O'ahu County Democrats were adopted without objection.

Chair Halverson recognized the following Elected Officials who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i to address the delegates: Mayor Bernard Cavalho Jr.; State Senator Wil Espero; Lt. Governor Doug Chin; and State Senator Donna Mercado Kim

### **RULES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Co-Chairs Dylan Armstrong, and Erynn Fernandez, delivered the report of the Rules Committee and moved that six(6) proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i as amended be referred to the State Central Committee for approval with the proviso that the Secretary of O'ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary. The Committee Report with the six (6) proposed amendments are attached.

Before the final vote was taken, separation requests were made for the proposed amendments #1, #2 and #6 were made. Each proposed amendment was then adopted as proposed. and shall be referred to the State Central Committee for approval with the proviso that the Secretary of O'ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary.

The Chair then called for a vote to accept Amendment #1 as presented by the Rules Committee. Amendment #1 was adopted and shall be referred to the State Central Committee for approval with the proviso that the Secretary of O'ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary.

### **THE REVISED CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Credentials Committee Co-Chair Christine David presented the revised report of the Credentials Committee. As of 9:45 AM the Committee reported that there were 221 delegates. Her motion on behalf of the Committee that the revised roll of the delegates hereby submitted be the official roll of the voting members of the 2019 O'ahu County Convention was adopted without objection.

## **ELECTION OF COUNTY OFFICERS**

Elections Committee Co-Chairs: Ms. Cindy Aban and Mr. Michael Golojuch, Sr. presented the following list of nominees for offices for which only one eligible nominee had been nominated in accordance with the Bylaws of the O'ahu County Democrats:

For O'ahu County Secretary: Carlos Santana  
For O'ahu County Assistant Secretary: Daniel Jacob  
For O'ahu County Treasurer: Ian Terayama  
For O'ahu County Assistant Treasurer: Kendyl Oshiro  
For Region 2 Chair: Nate Harmon  
For Region 5 Chair: Brent Toyama  
For Region 8 Chair: Tim Riley  
For Region 9 Chair: Melodie Aduja

Since the County bylaws do not require a secret ballot when there is only one nominee for an office, pursuant to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (11th ed. p. 443), O'ahu County Chair Rich Halveson declared, the democrats nominated above to be elected to the offices for which they had been nominated by acclamation.

Since no nominations were received for County Secretary. or the Chairs of Regions 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 these offices will be considered vacant and filled by appointment at the meeting of the OCC to be convened after adjournment of the convention as provided by Section 2.13.2 of the Bylaws.

Elections Committee Co-Chairs then presented the following list of nominees for offices for which there were multiple nominees:

For O'ahu County Chairperson: Dylan Armstrong and Lorna Strand;  
For O'ahu County Vice Chairperson: Ronson Fox and Sam Puletasi.

### **Lunch Recess**

After delegate speeches, pursuant to the orders of the day, the convention was recessed at 11:30 am for lunch and the required ballot voting for the offices of O'ahu County Chairperson and O'ahu County Vice Chairperson.

Chair Halverson called the Convention back to order after lunch and played the recorded Video address by Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, after which the Chair recognized the following officials present to address the delegates: Council Member Trevor Ozawa; Tommy Waters; State Representative Kaniela Ing (running for US Congress); and Mayor of Honolulu City & County, Kirk Caldwell.

**Report of Results of Elections submitted by Co-chairs Ms. Cindy Aban and Mr. Michael Golojuch Sr. of elections Committee.**

For the Office of County Chairperson Number of votes cast: 210 Necessary for election: 106 Lrna Strand received: 134 Dylan Armstrong received: 68 Illegal Votes: 8	For the Office of County Vice Chair Number of votes cast: 210 Necessary for election: 106 Romson Fox received: 162 Sam Puleasi received: 68 Illegal Votes: 8
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Chairperson Rich Halverson declared Lorna Strand elected to the office of Office of O’ahu County Chair and Ronson Fox elected to the office of Office of O’ahu County Vice Chair.

## **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Co-chairs Will Caron and Rebecca Gardner moved for the adoption of all the 26 resolutions recommended by the committee as printed and circulated and attached to these minutes, with the proviso that the Secretary of O’ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary. Separation requests were received for proposed recommended resolutions 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 24 and 26.

With the exception of the proposed recommended resolutions for which separation requests were submitted, the remaining proposed resolutions recommended by the committee 1, 2, 5, 8, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 25 were, therefore, adopted with the proviso that the Secretary of O’ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary:

**Proposed Resolution #1: Encouraging Healthy and Respectful Debate During the Vetting of Democratic Primary Candidates**

**Proposed Resolution #2: Urging the State Central Committee to Mandate Alternative Dispute Resolution**

**Proposed Resolution #5: Urging the Honolulu City Council to Establish a Living Wage in Honolulu**

**Proposed Resolution #8: Amending OC 2016-2 to Urge the State of Hawai’i to Expand the Ban on “Conversion Therapy” to Include Adults**

**Proposed Resolution #17: Urging the Hawai’i State Legislature to Support Funding for Outreach to Educate the Public on the Importance of Vaccinations**

**Proposed Resolution #18: Urging the Hawai’i State Legislature to Adopt a Tax on Autonomous Labor**

**Proposed Resolution #19: Urging the U.S. Government to Limit the Influence of Money in Politics**

**Proposed Resolution #21: Urging the U.S. Government to Dismantle the Immigrations & Customs Enforcement Agency and Reassign its Investigation Duties to the FBI**

**Proposed Resolution #22 Urging the U.S. Government to Adopt a Tax on All Centralized Custodial Electronic Monetary Transactions to Protect Consumers**

**Proposed Resolution #23: Urging the U.S. Government to Require Transparency of Sales of Consumer Data Collected by Third Parties**

**Proposed Resolution #25: Urging the U.S. Government to Sever Ties with Saudi Arabia and End the War in Yemen**

**SEPARATED PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:**

**Proposed Resolution #3: Urging the Honolulu City Council to Increase Residential Zoning Capacity to a Level that Allows for a Sufficient Housing Stock.**

Was postponed to after consideration of the remaining separated resolutions, but was not reached prior to adjournment for loss of quorum.

**Proposed Resolution#4 Urging the Honolulu City Council to Support the Creation of Parks for All of Our People and Implement Greener Stream Management.**

After debate Proposed Resolution #4 was adopted with the proviso that the Secretary of O'ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary

**Proposed Resolution # 6 Amending Resolution OC 2018-1 to Urge the State of Hawai'i to Pass a \$17 Minimum Wage**

After debate Proposed Resolution #6 was amended to remove 3r, 4th 6th, 7th and 8th wheras clauses and adopted as amended with the proviso that the Secretary of O'ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary.

**Proposed Resolution #7: Amending Resolution OC 2016-10 to Urge the State of Hawai'i to Legalize, Regulate and Tax Adult-Use Cannabis to Fund Education.**

After debate Proposed Resolution #7 was adopted with the proviso that the Secretary of O'ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary.

**Proposed Resolution #9: Urging the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board to Accept the National Orientation and Mobility Certification for Teachers Providing Orientation and Mobility Services.**

After debate Proposed Resolution #9 was adopted with the proviso that the Secretary of O'ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary.

**Proposed Resolution #10: Urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to Facilitate Diversified Ag Within the Tenets of the Public Trust Doctrine.**

After debate Proposed Resolution #10 was adopted with the proviso that the Secretary of O'ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary.

Daniel Jacob's motion to close debate on the remaining separated resolutions that had been recommended by the committee was adopted. The following Proposed Resolutions were then adopted with the proviso that the Secretary of O'ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary:

**Proposed Resolution #11: Urging the State of Hawai'i to Take Urgent Action on Climate Change**

**Proposed Resolution #12 Urging the State of Hawai'i to Take Urgent Action on its Housing Shortage**

**Proposed Resolution #13: Urging the State of Hawai'i to Recognize and Honor the Right of Indigenous Peoples to Self-Determination**

**Proposed Resolution #14: Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Comply with HRS §10-13.5 that Requires 20 Percent of Public Land Trust Revenue be Given to Native Hawaiians**

**Proposed Resolution #15: Supporting Equal Treatment of Compact of Free Association (COFA) Residents in the Issuance and Renewal of State Driver's Licenses**

**Proposed Resolution #16: Supporting the Hawai'i State Legislature in its Efforts to Address the Health Needs of Micronesians**

**Proposed Resolution #20: Urging the U.S. Government to Adopt a 70 Percent Marginal Income Tax Rate on Individual Incomes Over \$10 million**

**Proposed Resolution #26: Urging the U.S. Government to Condemn Apartheid Legal Systems.**

**Proposed Resolution #24: Urging the U.S. Government to Demilitarize the Pacific failed.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Rich Halverson adjourned the convention *sine die* at 1:35 pm due to the lack of a Quorum which was approved without objection.

Delegates and guests joined hands and sang *HAWAII'ALOHA*

**Submitted by**

**Martha E Randolph, Recording Secretary for the O'ahu County 2019 Convention**

**STANDING RULES OF THE 2019 CONVENTION**  
**O'ahu County Democrats**  
**Adopted by O'ahu County Committee on January 26, 2019**

**Rule 1. Registration Required.**

All Delegates to the O'ahu County Convention must register at the Moanalua High School Cafeteria, 2825 Ala Ilima St, Honolulu, HI 96818, on Saturday, May 4, 2019, between 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM, at which time registration will close.

**Rule 2. Delegate Eligibility.**

- A. Members in good standing of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and as defined in Sections 11.4, 11.5 and 11.6 of the O'ahu County Bylaws, are eligible to be Delegates to the O'ahu County Convention, after payment of a \$40.00 registration fee no later than Wednesday, May 1, 2019. After that the registration fee will be \$50.00.

**Rule 3. Convention Committees.**

- A. Each Convention Committee shall convene on Saturday, April 20, 2019 at 9:00 AM at Kalakaua Middle School Cafeteria, 821 Kalihi Street to consider submissions, to reformat, combine and/or revise submissions, and to adopt a committee report containing its recommendations that will be presented by the appointed chairperson or co- chairpersons of that committee.

**Rule 4. Submissions to Affirmative Action, Platform, and Resolutions.**

- A. The proposers of all platform provisions, affirmative action proposals, and resolutions shall submit an electronic Microsoft Word letter size formatted copy (8.5" by 11") using Times New Roman, 12-point type font, with one-inch margins on all sides. Proposals shall be submitted by e-mail to [convention@oahudemocrats.org](mailto:convention@oahudemocrats.org). A confirmation receipt will be sent to persons submitting material also by e-mail.
- B. Email Submissions should include the following information in its subject line: "2019 OCD Convention TYPE OF DOCUMENT," where the words "TYPE OF DOCUMENT" should be replaced with one of the following words Resolution, Platform, or Affirmative Action. The body of the e-mail should include the following information: type of document (Resolution, Platform, or Affirmative Action), the title of the document, name of moving Delegate, and the software program used. E-mailed submissions of proposed resolutions and platform planks will only be accepted up to 4:30 P.M on April 18, 2019.
- C. Floor submissions on May 4 will not be considered except by a two- thirds vote of the Delegates and must be accompanied by an electronic copy on a USB drive with 300 hard copies for distribution.

**Rule 5. Proposed Changes to the O'ahu County Bylaws shall:**

- A. State the section and sub-section of the Bylaw proposed to be amended.

- B. State the Bylaw provision again with changes, additions or deletions set forth in Ramseyer format, i.e., bracket or strikethrough deletions and underline words to be added or inserted.
- C. State the rationale for the proposed change.
- D. If the proposal affects other sections of the Bylaws, identify those sections and state the appropriate changes. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be in Times New Roman 12-point type with one-inch margins on all sides on 8.5" by 11" white paper. In addition to a printed copy, a clean digital copy without markup or comment of the document must also be submitted. Digital copies should be saved as a Microsoft Word document or compatible format. Email only submissions and they should be submitted as discussed in Rule 4, above with Bylaws used as type of document.

**Rule 6. Voting Cards.**

Each registered Delegate entitled to vote will be issued a "voting card" which the Delegate shall raise when called upon by the chair to express the Delegate's vote. No one except the Delegate to whom the voting card is issued may use the card to vote. Each Delegate must return the voting card issued to them at the end of the convention or if the Delegate must leave before adjournment. A voting card left unattended or in the custody or use of anyone except the Delegate to whom it was issued will be confiscated by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

**Rule 7. Floor Participation.**

Participation in the deliberations on the convention floor shall be limited to Delegates presenting official Delegate voting cards issued at registration to that Delegate. A Delegate wishing to speak shall use the public-address system and is entitled to speak only when recognized by the presiding officer.

- A. When recognized by the chair, the Delegate must state their name and district clearly.
- B. Delegates must use the appropriate microphone. A Delegate recognized to answer a request for information, parliamentary inquiry or to make a point of order only may not make any other motion, nor engage in debate, nor make any remarks for or against a motion being debated.
- C. All main motions and amendments made from the floor must be submitted to the presiding officer in writing and signed by the Delegate making the motion.
- D. Debate on each debatable motion shall be limited to two (2) minutes per speech, with a two-speech limit per Delegate on each debatable motion.

**Rule 8. Separate Consideration of Resolutions, Platform Planks and Bylaw Amendments.**

- A. Proposed Resolutions recommended shall be considered for adoption in gross in the form in which the Resolutions Committee has submitted them. A Delegate who opposes



or desires to amend any resolution as recommended and submitted by the Resolutions Committee shall give notice to the parliamentarian to consider separately that resolution prior to the presentation of the report of the Resolutions Committee and prior to the vote taken for adoption in gross of the remaining resolutions. The Delegate who calls for such separate consideration of a resolution shall be recognized first to speak against and/or offer an amendment to the specified resolution.

- B. Proposed Changes to the O'ahu County Platform recommended by the Convention Platform Committee shall be considered for adoption in gross in the form in which they were recommended for adoption by the Convention Platform Committee, unless a Delegate who opposes adoption of a particular platform plank as recommended moves to consider separately that platform plank prior to the vote taken for adoption in gross of the remaining platform. The Delegate who calls for such separate consideration of a recommended platform plank shall be recognized first to speak against the proposed change and/or offer an amendment to the proposed change using the attached Convention Separation Form.
- C. Proposed Bylaw amendments recommended by the Convention Rules Committee shall be considered for adoption in gross in the form in which they were recommended for adoption by the Convention Rules Committee unless a Delegate who opposes adoption of an amendment as recommended moves to consider separately that amendment prior to the vote taken for adoption in gross of the remaining amendments. The Delegate who calls for such separate consideration of a recommended Bylaw amendment shall be recognized first to speak against and/or offer an amendment to the specified amendment.
- D. Proposed amendments to the Affirmative Action Plan as recommended by the Convention Affirmative Action Committee shall be considered for adoption in gross in the form in which they were recommended for adoption by the Convention Affirmative Action Committee unless a Delegate who opposes adoption of an amendment as recommended moves to consider separately that amendment prior to the vote taken for adoption in gross of the remaining amendments. The Delegate who calls for such separate consideration of a recommended Affirmative Action Plan amendment shall be recognized first to speak against and/or offer an amendment to the specified amendment.

#### **Rule 9. Elections.**

In 2019 elections will be held for County Chairperson, County Vice Chairperson, County Secretary, County Assistant Secretary, County Treasurer, County Assistant Treasurer, and Nine (9) Regional Chairpersons. The election shall be decided by a majority of votes cast.

Election shall be by ballot unless there is only one nominee for a position in which case election shall be by acclamation. OCC members shall not hold more than one nor be a candidate for more than one office on the Executive Committee.

In contested races, candidates may speak for two minutes each. Delegates shall elect candidates for contested positions using a single, first ballot; provided, however, delegates from each region shall have separate ballots to elect Regional Chairs where more than one candidate is running for the same position.

If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, then a second ballot between the top two vote getters shall be conducted. Ties shall be decided by the flip of a coin.

**Rule 10. Nominations.**

Pursuant to the Bylaws of the O'ahu County Democrats and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, candidates must have filed nomination papers with the county secretary or chair by 4:30 pm ten (10) days before the Convention of the O'ahu County Democrats (i.e., April 24<sup>th</sup>). Nominations shall not be accepted from the floor.

**Rule 11. Agenda.**

The County Convention shall act on recommended credentials and rules of the Convention, and platform revisions, affirmative action proposals, and resolutions relating to the activities and functions of the City and County of Honolulu, Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and O'ahu County Democrats prepared by the County Convention Committees or accepted from the floor. Resolutions will be considered in the time available. Where the convention delegates have failed to act on any resolution prior to the scheduled adjournment of the convention, that (those) resolutions may be referred by the author for action to the OCC.

**Rule 12. Observers.**

Observers may sit with their precincts, but the Convention Chair may ask observers to move to designated areas when votes are taken.

**Rule 13. Minutes.**

Convention minutes shall be taken by the Secretary of the O'ahu County Democrats, or such other person as designated by the Chair and shall be approved at a subsequent OCC meeting.

**Rule 14. Parliamentary Procedures.**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i or the Bylaws of the O'ahu County Democrats.

**O`AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI`I  
2019 Platform  
Adopted May 4, 2019**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, are both the proud heirs and humble stewards of a political legacy left to us by brave men and women of nearly a century ago, who stood foursquare against racial, ethnic, class and economic discrimination in our islands. Today, our Party holds tremendous sway in the political life of our State. But with great power comes a commensurate level of responsibility to the people of Hawai`i. If we fail in our duty and obligation to the public, as recognized in the law, we will forfeit our right to be taken seriously as responsible stewards of the power which has heretofore been entrusted to us. Therefore we, the O`ahu County Democrats, as the largest single entity within the Democratic Party of Hawai`i, pledge to support any and all efforts to uphold the legacy bequeathed to us by those farsighted and dedicated Democratic men and women who came before us.

The O`ahu County Democrats reaffirm our core values of liberty, equality and justice. These values compel us to integrate democratic ideals in all aspects of economic, social, educational, health and cultural life in our communities, our County, our State, and our Nation. This Platform outlines the guiding principles for the O`ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i.

The O`ahu County Democrats support the Paris Climate Accord and the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

- (1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- (2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;
- (3) Ensure healthy lives and promote Well-being for all at all ages;
- (4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,
- (5) Achieve gender diversity and equality, and empower all women and girls and those that do not adhere to the gender binary;
- (6) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- (7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- (8) Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and living wages for all;
- (9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
- (10) Reduce inequality among our people and communities;
- (11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

- 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;  
(13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;  
(14) Conserve and wisely use the oceans, seas and marine resources in a sustainable manner;  
(15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss,  
(16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and  
(17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

## AGRICULTURE

Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach of agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources and aquaculture to achieve sustainability in our state; protection of our marine resources, and ensure and improve the health of our reefs and marine life.

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the kanaka ma'oli concept of ahupua'a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster infrastructure such as coolers and freezers at our harbors, and better inspection to protect against invasive species and speed up time in port holding. We need to ensure food safety, strive towards food security and strive to set the highest standards for food quality and nutrition.

We will promote efficiency with feed mills and ethical and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry and eggs.

Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life-sustaining resource, we must protect its ecological balance while promoting the cultivation of ocean resources as a step toward greater self-sufficiency.

Fresh water free of pollutants shall be available to all. To ensure wise use and equitable distribution of precious fresh water, we must stress water conservation and alternative patterns of water treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation, water storage reservoirs, and the use of rain barrels by the public.

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety.

We recognize the essential link between the availability of adequate and affordable water and low-cost electrical power as essential components of viable agricultural businesses.

1  
2 We support land use planning and infrastructure development to support sustainable diversified  
3 agriculture, including low cost inter-island transportation of agricultural products.

4  
5 We likewise support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification and  
6 value-added products.

7  
8 We support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step toward preserving high-  
9 grade productive lands for current and future needs.

10  
11 We support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at  
12 point of entry.

13  
14 We promote solid waste policies that divert green waste and food scraps for making invasive  
15 species-free compost and enhanced mulch available to our farmers, landscapers, and residents.

16  
17 To support the development of new generations of farmers, we support increased availability of  
18 training in agriculture and related business requirements at centers of education around the state.  
19 We support making available incentives and low-cost loans to enable new farmers to establish  
20 farming operations.

21  
22 Small farmers are the backbone of Hawai‘i’s agricultural future. We support the establishment of  
23 agricultural parks and clustered farming lots to allow small farmers to share required utilities and  
24 utilize fertile land efficiently. We support the establishment of community-supported food hubs  
25 for drying, canning, freezing, and distribution of agricultural crops and produce.

26  
27 We support a more fair and equitable distribution of water and agricultural lands and the  
28 development of agricultural land trusts to keep land in farming in perpetuity and to keep land costs  
29 down.

30  
31 As food and drinking water exposures to chlorpyrifos exceed safe levels, we support the ban of  
32 chlorpyrifos in agricultural pesticides. It is acutely toxic and associated with neurodevelopmental  
33 damage, i.e., intelligence deficits and attention, memory, and motor problems, in children. We  
34 support the enforcement of the establishment of buffer zones where pesticides are being used in  
35 communities, and the mandatory disclosure of all public use of restricted-use pesticides (“RUPs”).

## 36 37 **ARTS AND CULTURE**

38 Our community is enriched by the encouragement of diverse arts, and cultural activities that  
39 communicate both a regional and universal vision. Through multi-cultural and multi-generational  
40 participation in the arts, we strengthen our ‘ohana, promote tolerance, and add vitality to that  
41 economy through cultural tourism. To this end, we support adequate funding for the arts,  
42 individual artists, and arts and cultural organizations.

Investments in the arts strengthen our communities and contribute to Hawai'i's rich cultural heritage. We will continue to support public funding for the Arts and Humanities and for programs providing art and music education in primary and secondary schools. Hawai'i prospers when we protect and promote the unique artistic and cultural contributions of the artists who create and preserve Hawai'i's heritage.

## **ECONOMY AND COMMERCE**

Availability of financial support and a capable educated people are critical to our economic expansion and diversification. To encourage our entrepreneurs to stay in Hawai'i, we support the creation of incentives for small investors of startup businesses, and we need to encourage a system of venture capital business loans to small businesses and companies so that they can grow to the next level. The management of businesses should be ethical and responsive to the community with transparency for investors and shareholders guaranteeing sound, healthy management. Innovation through the generation of intellectual property should be the goal of our economic diversification.

We support the government simplifying processes to encourage beneficial business development. We must give priority to the development of "green" sustainable industries, diversification of our tourism market, and local business ownership. Green commerce includes, but is not limited to, biodegradable and recycled packaging. We must promote financial literacy and asset building programs to strengthen our 'ohana.

We support increased relationships with the information technology industry. We encourage investing in world class higher education to stimulate our economic resources, and we support the reduction of our dependence on tourism, real estate development, and the military. A truly diversified economy will help to create a diversified job market.

## **EDUCATION**

We believe that the future of our State as well as our country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We must re-think the structure of our educational system. We support reforming and upgrading our public schools and creating a flexible education system. We support increased public investment in higher education, so that students do not have to suffer lifelong tuition debts without shortchanging quality public education. Consistent with these goals, we support making public colleges, public universities, trade, mentorship and apprenticeship programs available should be available, accessible, and tuition-free.

We believe children's early years are particularly important and support increased funding for birth to grade 3 education and early childhood teacher education. There should be coordination of departments so that there is Continuity of Care that includes medical providers when appropriate.

We believe Hawai'i must have the best-educated population and workforce in the world. That means making early childhood education and universal preschool a priority, especially in light of new research showing how much early learning can impact life-long success. We support the strengthening of our early childhood educational programs and the establishment of life skills

1 education throughout the students' academic careers. We will support investment in early  
2 childhood education programs like "Head Start." We support every families' access to high-  
3 quality childcare and preschool programs. We support efforts to raise wages for childcare workers,  
4 and to ensure that early childhood educators are experienced and high-quality.

5  
6 We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are  
7 knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. We support  
8 investment in high-quality STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics)  
9 classes, community schools, computer science education, arts education, and expanding distance  
10 learning models and career pathways. We believe that the educational policy and curriculum also  
11 should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that  
12 We may preserve our health and rich cultural history. We support the utilization of both objective  
13 and subjective means of measuring students' performance and progress.

14  
15 We support providing quality education and library services to every student regardless of learning  
16 capacity, or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. Resources should  
17 be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long  
18 learning, and should provide autonomy of the relevant educational institutions and competitive  
19 compensation for teachers, administrators, and professors.

20  
21 We support adequate funding for mandatory public education Pre-K through grade 12. We support  
22 an additional dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education. We support the  
23 maximum utilization of Federal funds to supplement the State's expenditures on education. We  
24 cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the Federal government.

25  
26 We support the growth of well-managed and innovative schools. Educational facilities must be  
27 maintained, renovated and built to 21st century standards so that our students learn in well-  
28 designed, safe environments.

29  
30 Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in education  
31 should be compensated with a competitive wage based on national standards while taking into  
32 consideration the state's cost of living. We support hiring the most qualified teachers,  
33 administrators and specialists for our educational system. We also support partnerships with  
34 universities and colleges that prepare educators in Hawai'i or elsewhere.

35  
36 We must ensure that our students are safe in our schools and free from violence, bullying and all  
37 forms of discrimination and bias. We support policies in all our schools that protect, honor and  
38 address the needs of all our students.

39  
40 We support the disruption of the school-to-prison pipeline by opposing disciplinary policies that  
41 disproportionately affect any particular class of students. We support the use of restorative justice  
42 practices that help students and staff resolve conflicts peacefully and respectfully.

1 We support eliminating opportunity gaps – particularly those that lead to students from low-  
2 income communities arriving on day one of kindergarten several years behind their peers. We  
3 support equitable and adequate State funding for public education and expanding Title I funding  
4 for schools that see a high concentrations of children in poverty. We support ending curriculum  
5 gaps that maintain and exacerbate achievement gaps.

## 6 7 **ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

8 We have the inherent right to clean land, clean water, and clean air, as recognized by Article 11,  
9 Section 1, of the Hawai'i State Constitution and the Precautionary Principle. Article 11, Section  
10 1, provides: “For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political  
11 subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural beauty and all natural resources,  
12 including land, water, air, minerals, and energy sources, and shall promote the development and  
13 utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of  
14 the self-sufficiency of the State.” All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the  
15 benefit of the people. This Constitutional provision creates a duty, *inter alia*, the following Public  
16 Trust purposes: 1. Domestic water use of the general public, particularly drinking water, 2. The  
17 exercise of Native Hawaiian and traditional and customary rights including appurtenant rights, 3.  
18 Reservations of water for Hawaiian Home Land allotments, and 4. Maintenance of waters in their  
19 natural state. The Precautionary Principle is a duty under the Public Trust Doctrine. The PTD is a  
20 preventative doctrine, and not a remedial one.

21 We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our  
22 candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences  
23 of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective  
24 participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous,  
25 local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.

26  
27 The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to the  
28 health and Welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our  
29 natural environment; which includes reducing our carbon footprint. We support a sustainable  
30 society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices  
31 of our generation. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support for public policies  
32 that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

33  
34 We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private  
35 stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources. We believe in the conservation  
36 and collaborative stewardship of our shared natural heritage: the public lands and waterways, the  
37 oceans, mountains and all that makes Hawai'i's great outdoors priceless. We need policies and  
38 investments that will keep Hawai'i's public lands public, strengthen protections for our natural  
39 and cultural resources, increase access to parks and public lands for all people, protect native  
40 species and wildlife, and harness the immense economic and social potential of our public lands  
41 and waters.



1 We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in  
2 increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient,  
3 creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

4  
5 The O‘ahu General Plan, revised, December 2017, is proactive in helping to identify the carrying  
6 capacity of the island of O‘ahu to ensure a balance between urban growth and sustainability. It is  
7 of paramount importance that we protect our fragile environment from further damage due to  
8 residential over-development and the depletion of prime agricultural land. We support the  
9 protection of our ‘āina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect  
10 full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands  
11 for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to  
12 secure our fresh water resources.

13  
14 We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal  
15 ecosystems and reefs from disruption and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai‘i  
16 Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public  
17 participation in management of coastal resources.

18  
19 We are alarmed at the rapid increase of the pollution of the ocean environment including the  
20 proliferation of plastic and overfishing and we urge stringent remedial action at the State  
21 international and national level to reduce the use of plastic and increase recycling.

22  
23 The U.S. Navy has twenty World War Era underground bulk fuel storage tanks located at Red Hill  
24 above Pearl Harbor. Each tank can hold 12.5 million gallons of petroleum and its derivatives for  
25 a total capacity of 250 million gallons. These tanks pose a direct threat to the Moanalua-Waimalu  
26 Aquifer which supplies drinking water to urban Honolulu. In 2014, a catastrophic spill of  
27 petroleum was released from this site and never been cleaned up. We demand environmentally  
28 sound actions by the U.S. Navy to further preclude the risk of catastrophic releases by either  
29 installing double-walled tanks or by moving the fuel tanks from Red Hill by 2030.

30  
31 Cesspools throughout ~~the~~ O‘ahu threaten drinking water supplies, coral reefs and the health of  
32 people who swim and surf in our island waters. They create a serious public safety issue,  
33 environmental problem and economic danger that is exacerbated by the effects of climate change.  
34 We support the completion of an island-wide wastewater sewage system by 2030.

35  
36 With about 90% of O‘ahu’s electrical and transportation needs powered by fossil fuels, increasing  
37 energy self-sufficiency is a major stride toward sustainability. We seek to achieve energy  
38 sustainability based on renewable energy sources. We must encourage the use of clean alternative  
39 fuel sources to include our public transportation systems. We support increasing the use of public  
40 transit, telecommuting, car and vanpooling, ridesharing, biking, walking, and other forms of  
41 transportation thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. We encourage the urgent need  
42 to develop the use of a variety of cost-effective energy providing systems, encourage transit-  
43 oriented development, and support tax incentives that encourage renewable energy initiatives. We

1 must support policies that foster the development of energy production methods that de-emphasize  
2 carbon-based fuels and promote alternative renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave,  
3 geothermal and ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC). Since electricity rates in Hawai'i are  
4 among the highest in the nation despite the fact that we enjoy an abundance of sunshine year-  
5 round, electric utility companies must open the grid to alternative renewable power sources to  
6 reduce the cost of energy to consumers.

7  
8 We believe that carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases should be priced to reflect  
9 their negative externalities, and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and help  
10 meet our climate goals. We are committed to defending, implementing and extending smart  
11 pollution and efficiency standards and fuel economy standards for automobiles and heavy-duty  
12 vehicles, building codes and appliance standards. We are also committed to expanding clean  
13 energy research and development.

## 14 15 **FOREIGN POLICY**

16 We support a strong foreign policy that promotes peace, human rights, international cooperation  
17 and the International rules of law. We believe that war should be a last resort but, when deemed  
18 necessary, should occur only within the confines of international law and international  
19 cooperation.

## 20 21 **GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM**

22 We support limitations on political, campaign or issue-related donations by organizations,  
23 corporations, and individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all  
24 elections, to ensure that the power to bring positive change to our county and state lies in the hands  
25 of individual voters. We do not believe that money equals speech or that corporations are people  
26 for purposes of First Amendment protections. We support and encourage legislation that would  
27 limit the impact of the Citizens United decision.

28  
29 We believe that a government based on the will of the people but respecting the rights of all is a  
30 potential solution to its citizens' needs and should not be denigrated as an option to a completely  
31 laissez-faire society. Thus, fair and equitable taxation is essential for good government, as  
32 providing series to society is worthy of financial support. We believe that this will adequately,  
33 efficiently, courteously, openly and fairly administer to the needs of the people. We support the  
34 incorporation of ho'oponopono, ethics in government, and a fair, voter-verifiable, fully transparent  
35 and auditable voting system. We also support enforcement of all sunshine laws and transparency  
36 in sessions and meetings that discuss and make policy.

37  
38 We support limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations,  
39 corporations, and individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all  
40 elections, to ensure that the power to bring positive change to our county and State lies in the hands  
41 of individual voters. We do not believe that money equals "free speech."

42  
43 We must ensure the security of our electoral process with regards to electronic infiltration and  
44 manipulation.

1  
2 We believe in the constant renewal of both the Democratic Party and electoral reform in Hawai‘i  
3 state government through the re-institution of multi-member legislative districts. The result would  
4 provide opportunities for both experienced as well as new candidates for elective office to serve,  
5 thus reflecting the changing demographics of Hawai‘i.

6  
7 We maintain that State and local government databases should be integrated to promote efficiency  
8 in government.

9  
10 We support full funding for the broadcast of all major State Legislature and County Council  
11 hearings and other proceedings including the provisions for remote testimony and funding for the  
12 televising of public hearings at the State and County levels, as well as the funding of the Public  
13 Access Room at the Legislature.

14  
15 We support the separation of state and church as provided by the Constitution of the United States  
16 of America in the First Amendment as Well as Article VI, which is vital to guarantee freedom of  
17 religion and conscience. We also oppose any legislation that weakens that wall. Separation of  
18 State and Church is meant to ensure that no single religion can impose its particular beliefs on  
19 members of the general population.

20  
21 Notwithstanding claims of national security, the policy of the O‘ahu County Democratic Party is  
22 to demand that the President and Congress of the United States to uphold the prescribed due  
23 process provision and its application to any place “subject to United States jurisdiction.”

24  
25 We support reforms to our criminal justice system, including abolition of asset forfeiture in the  
26 absence of criminal convictions, bail reform and measures that encourage the reintegration of  
27 formerly incarcerated individuals into greater society and reduces their rate of recidivism.

## 28 29 **HEALTHCARE**

30 We believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and our healthcare system must put people  
31 before profits. The high costs of insurance and insufficient coverage mean that many people do  
32 not have access to the care they need, which creates devastating social costs that are also a  
33 significant economic burden to the State.

34  
35 Therefore, we support robust funding of the Hawai‘i Health Authority (HHA) to design a  
36 statewide, unified, cost-effective healthcare system that includes comprehensive healthcare  
37 services for all, and then submit that design to the legislature for evaluation.

38  
39 Such a universal, comprehensive healthcare system would: (1) unify the delivery of healthcare in  
40 Hawai‘i by establishing a single network, benefit structure, reimbursement system, drug  
41 formulary, and prior authorization policies; (All state-regulated payers would be required to pay  
42 into this unified system, including Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, and health insurance provided  
43 by the state and counties, and commercial health insurance plans funded by employers and

1 individuals.); (2) provide parity of mental and physical health coverage; (3) provide cost-effective  
2 regulation of comprehensive health care delivery systems with an administrative overhead of less  
3 than 3%; (4) include and protect all women’s healthcare needs including reproductive rights and  
4 the healthcare needs of the LGBTQIA community; (5) provide preventative health programs; (6)  
5 provide long-term care, dental, and vision care; and (7) provide healthcare to Compact of Free  
6 Association (Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau) (COFA)) citizens  
7 and other non-citizens lawfully residing in Hawai‘i on an equal basis with US citizens and  
8 permanent residents.

9  
10 On the Federal level, we support a universal single-payer healthcare system similar to or better  
11 than HR 1384, Expanded and Improved Medicare For All, wherein all individuals residing in the  
12 United States and U.S. territories are provided with comprehensive healthcare services.

### 13 14 **REDUCING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS**

15 We support cracking down on price gouging by drug companies and cap the amount that  
16 consumers have to pay out-of-pocket every month on prescription drugs. We encourage  
17 prohibiting anti-competitive “pay for delay” deals that keep generic drugs off the market, and we  
18 support allowing individuals, pharmacists, and wholesalers to import prescription drugs from  
19 licensed pharmacies in Canada and other countries with appropriate safety protections. We urge  
20 Medicare to negotiate lower prices with drug manufacturers.

21  
22 We urge Hawai‘i’s Medicaid Program to join an existing multi-state prescription drug discount  
23 purchasing group as Medicaid, and then, via the HHA’s or other State Health Agency’s ability to  
24 create a unified statewide system, enable delivery of that discount to all state residents.

### 25 26 **ENABLING CUTTING-EDGE MEDICAL RESEARCH**

27 We support accelerating the pace of medical progress, investing more in our scientists and giving  
28 them the resources they need to invigorate fundamental studies in the life sciences in a growing,  
29 stable and predictable way. We must make progress against the full range of diseases, including  
30 diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer’s, HIV and AIDS, cancer, and other diseases, especially chronic  
31 diseases.

### 32 33 **COMBATING DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION**

34 We support confronting epidemic of drug and alcohol addiction, especially the opioid and crystal  
35 methamphetamine (Ice) crisis and other drugs plaguing our communities by vastly expanding  
36 access to prevention and treatment, supporting recovery, helping community organizations, and  
37 promoting better practices by prescribers. We are committed to assisting people struggling with  
38 addiction in Hawai‘i to find and sustain healthy lives by encouraging full recovery and integration  
39 into society and working to remove common barriers to gainful employment, housing and  
40 education. We support expanding access to care for addiction services and ensuring that insurance  
41 coverage is equal to that of any other health conditions. We encourage educating our youth and  
42 their families, teachers, coaches, mentors, and friends to intervene early to prevent drug and  
43 alcohol abuse and addiction. We encourage State and local leaders to establish evidence-based,  
44 age-appropriate, and locally-tailored prevention programs. These programs include school-based  
45 drug education programs that have been shown to have meaningful effects on risky behavior;

community-based peer mentorship and leadership programs; and after-school activities that deter drug use and encourage life skills.

## **MENTAL HEALTH CARE**

We encourage (1) treating mental health issues with the same care and seriousness that we treat issues of physical health, (2) supporting a robust mental health workforce, and (3) promoting better integration of the behavioral and general health care systems. Recognizing that maintaining good mental health is critical to all people, including young people's health and development, we support health professionals ensuring that everyone has access to mental health care. We encourage expanding community-based treatment of substance abuse disorders and mental health conditions and fully enforcing our parity law.

## **SECURING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS AND JUSTICE**

We are committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights and justice. We believe unequivocally that every woman must have access to quality reproductive healthcare services, including safe and legal abortion – regardless of where she lives, how much money she makes, or how she is insured. We believe that reproductive health is core to women's, men's and young people's health and wellbeing. We condemn and will combat any acts of violence, harassment, intimidation of reproductive health providers, patients, and staff. We will defend the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which extends affordable preventative healthcare to women, including no-cost contraception and prohibits discrimination in healthcare based on gender.

We oppose discrimination and barriers that inhibit meaningful access to reproductive healthcare services, including those based on gender, sexuality, race, income, disability, and other factors. We recognize that quality, affordable, comprehensive healthcare, evidence-based sex education and a full range of family planning services help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, and thereby, also reduce the need for abortions.

## **HOUSING**

Housing is a basic human right. Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to individual income is the basis of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy. Recent and past real estate bubbles have fueled disproportionate rent increases, a key contributor to homelessness. Therefore, we support efforts to promote truly affordable housing for all citizens who rent. We need economically affordable housing and encourage increased support that leads to this end. To this end, we support policies which re-think the current formula to determine "affordability" as this formula puts both rentals and sales out of the reach of most working families in Hawai'i. We strongly urge that the definition of "affordable" be amended from 30% to 25% of monthly income for all income brackets.

We will continue to fight for those families who suffered the loss of their homes. We support helping those who are working toward a path of financial stability and will encourage sustainable home ownership within the reach of more families. We support combatting the affordable housing crisis and skyrocketing rents in many parts of the State, which are leading too many families and workers to be pushed out of communities where they work.

1 We encourage preserving and increasing the supply of affordable rental housing by expanding  
2 incentives to ease local barriers to building new affordable rental housing developments in areas  
3 of economic opportunity. We support a substantial increase in funding to construct, preserve, and  
4 rehabilitate affordable housing rental units. Not only will this help address the affordable housing  
5 crisis, it will also create good-paying jobs in the process. We believe the State should provide  
6 more State resources to the people struggling most with unaffordable housing: low-income  
7 families, people with disabilities, veterans, and kupuna.

8  
9 We support programs to prevent displacement of existing residents, especially in Native Hawaiian  
10 and Pacific Islander communities; create affordable and workforce housing; and preserve  
11 neighborhood-serving nonprofit organizations and small businesses. We support reinvigorating  
12 housing production programs, repair public housing, and increase funding for rental assistance  
13 programs. We support robust funding to end homelessness in our cities and counties once and for  
14 all, through targeted investment to provide the necessary outreach, social series, and housing  
15 options for all populations experiencing homelessness. We support engaging in a stronger, more  
16 coordinated, and better funded partnership among Federal, State, and local governments to end  
17 chronic homelessness.

18  
19 We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawai‘i’s homeless youth  
20 population to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society with specific devoted services  
21 for disenfranchised groups including, but not limited to, the Native Hawaiian, Asian and Filipino-  
22 American, Micronesian, Pacific Islander, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans, the  
23 kupuna community and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and  
24 asexual (LGBTQIA) homeless youth population. We support “Housing First” policies and  
25 developing affordable housing policies and programs like Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion  
26 (LEAD).

## 27 28 **HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

29 The inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the foundations  
30 of freedom, justice, and peace. We are committed to ending institutionalized discrimination in all  
31 aspects. We support affirmative action, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with  
32 Disabilities Act of 1990, and the rights of senior citizens. We support full equality, benefits and  
33 responsibility regardless of sexual identity, orientation, or expression.

34  
35 We believe that the concepts of “‘ohana” and “family” include people regardless of sexual  
36 orientation, blood relation, marital status, or gender, gender identity or gender expression, who  
37 choose to join together to offer one another moral, spiritual and economic support.

38  
39 We support full equality and nondiscrimination with respect to duties, benefits and responsibilities  
40 regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. We  
41 believe in equality and justice for individuals who do not adhere to the gender binary, and their  
42 right to privacy. We will work towards a world that embraces gender diversity and equality.

1 We support the passage and enforcement of laws banning both medical and therapeutic treatments  
2 for the purpose of forcing sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression conversion,  
3 such as conversion therapy (aka reparative therapy), for minors or adults at the State and Federal  
4 level. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to live a true and authentic self.

6 We support the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex  
7 and Asexual (LGBTQIA) community to full equality under the law. We support and celebrate the  
8 passage of Marriage Equality at the State and Federal level. We oppose any efforts to repeal  
9 Marriage Equality. We call upon all to work towards a society where members of the LGBTQIA  
10 community are accepted and honored for who they are.

12 We support the full implementation of a law that allows members of the transgender community  
13 to amend their birth certificate to accurately reflect their self-identified gender. We support  
14 changes in the law that ensure the right to self-determination for gender identification and that no  
15 one decides for a person of what their gender is but that individual.

17 We support removing or expanding the choices for gender markers on birth certificates, state  
18 identification cards (IDs) and driver licenses. We believe in equality and justice for individuals  
19 that do not adhere to the gender binary and their right to privacy. We will work towards a world  
20 that embraces gender diversity. We support custody and rights for children born through in-vitro  
21 fertilization (IVF) and adoptive rights of transgender and gender non-binary people.

23 We support initiatives that enhance access and equity to education, employment, and business  
24 opportunities intended to lift families out of poverty and remove existing barriers to equal  
25 opportunity in our communities.

27 We believe that all families should have an equal opportunity to build their assets and become self-  
28 sufficient; and we support a strong safety net of programs that will afford them the opportunity to  
29 do so. We must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with  
30 a safe and healthy environment in which to grow and thrive.

32 We believe in the equality of women and their right to privacy. This includes the rights of women  
33 to access birth control, the right to coverage of pregnancy services, the right to shelter and  
34 counseling for victims of domestic violence and the right of rape victims to emergency  
35 contraception in the emergency room.

37 We support legislation and best practice policies that prioritize the safety, security and Well-being  
38 of our foster children, who are our most vulnerable *keiki* in our community. This is the paramount  
39 consideration when making decisions regarding the time frame, criteria and justification for  
40 reunification and family placement. We will always respect family and familial bonds, but  
41 reunification with every biological family is not always the safest, most secure or in the best  
42 interests of every child. This is especially true in aggravated circumstances cases involving drug  
43 use history, physical abuse, sexual abuse and unstable housing. We strongly support the efforts of

1 parents and all people to recover and reorganize their lives for the better, but our ultimate concern  
2 must also be for the short and long-term safety and wellbeing of our foster children.

3  
4 We deplore the human trafficking of children and adults, regardless of the reasons and rationales  
5 for such an immoral and illicit trade, and support legislative and judicial efforts to stamp it out.

6  
7 We support restorative justice that repairs the harms caused by criminal behaviors as well as  
8 reintegrates the offenders as contributing members of society.

9  
10 We applaud the passage of the Our Care, Our Choice Act that gives terminally ill and mentally  
11 capable adult patients the right to make their own end of life choices, which includes medical aid  
12 in dying. We support all efforts to ensure that all terminally ill and mentally capable adult patients  
13 can make their own end of life choices, including full access to medical aid in dying.

## 14 15 **IMMIGRATION**

16 We believe that our nation should have a fair immigration policy that recognizes the diversity of  
17 our county and the contribution that immigrants make and have made to the sciences, arts and  
18 culture. We support an immigration policy that provides a reasonable path to citizenship for  
19 immigrants who follow the rule of law. We oppose racial profiling and encourage polices that  
20 avoid the militarization of our borders. We abhor policies that would deny education and health  
21 and human services to immigrant children. We must ensure that immigrant children are treated  
22 with fairness and respect in our schools and in our health care system. Immigration laws should  
23 not discriminate based on sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression.

24  
25 We recognize that most undocumented residents are simply looking for a better life for their  
26 families. We support a national immigration policy that holds employers that violate immigration  
27 law accountable and provides penalties proportionate to their responsibility.

## 28 29 **KUPUNA AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

30 We face a long-term care crisis that prevents too many seniors and people with disabilities from  
31 being able to live with dignity at home or in their communities. Most people who are aging or  
32 living with a disability want to do so at home, but face challenges finding and affording the support  
33 they need to do so. Programs that emphasize independence rather than institutionalization must be  
34 better structured to support them. We support strengthening and expanding the home care  
35 workforce, giving seniors and people with disabilities access to quality, affordable long-term care,  
36 services, and supports, and ensuring that all of these resources are readily available at home or in  
37 the community.

38  
39 We support “aging-in-place” and the kupuna caregivers program to assist family members to  
40 remain employed while providing support to kupuna including services attendant to adult day care:  
41 (1) basic activities: i.e., transferring from bed to chair, moving about within the home, bathing,  
42 dressing, toileting, and eating; (2) instrumental activities: preparing meals, shopping, managing  
43 medications, laundry, using the telephone, managing money, housekeeping, and using available  
44 transportation; and (3) core services: personal care, homemaking, chores, home-delivered meals,



1 adult day care, case management, assisted transportation, regular transportation, attendant care,  
2 and other important services.

3  
4 We encourage policies and programs that support “active aging” for Kupuna including, but not  
5 limited to, (1) health care practices that promote physical, emotional, mental, nutritional, and  
6 medical fitness; (2) financial fitness measures that provide tools and programs for financial health;  
7 (3) intergenerational equity; (4) elimination of ageism and elderly discrimination; and (5)  
8 enhancement of important social roles and purposes for kupuna.

## 9 10 **LABOR**

11 We believe in efforts to build and retain a qualified workforce in Hawai‘i. We believe that workers  
12 are entitled to organize and to bargain through their unions.

13  
14 As the party of working people in Hawai‘i, we work to protect labor rights and Social Security; to  
15 institute fair labor practices, a living wage for all workers, and fair taxation. We encourage  
16 legislation to raise the minimum wage and mandate paid family and sick leave; to protect  
17 employee’s rights to organize and bargain collectively with their employers; to oppose the  
18 outsourcing of Hawai‘i’s jobs; to promote employment opportunities and sustainable growth; to  
19 assist the economically disadvantaged; to advocate for sound trade and economic policies; to train  
20 our local workforce in diversified and environmentally responsible industries, and build our  
21 workforce for jobs in emerging technologies, in green industries, in renovation, and in green  
22 construction, so that jobs are not dependent on ever-expanding real estate development.

23  
24 We believe that workers need to be safe and free from any form of discrimination, sexual  
25 harassment or abuse in the workplace. We seek legislation that will achieve these goals.

26  
27 We support strict enforcement of union contracts and worker rights to unionize, to strike without  
28 job loss, to have a safe workplace, to mediate and arbitrate disputes. We support the repeal of the  
29 anti-labor Taft-Hartley Act.

30  
31 We support automatic dues payment to unions and the repeal of all “right to work” laws. We  
32 support strict laws against employers requiring credit checks or social media passwords for  
33 employment purposes. We seek protection of undocumented workers from prosecution,  
34 deportation or job loss for reporting employer labor law violations. We support the Jones Act.

35  
36 We seek programs that prepare people with disabilities for independent and productive lives. We  
37 are committed to the elimination of glass ceilings that prevent women and minorities from  
38 advancing to the highest levels of government, education and business. To rapidly move returning  
39 veterans, students, and the unemployed into jobs, we urge the creation of paid internship programs  
40 for students.

1 **NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN CULTURE**

2 Native Hawaiians are the aboriginal people of Hawai'i that deserve a just relationship with the  
3 State and Federal Governments. We support Native Hawaiian rights to self-determination in the  
4 formation of their chosen governmental entity. We support recognition of Native Hawaiians as  
5 indigenous people as provided by the U.S. Constitution; such recognition will add to the process  
6 of Native Hawaiian self-determination. We also support the international rights of the Native  
7 Hawaiian people.

8 We continue to support Kanaka Ma'oli as they strive to retain their ancestral heritage, Kingdom  
9 lands and the right for self-determination. We are committed to embracing and enriching public  
10 policies by integrating and supporting Native Hawaiian traditions and values. We believe in the  
11 empowerment of Native Hawaiians, by supporting Hawaiian Language Immersion schools and  
12 Hawaiian charter-based schools, protecting the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and the  
13 Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands (DHHL), funding for the development and enhancement  
14 of Hawaiian Home Lands, and development of community-based healthcare initiatives.

15 We concur and affirm, as did the Hawaiian Homes Act of 1920, as amended in 1921, and the  
16 Hawai'i State Legislature in Session Laws 302, and the United States Congress and Administration  
17 in October 1993 in Public Law 103-150, that January 17, 1893, marked the "illegal overthrow of  
18 the Kingdom of Hawai'i" that resulted in the suppression of the inherent sovereignty of the Native  
19 Hawaiian people and further; commends the United States Congress for its apology "to Native  
20 Hawaiians on behalf of the people of the United States for the overthrow of the Kingdom of  
21 Hawai'i on January 17, 1893, with the participation of agents and citizens of the United States,  
22 and the deprivation of the rights of Native Hawaiians to self-determination."

24 The O'ahu County Democrats recognize that the American government illegally seized the Islands  
25 of Hawai'i, and the resources belonging to native Hawaiians were improperly confiscated from  
26 them. The effect of these injuries continues to the present day. We, therefore, support the right of  
27 native Hawaiians to self-determination and to reparations for the theft of their land and resources,  
28 including the protection of native Hawaiian educational programs.

30 Under the Public Land Trust (PLT), Native Hawaiians are legally entitled to 20% of the PLT  
31 revenues for the purposes of, among other entitlements, assistance in housing, career opportunities,  
32 protection of intellectual properties, education, water rights, and all forms of health care - mind,  
33 body and spirit. We fully support reinstating the full percentage of Public Land Trust Revenues  
34 set aside for the betterment of Native Hawaiians, to wit, 20% of public lands annual revenues.

36 We support the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in  
37 decisions related to county and state affairs.

38 We support Hawaiian language immersion schools that contribute to the revitalization and  
39 continuation of the Hawaiian language and appropriate assessments that accurately reflect  
40 Hawaiian language immersion students' progress and support the Hawaiian language immersion  
41 program. We support Hawaiian-focused schools and courses that provide culturally-based

1 education in order to maximize choices in life and work. We support educational programming  
2 and efforts that embody Hawaiian values, language, culture and history as a foundation to prepare  
3 students for success in college, trades school, CTE (career technical education), career and  
4 communities.

5 We support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing practices. We value  
6 and wish to foster the preservation of our host culture.

## 7 **SAFETY, SECURITY, NATURAL DISASTERS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES**

8 We support safety and security in all dimensions as a basic right of all residents of the State of  
9 Hawai'i. We support just law enforcement and enhancement of crime prevention, without  
10 comprising civil liberties. This encompasses the full protection of the law, including enforcement  
11 of victim's rights, restitution, counseling, therapy, orders of protection, and shelters for victims  
12 and survivors of domestic violence and other criminal wrongs, as applicable. We support full  
13 enforcement of the State of Hawai'i's hate crimes statute.

14  
15 We support appropriate training and funding for less than lethal weapons, i.e. conducted energy  
16 devices (CEDs) such as the Taser, pepper spray, 12-gauge shotgun-delivered bean bags, and  
17 plastic/rubber balls, for all law enforcement officers, sheriffs, DLNR enforcement agents and other  
18 appropriate agency personnel.

19  
20 We demand the protection of the people of O'ahu and their property against natural and man-made  
21 disasters. We believe in the science of climate change, affirm human activity as its primary cause  
22 and main driver, and support emergency preparedness and planning efforts to mitigate its impacts.  
23 This includes investment in early warning systems, emergency management and response systems,  
24 and adequate emergency sheltering.

## 25 **TECHNOLOGY**

26  
27 We recognize that the reasonable use and development of technology in all its manifestations offer  
28 unlimited potential for our community. We encourage research, development and educational  
29 programs to promote technological proficiency and innovation. We support Science, Technology,  
30 Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) initiatives in our schools as these prepare the next  
31 generation to address the needs of our State. We need to ensure that all students can learn  
32 computer sciences by the time they graduate from high school.

33  
34 We support ambitious public and private investments in science, technology, engineering, arts,  
35 and mathematics. We are focused on creating clean energy jobs with fair, well-paying wages in  
36 our communities. Entrepreneurship and innovation are fundamental to our future economic  
37 growth – in the information technology (IT) industry as well as energy, manufacturing,  
38 transportation, health, retail, services, and other sectors. We encourage the next generation of  
39 scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs, especially women and people of color, to make sure that  
40 Hawai'i out-competes and out-innovates the rest of the world with our bold innovation agenda.

41  
42 New technologies are already transforming our economy. We support harnessing these forces so  
43 that they create higher-paying jobs, bring more people into the workforce, and reduce inequality.

1 We support educating our people and training our workers; supporting entrepreneurship and  
2 promoting inclusion in the digital economy; attracting and retaining talented people from all over  
3 the world; and investing in research and development, innovation hubs, as well as in getting ideas  
4 to market.

5  
6 High-speed internet connectivity is not a luxury, it is a necessity for 21<sup>st</sup> century economic success,  
7 social mobility, education, healthcare, and public safety. We urge the State to connect every  
8 household in Hawai'i to high-speed broadband, increase internet adoption, and help hook up  
9 anchor institutions so they can offer free WiFi to the public. We encourage action to help Hawai'i  
10 widely deploy 5G technology for faster internet connections to underserved areas and enable the  
11 Internet of Things and other transformative technologies.

12  
13 We support both net neutrality to ensure free and open access to the internet, and the protection of  
14 personal data as a personal right.

15  
16 We support the University of Hawai'i in its mission to increase awareness in science, technology  
17 and exploration to better understand our place in the universe and inspire and educate generations  
18 of young people in Hawai'i to pursue a career in science.

## 20 **TRANSPORTATION**

21 We recognize the necessity of providing a safe, efficient transportation infrastructure. We endorse  
22 efforts to promote less reliance on fossil fuel and to support energy-efficient methods of  
23 transportation. Therefore, we support county, state and federal efforts to provide more efficient  
24 and punctual convenient methods of public transportation, to include but not limited to, sidewalks,  
25 pedestrian crossings, bicycle paths and lanes, mass transit, highways, airports, and ferry systems.  
26 We support the allocation of resources including public funds to address all necessary  
27 transportation issues, including increased funding for mass transit. We endorse efforts to promote  
28 less reliance on the automobile by employing private and public use of alternative modes of travel.  
29 We encourage efforts to provide better vehicle and pedestrian safety. We support initiatives that  
30 will provide our state with more fuel-efficient vehicles, affordable mass transit and well-identified  
31 bike lanes. In order to be best served by mass transit, we must recognize the importance of the  
32 integration in an urban setting of any new modes of mass transportation with existing and future  
33 public streets and highways, bike lanes, retail establishments and services, and truly-affordable  
34 housing – while maintaining a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all future  
35 high-density developments.

36  
37 We support the development of alternative emergency options for potential evacuation with special  
38 attention to rural areas that only have one access point.

## 40 **U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

41 The Armed Forces in Hawai'i and their families sacrifice to serve and defend our country and help  
42 us in time of need. We encourage the continuation of efforts to coordinate military activities with  
43 affected communities. We honor their service by urging the State to fully support the best possible  
44 care of wounded and disabled veterans. Every veteran is entitled to timely access to high-quality

1 health care and timely processing of claims and appeals. We must also look for more ways to  
2 make certain the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides truly patient-centered care, such  
3 as providing women with full and equal treatment, including reproductive health services;  
4 expanding mental health programs; continuing effort to identify and treat invisible, latent, and  
5 toxic wounds of war; treating post-traumatic stress; and expanding the post-9/11 veteran's  
6 caregiver program to include all veterans.

7  
8 We support our Veterans and our Veterans' organizations and efforts to keep our Veterans'  
9 Hospitals adequately funded. We, therefore, support efforts to adequately fund the Hawai'i Office  
10 of Veterans Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA). We support supplementing  
11 VA healthcare with community care when needed. However, we support the VA as the primary  
12 medical care coordinator. However, we oppose further attempts to privatize VA healthcare.

13  
14 We support full funding for the Veterans Treatment Court Program throughout the state. Many  
15 veterans struggle with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other illnesses due to their  
16 military service. The loss of the structure and camaraderie of military life can further complicate  
17 these illnesses. As a result, some veterans enter the justice system. We, therefore, want all  
18 Democrats to support full funding for the Veterans Treatment Court Program throughout the state,  
19 which assists these veterans in their reintegration to society.

20  
21 We support the efforts of our Congressional Delegation to extend benefits for our Reservists and  
22 National Guard who have suffered brain injury and/or PTSD.

23  
24 We support efforts to protect our troops from sexual predators within their service branches and  
25 support specialized treatment for victims of such crimes.

26  
27 We support the expansion of the presumption of herbicide exposure for veterans who served in the  
28 territorial waters of Vietnam during the Vietnam War, collectively known as Blue Water Veterans.

29  
30 Our country has a sacred, moral responsibility to keep faith with all our veterans and wounded  
31 warriors. We support measures that take care of those who have their lives on the line to defend  
32 us. That is why we will push for more educational benefits and job training, end chronic  
33 homelessness and combat suicide, and protect and preserve the post-9/11 G.I. Bill for future  
34 generations. We support that reservists and Guard members are treated fairly when it comes to  
35 employment health, education benefits, deployment, and reintegration.

36  
37 We welcome and honor all Americans who want to serve and we will continue to fight for their  
38 equal rights and recognition. We commit ourselves to ensuring fair treatment for LGBTQIA  
39 veterans, including by proactively reviewing and upgrading discharge records for veterans who  
40 are discharged because of their sexual orientation. Our military is strongest when we support and  
41 embrace our nation's diversity. We believe people of all races, religions, sexual orientations, and  
42 gender identities should be honored for their service to our country. We oppose all policies that  
43 ban or limit the ability of transgender people from serving their country through military service.  
44

We oppose war profiteering and the privatization of combat through employment of paramilitary contractors, especially the award of no-bid or sole source contracts.

## PROTECTING OUR `AINA

We strongly support the protection of our ‘aina against destruction by military usage, weapons testing, training and “war games.” We support the best training for our military; however, we urge protection of our ‘āina from long-term degradation and prevention of harm to our cultural and community assets. Where the `aina has suffered damage on land, in air, and in sea, we expect the military to restore, replace, reforest, and remove all unexploded ordnances and used shells from the damaged area.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES**  
**(HOIKE A KE KOMITE NO NA RULA)**

Aloha O'ahu County Delegates,

It is with pleasure and great pride that we humbly submit the following report of the Convention Rules Committee for the 2019 O'ahu County Democrats' Convention. The Rules Committee met at Kalākaua Intermediate School on 20 April 2019 to review the rules changes proposed by members that were submitted by the submission deadline.

The Committee recommends adopting the following Bylaws changes, identified by section:

1. In **Section 2.11**, "Election of Executive Committee", *inserting* the underlined as follows:

With the exception of the Chair and Vice Chair and Regional Chairpersons, each member of the Executive Committee shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast at the O'ahu County Convention in odd-numbered years. The Chair and Vice Chair will run on a combined slate and shall be elected at the same convention by a majority vote cast for the combined slate."

2. Within **Section 5.1**, "Eligibility" for Elections, *adding* the underlined after the first sentence, "Election to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair shall be combined as a slate with two different genders, so as to assure diversity in these leadership positions. They will be voted upon as one slate."
3. Amend **Section 9.1**, to *insert* "Affirmative Action", after the word "membership", so as to read, "There shall be standing committees on rules, finance, legislation, membership, affirmative action, elections and convention planning."
4. For **Section 9.2**, "Legislation Committee", which begins with "The Legislation Committee shall be", the rest of the resultant paragraph would be *deleted*:

"charged with compiling information and promoting action on legislative projects in keeping with the O'ahu County Democratic Party Platform, drafting or having drafted appropriate measures and cooperating with the proper officials and members of the Federal, State, and County legislative bodies, and other agencies and organizations, in having such legislation introduced and passed. One of the co-chairs of the Legislation Committee shall report to the OCC at its regular meetings on the activities of the Legislation Committee, and on the cooperation received from various officials and board members."

In the place of the prior, the following inserted language makes the Legislative Committee:

“responsible for promoting the passage of legislation and resolutions at the Honolulu City Council and the Hawai‘i State Legislature consistent with the positions of the Democratic Party as expressed in the platform and resolutions adopted at the O‘ahu County Convention, or by a vote of the O‘ahu County Committee (OCC). The Legislation Committee shall prepare a plan for approval by the OCC prior to each legislative session and shall provide timely reports to the OCC during the session and throughout the year for the Honolulu City Council and shall be subject to oversight by the OCC. The Legislation Committee shall be responsible for matters delegated or duties as from time-to-time maybe assigned to it by the Chair and/or OCC.”

5. Within **Section 9**, “Standing and Special Committees”, a section 9.8 added to read:

Affirmative Action Committee. The Affirmative Action Committee shall be responsible for developing the OCC Affirmative Action Plan, tracking its implementation, and reporting results to the OCC. It shall also be responsible for providing advice and assistance to all Regions and Districts to assure full participation and equal opportunity of Hawai‘i’s diverse population in the Oahu County Committee (inclusive of its regions, districts, and precincts), its programs and activities. The AA Committee may advocate legislative measures impacting upon under-represented groups.

6. Adding a **new Section 11**, entitled “Alternative Dispute Resolution”, to read as follows:

In addition to assigning a complaint to the rules committee or a special investigative committee pursuant to Article 1, section 8B.5 of the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, the County Chair shall appoint a neutral mediator, if agreed upon by the parties to the complaint, to attempt to reach an amicable resolution between the parties to the complaint. The neutral mediator shall find a place and time to meet with the accused and the complainant together and shall attempt to mediate an agreement between the parties that resolves the matters within the complaint. The process required by this section shall run in concurrence with the complaint process as provided by the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

The details of these changes are shown, in ‘Ramseyer’ format, in the attached copy of the current Bylaws. In addition, the Rules Committee authorizes the O‘ahu County Democrats’ Secretary to correct any typographical errors in the Bylaws, or any provisions found to be inconsistent with the changes adopted by the Convention.

Three other proposed amendments were discussed, but not recommended. These concerned the creation of a Standing Referral Committee, investing the Rules Committee with the responsibility for all Complaint Investigations and the authoring of the Investigative Committee Report, and a contrasting proposal for gender parity between the County Chairperson and the County Vice Chairperson. The last proposal was withdrawn by the maker.



The meeting was adjourned by co-chairs Armstrong and Fernandez. The co-chairs expressed appreciation to all of the committee members for their attendance and thoughtful, informed decisions.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of all the Committee Members,

DYLAN P. ARMSTRONG  
COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

ERYNN FERNANDEZ  
COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

ATTACHMENT: OCC Amended Bylaws

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS (1\_ SIGNED IN)**

Dylan P. Armstrong, Erynn Fernandez, Michael Golojuch, Jr., Matt Heede, Teri Heede, Daniel Jacob, T.J. Jasper, M. Leimomi Khan, Richard Oshiro, Justin Salisbury, Michael Tada

**4 May 2019: ALL CHANGES RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ ABOVE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RULE CHANGE \_\_\_\_ WAS ADOPTED BY THE DELEGATES TO THE OCC CONVENTION BY MAJORITY VOTE. RULE CHANGE \_\_\_\_\_ WAS NOT ADOPTED. (Erynn Fernandez and Dylan Armstrong, co-chairs)**

**O‘AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS  
RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO THE 2019 CONVENTION  
RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION BY THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2019-01 | Encouraging Healthy and Respectful Debate During the Vetting of Democratic Primary Candidates   |
| 2019-02 | Urging the State Central Committee to Mandate Alternative Dispute Resolution  |
| 2019-03 | Urging the Honolulu City Council to Increase Residential Zoning Capacity to a Level that Allows for a Sufficient Housing Stock                                    |
| 2019-04 | Urging the Honolulu City Council to Support the Creation of Parks for All of Our People and Implement Greener Stream Management                                   |
| 2019-05 | Urging the Honolulu City Council to Establish a Living Wage in Honolulu   |
| 2019-06 | Amending Resolution OC 2018-1 to Urge the State of Hawai‘i to Pass a \$17 Minimum Wage  |
| 2019-07 | Amending Resolution OC 2016-10 to Urge the State of Hawai‘i to Legalize, Regulate and Tax Adult-Use Cannabis to Fund Education                                    |
| 2019-08 | Amending OC 2016-2 to Urge the State of Hawai‘i to Expand the Ban on “Conversion Therapy” to Include Adults   |
| 2019-09 | Urging the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board to Accept the National Orientation and Mobility Certification for Teachers Providing Orientation and Mobility Services |
| 2019-10 | Urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to Facilitate Diversified Ag Within the Tenets of the Public Trust Doctrine                                   |
| 2019-11 | Urging the State of Hawai‘i to Take Urgent Action on Climate Change   |
| 2019-12 | Urging the State of Hawai‘i to Take Urgent Action on its Housing Shortage   |
| 2019-13 | Urging the State of Hawai‘i to Recognize and Honor the Right of Indigenous Peoples to Self-Determination  |
| 2019-14 | Urging the Hawai‘i State Legislature to Comply with HRS §10-13.5 that Requires 20 Percent of Public Land Trust Revenue be Given to Native Hawaiians               |

- 2019-15      Supporting Equal Treatment of Compact of Free Association (COFA) Residents in the Issuance and Renewal of State Driver's Licenses
- 2019-16      Supporting the Hawai'i State Legislature in its Efforts to Address the Health Needs of Micronesians
- 2019-17      Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Support Funding for Outreach to Educate the Public on the Importance of Vaccinations
- 2019-18      Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Adopt a Tax on Autonomous Labor
- 2019-19      Urging the U.S. Government to Limit the Influence of Money in Politics
- 2019-20      Urging the U.S. Government to Adopt a 70 Percent Marginal Income Tax Rate on Individual Incomes Over \$10 million
- 2019-21      Urging the U.S. Government to Dismantle the Immigrations & Customs Enforcement Agency and Reassign its Investigation Duties to the FBI
- 2019-22      Urging the U.S. Government to Adopt a Tax on All Centralized Custodial Electronic Monetary Transactions to Protect Consumers
- 2019-23      Urging the U.S. Government to Require Transparency of Sales of Consumer Data Collected by Third Parties
- 2019-24      Urging the U.S. Government to Demilitarize the Pacific
- 2019-25      Urging the U.S. Government to Sever Ties with Saudi Arabia and End the War in Yemen
- 2019-26      Urging the U.S. Government to Condemn Apartheid Legal Systems

**O‘AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS  
RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO THE 2019 CONVENTION  
NOT RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION BY THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

- 2019-NR 1     Urging the O‘ahu County Democrats to Bar Lobbyists Representing For-Profit Entities from its Chair and Vice Chair Positions
- 2019-NR 2     Urging the Honolulu City Council to Support Public Education Efforts to Explain How a Simplified Health Administration Policy via the Hawai‘i Health Authority or a Federal Single Payer Bill Can Lower Private Insurance Premiums in Hawai‘i by 30 Percent or Replace Premiums with a Much Lower Health Tax
- 2019-NR 3     Urging the U.S. Government to Regulate Anti-Competitive Monopolistic Bank Discrimination
- 2019-NR 4     Urging the U.S. Government to Pass Legislation Making Real Money In-Game Items Exchangeable

## **2019-01: Encouraging Healthy and Respectful Debate During the Vetting of Democratic Candidates**

Whereas, The Democratic Party is the party of the people and encourages diversity of opinion and inclusion of any and all peoples who support the values outlined in its platform, resolutions and guiding documents; and

Whereas, This diversity is what makes our party great, but also requires a higher level of tolerance toward one another to maintain; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party celebrates the difference of opinion and the healthy debate of these ideas; and

Whereas, The 2016 presidential campaign cycle was rife with vitriol and divisive rhetoric, as well as deliberate misinformation campaigns designed to fracture genuine unity within the Democratic Party; and

Whereas, The solution to this problem lies not in quelling good-faith dissent within membership but, rather, lies in a reaffirmation of our values and celebration of our diversity; and

Whereas, Regardless of our differences of opinion, we can agree that the best interest of the American people is no longer being served under the direction of the Trump Administration and the Republican Party; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i affirms the right of its members to offer differences of opinion about Democratic presidential candidates during a respectful and healthy vetting process; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i affirms their commitment to diversity of opinion and reject the idea of quelling good-faith dissent; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i affirms that party unity does not preclude the right to offer good faith dissent; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i affirms its commitment to bring together its members in the interest of electoral victory in all general elections once the Democratic primary has been decided in a legitimate and fair election; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the members of the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and the members of the O‘ahu County Committee.

## **2019-02: Urging the State Central Committee to Mandate Alternative Dispute Resolution**

Whereas, The Preamble and Mission Statement of the O‘ahu County Committee Bylaws provides, in part, that it is our mission to create opportunities for free and open political dialogue in regional and district communities to promote civic engagement, political action, and community solidarity; and

Whereas, O‘ahu County Committee meetings are the best opportunity to focus on educating and equipping our region and district chairs with the tools and information they need to hold meetings within their communities to promote civic engagement, political action, and community solidarity; and

Whereas, An increasing amount of time at O‘ahu County Committee meetings is being allocated for the purpose of hearing and resolving complaints filed against party members; and

Whereas, Although these complaints may be valid in accordance with county or state by-laws, they distract from the O‘ahu County Committee focus on training region and district chairs and educating and equipping them with the tools they need to engage their communities; and

Whereas, The O‘ahu County Committee recognizes that, in the last decade, our judicial system at both the state and federal level has begun to mandate attempts at alternative dispute resolutions to promote efficiency in the judicial system; and

Whereas, The O‘ahu County Committee recognizes that there are alternative ways to appropriately address and resolve complaints in a manner that does not distract a large amount of the O‘ahu County Committee’s time and energy from completing our mission and goals; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i requests the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i to review and amend the State Party Bylaws in order to include and mandate a process and procedure for an alternative dispute resolution; and it be

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the members of the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

**2019-03: Urging the Honolulu City Council to Increase Residential Zoning Capacity to a Level that Allows for a Sufficient Housing Stock**

Whereas, Honolulu’s worst-in-the-nation housing shortage has led to some of the highest home prices in the nation and to our residents living in overcrowded quarters; and

Whereas, This shortage is due, in large part, to local zoning regulations that limit housing capacity and ban the construction of a sufficient housing stock in Honolulu; and

Whereas, Honolulu has the largest overcrowded population in the state and needs an increase of over 25 percent, or 90,000 units, to provide enough homes for the projected local population; and

Whereas, Less than 2 percent of the housing stock is used as vacation rentals, so eliminating this usage will not satisfy the local demand; and

Whereas, Building 2,000 “Affordable” units per year for 50 years—more than twice our current rate—would still not end our affordability crisis; and

Whereas, There is plenty of low density zoned residential housing that can become higher density, so our current natural undeveloped land does not need to be bulldozed over to provide a sufficient housing stock; and

Whereas, Single family home zoning policies that ban the construction of dense, affordable housing is the most significant barrier to increasing our housing capacity; and

Whereas, Single family zoning was originally created to keep poor residents from living in wealthy neighborhoods and excludes residents whose incomes are too low to afford large single family plots of land; and

Whereas, The lack of legally developable land has driven developers to go beyond the intent of the law by constructing unpopular “monster homes” to try and meet the local demand; and

Whereas, Our local population is forced to choose to live a substandard life here due to housing conditions or move elsewhere; and

Whereas, The Obama Administration, Senator Elizabeth Warren and dozens of other economists and legislators agree that increasing allowable density is a crucial factor in increasing affordable housing; and

Whereas, Minneapolis has taken steps to address their housing crisis by increasing their housing capacity by allowing up to triplexes city wide; and

Whereas, Allowing the construction of a sufficient housing stock through an increase in zoning capacity is therefore necessary to solving the housing crisis and ending our worst in the nation housing shortage; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Honolulu City Council to increase the residential zoning capacity within the current urban growth boundary to a level that allows for a sufficient housing stock for the local population; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Office of the Mayor and the offices of the nine (9) Honolulu City Councilmembers.



## **2019-04: Urging the Honolulu City Council to Support the Creation of Parks for All of Our People and Implement Greener Stream Management**

Whereas, The island of O‘ahu is populated at a high density relative to the United States, at 1,636 persons per square mile, with 976,372 people as of 2012, with more persons in the form of tourists and other transient visitors; and

Whereas, O‘ahu experiences high traffic congestion and rates poorly in walkability compared to other Western cities in the United States; and

Whereas, Demand for public space and for multi-modal transportation (“active transportation”), particularly biking and walking, is high, and such transportation and recreation is socially and environmentally desirable and health-sustaining, but generally less convenient than sedentary, vehicular transportation at this time; and

Whereas, Walking has been found in the medical literature to be beneficially linked to stress-reduction,<sup>1</sup> when stress is a key factor associated with ill-health and preventable chronic disease, and that walking is possible for the majority of the population; and

Whereas, Walking has also been found in the medical literature to beneficially regulate the hormone insulin across many groups of people, from obese women<sup>2</sup> to Pacific Islanders,<sup>3</sup> preventing or lowering insulin resistance, and has been associated with decreased risk for diabetes, which disproportionately harms Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander sub-populations; and

Whereas, Many persons, from the school-aged to the elderly, do not currently walk or bike for a variety of safety concerns, lack of connectivity to their homes and destinations, or lack of access, but the O‘ahu Bike Plan progressively plans for cross-island connectivity, there is a clear goal for increased active transportation; and

Whereas, Many of our public streams are closed off to the public by physical barriers and private landownership, and the most logical way for the City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawai‘i to improve access to nature for all persons is to develop stream ways, as such parks can effectively provide for connectivity, beautification, and flood mitigation through increased

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<sup>1</sup>. Schoenfeld TJ, Rada P, Pieruzzini PR, Hsueh B, Gould E. (2013) Physical exercise prevents stress-induced activation of granule neurons and enhances local inhibitory mechanisms in the dentate gyrus. *J Neurosci.* 33: 7770-7777.

<sup>2</sup>. Hong, HR, Jeong JO, Kong JY, Lee S, Yang SH, Ha CD, Kang HS. (2014) Effect of walking exercise on abdominal fat, insulin resistance and serum cytokines in obese women. *J Exerc Nutrition Biochem.* 18(3): 277–285.

<sup>3</sup>. Moy KL, Sallis JF, David KJ. (2010) Health Indicators of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders in the United States. *J Community Health.* 2010 Feb; 35(1): 81–92.

pervious surfacing and plant root saturation of the soil, all of which are underserved needs on an urban and increasingly paved island; and

Whereas, Article IX of the Constitution of Hawai‘i mandates that the State shall “have the power to promote and maintain a healthful environment, including the prevention of any excessive demands upon the environment and the State's resources,”<sup>4</sup> it is appropriate and logical to systematically develop public lands for active transportation, connectivity, and recreation that is accessible for all generations and sub-populations; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the City and County of Honolulu to develop a master plan for public lands, mauka-to-makai, connected, safe, and public green spaces, for every populated ahupua‘a on the island of O‘ahu; and be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the City and County of Honolulu to connect these green spaces, as provisioned in the master plan, in the form of walking paths and bikeways, from each mauka-to-makai terminus, be disability-accessible, and generally follow our waterway; and be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the City and County of Honolulu to rehabilitate those waterways, as provisioned in the master plan, for improved aesthetic and ecological function, not limited to being treed and primarily populated with Hawaiian endemic plants, versus lawns or introduced species; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai‘i, the Democratic members of the Hawai‘i Legislature, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the Managing Director of said jurisdiction, the Honolulu Departments of Land Management and Parks and Recreation, all nine (9) members of the Honolulu City Council, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i and its O‘ahu Group, the Outdoor Circle, and all its constituent branches on O‘ahu, the Hawai‘i Bicycling League, the Blue Zones Project Hawai‘i, and all its constituent project chapters on O‘ahu.

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<sup>4</sup>. Constitution of Hawai‘i. Article IX.

## **2019-05: Urging the Honolulu City Council to Establish a Living Wage in Honolulu**

Whereas, A living wage is defined as the minimum income required for full-time workers to meet their basic needs including, but not limited to, shelter, clothing, transportation, healthcare and food; and

Whereas, In the world's wealthiest country, hundreds of thousands of full-time workers continue to earn poverty-level wages, putting their children and themselves at a lifestyle risk for health and education concerns, including, but not limited to, poor nutrition, unsafe or inadequate housing, and lack of access to medical aid when needed; and

Whereas, Studies show that an increase in the minimum wage corresponds with an increase in jobs and has little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum wage workers, and that an increase in the minimum wage could generate billions of dollars in new consumer spending; and

Whereas, Several other states and cities with lower costs of living have already passed legislation moving the minimum wage to \$15 per hour and then adjusting for inflation, including California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Washington, D.C., Seattle and Minneapolis; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports a living wage and has urged the Hawai'i State Legislature to raise the minimum wage to a livable level; and

Whereas, The Hawai'i State Legislature has failed to provide Honolulu's workers with adequate wage protections; and

Whereas, The onus therefore falls to the only other legislative body here to protect workers; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Honolulu City Council to establish and set a minimum wage that is at, or above, a living wage, estimated to be \$17 per hour in 2019; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Office of the Honolulu Mayor and the offices of the nine (9) Honolulu City Council members.

**2019-06: Amending Resolution OC 2018-1 to Urge the State of Hawai‘i to Pass a \$17 Minimum Wage**

Whereas, The O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i passed Resolution OC 2018-01 at its 2018 Convention titled “Amending Resolution 2017-1 and urging an increase in the Minimum Wage To \$15/hour”; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i passed Resolution BUS: 2018-01 at its 2018 Convention, titled “Fight for \$15 as a Pathway to a Living Wage” that, in part, proclaims: “The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i recognizes that a minimum wage of \$15.00 is not a living wage but it is a start”; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i amends Resolution OC 2018-1 as follows:

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s 2018 Platform supports a living wage and reads as follows: “As the party of working men and women in Hawai‘i, we work to protect labor rights and social security; to ensure fair labor practices, a living wage for all workers, equal pay for equal work and fair taxation; we encourage legislation to raise the minimum wage and paid family and sick leave...”; and

Whereas, We need a strong minimum wage to sustain workers’ bargaining power, since the minimum wage sets a limit on how much wages can fall when a worker loses or quits a job; and

Whereas, The erosion of the minimum wage is another important way the rules of the labor market have been rewritten at the expense of working people; and

Whereas, From 1946 to 1979, Congress periodically expanded coverage of the federal minimum wage and increased its value to track both inflation and wage growth and, as a result, not only did wages rise in line with productivity, but poverty for African American families also fell dramatically—from 65.6 percent in 1965 to 39.6 percent in 1969; and

Whereas, Since 1980, by contrast, policy makers have allowed inflation to eat away at the value of the minimum wage; and

Whereas, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released a study saying that, as of 2018, \$65,350 annually qualifies as “low-income” for a single person in, a \$7,000 increase from just one year prior; and

Whereas, The study also reported that a person living on O‘ahu and making \$40,850 now qualifies as “very low income,” \$58,300 for a family of four; and

Whereas, The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) found that a “self-sufficiency income” for a single worker with no children in Hawai‘i was \$15.84 an hour in 2016—which comes out to about \$17 per hour in 2019, after adjusting for inflation; and

Whereas, At the current minimum wage in the state of Hawai‘i of \$10.10 per hour, a single adult could work two (2) full-time minimum wage jobs (80+ hours a week), earn \$42,016 a year, before taxes, and still be considered “very low income”; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That OC 2018-1 be thus amended; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i therefore urges the Hawai‘i State Legislature to mandate a state minimum wage of \$17.00 per hour by 2024; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature that are also members of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, the offices of the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, and to the members of Hawai‘i’s Congressional Delegation.

**2019-07: Amending Resolution OC 2016-10 to Urge the State of Hawai'i to Legalize, Regulate and Tax Adult-Use Cannabis to Fund Education**

Whereas, The O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i passed Resolution OC 2016-10 at its 2016 Convention, titled "Urging Expansion of Educational Funding by Taxing Legalized Cannabis"; and

Whereas, The urgent need for additional funding toward public education has not been met since then; and

Whereas, States such as Colorado, where adult-use recreational cannabis is legal, have successfully demonstrated the advantages of funneling cannabis tax revenue into public education systems; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats amends OC 2016-10 as follows:

Whereas, Despite billions of dollars spent on decades of aggressive enforcement of cannabis laws, rates of use increased by 3.6 percent between 2002 and 2011; and

Whereas, Almost 90 percent of the 889,133 cannabis arrests in 2010 were for possession (300,000 more than arrests for all violent crimes combined—or one bust every 37 seconds); and

Whereas, Enforcing cannabis possession laws costs the U.S. \$3.6 billion annually; and

Whereas, Prohibition has resulted in extreme racial disparities within the prison system; and

Whereas, Cannabis has legitimate medicinal value, including in the management of pain, eating disorders, depression, anxiety and epilepsy, and in the reduction of spasticity in sufferers of multiple sclerosis; and

Whereas, Legalization in states like Colorado has directly contributed to a reduction in the percentage of teenagers using cannabis from 22 percent to 20 percent between 2011 and 2013 (below the national average of 23.4 percent) due to age-of-sale regulations and education campaigns; and

Whereas, The total number of arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs has declined in Colorado and Washington, and the crash rates in both states are statistically identical to comparable states without legal cannabis; and

Whereas, Calls to poison control centers and visits to emergency departments for cannabis exposure remain extremely uncommon, with a mere 0.04 percent of Colorado's 2.3 million emergency department visits in 2014 stemming from cannabis exposure; and

Whereas, In states with legal access to cannabis, general drug overdose death rates are 25 percent lower than in states with no legal access, and legal access to cannabis has been associated with a

23 percent reduction in opioid dependence or abuse-related hospitalizations and 15 percent fewer opioid treatment admissions; and

Whereas, Robust public education is one of the cornerstones of a healthy and thriving society; and

Whereas, Hawai‘i’s public school system has been perennially under-funded and remains in desperate need of an influx of funding in order to fulfill its mission of educating the public; and

Whereas, The legal cannabis industry is projected to be worth \$20 billion nationally by the year 2020, and the longer we wait the smaller the market share Hawai‘i will receive; and

Whereas, Cannabis sales in Washington generated \$315 million in tax revenues and \$70 million in Oregon during FY 2016-17, while Colorado has collected almost \$600 million in revenue since 2014; and

Whereas, Colorado has created 10,000 new jobs in the legal cannabis industry since 2014; and

Whereas, Cannabis already has an extensive supply and delivery infrastructure in Hawai‘i that, as of now, pays no tax and operates illegally; and

Whereas, Mexican cartels were once the top suppliers of cannabis to the United States but, since legalization has swept across four states and Washington, D.C., the amount seized by the U.S. Border Patrol has dropped 24 percent since 2014, and the price of Mexican-grown cannabis has dropped from \$90 down to \$30 per kilogram, dramatically reducing the profitability of illegal activity; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That Resolution OC 2016-10 is thus amended; and be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i therefore urges the Hawai‘i State Legislature to pass legislation legalizing, regulating and implementing a system of taxation for cannabis that emulates Colorado, including in its significant investments in public education; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this amended resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai‘i, the Lieutenant Governor of Hawai‘i and the 76 members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature.

**2019-08: Amending OC 2016-2 to Urge the Hawai‘i State Legislature to Expand the Ban on “Conversion Therapy” to Include Adults**

Whereas, In 2016 the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i passed Resolution OC 2016-2, titled “Supporting a Ban of Conversion Therapy,” which calls on the state to ban the practice known as “Conversion Therapy” (also known as “reparative therapy”) outright; and

Whereas, In 2018, the State of Hawai‘i passed a law banning the practice known as “Conversion Therapy” but applied the law only to minors under the age of 18; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i amends OC 2016-2, as follows:

Whereas, The Platforms of both the O‘ahu County Democrats and the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i call for a ban of “Conversion Therapy” to apply to minors and adults; and

Whereas, Young adults over the age of 18 are especially vulnerable to this fraudulent and deceptive practice; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That Resolution OC 2016-2 is thus amended; and be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i therefore urges the members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature who are also members of Democratic Party of Hawai‘i to support the introduction and passage of a bill in the 2020 Legislative Session to expand the ban on “Conversion Therapy,” outright, to include adults; and be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i therefore urges the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i to sign the bill expanding the ban on “Conversion Therapy,” outright, to include adults; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to all members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature who are also members of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, and to the Offices of the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i and the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai‘i.



**2019-09: Urging the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board to Accept the National Orientation and Mobility Certification for Teachers Providing Orientation and Mobility Services**

Whereas, The Department of Education (DOE) has perennially struggled to fill vacancies for teachers of blind students or teachers of the visually impaired positions, including positions providing specialized instruction in orientation and mobility; and

Whereas, Blind children in Hawai'i end up being underserved with regard to orientation and mobility within the DOE, reducing their opportunity to participate equally and meaningfully with their sighted peers and build their capacity to contribute to their communities; and

Whereas, For the teaching of orientation and mobility, the DOE currently only has instructors holding the Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist certification from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals, an international certification with a long history of refusing certification to blind instructors; and

Whereas, The DOE currently has no employees who hold the National Orientation and Mobility Certification (NOMC) from the National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB), a domestic certification initially developed specifically to offer a non-discriminatory credentialing process; and

Whereas, The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board currently does not accept the NOMC offered by the NBPCB, rendering the DOE unable to provide Structured Discovery Cane Travel, a service which can only be provided by a professional certified by the NBPCB; and

Whereas, Requiring instructors to succeed in a discriminatory certification process reinforces systemic discrimination against them; and

Whereas, When parents of blind children needing Structured Discovery Cane Travel request it as a service on their Individualized Education Plans, they are consistently told that the DOE is unable to provide this service, thus leaving their blind child without sufficient services to travel safely and independently; and

Whereas, For decades, Structured Discovery Cane Travel has been empowering blind children and adults across the United States, helping them build confidence and feelings of self-respect as they navigate their world safely and without shame about their blindness; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Education recognized the validity of the National Orientation and Mobility Certification in its 2004 Institute on Rehabilitation Issues Report; and

Whereas, The NOMC from the NBPCB is already accepted by the Hawai'i Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in order to provide orientation and mobility services, where, in fact, all current providers of orientation and mobility services are blind adults certified by the NBPCB; and

Whereas, The Hawai‘i State Legislature, House of Representatives, Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2019, Committees on Lower and Higher Education (LHE) and Labor & Public Employment (LAB) passed H.C.R. No 192, HD1, requesting the Hawai‘i teacher standards board to accept the national orientation and mobility certification for teachers providing orientation and mobility services, but it did not receive a hearing by the Finance Committee; and

Whereas, The DOE, in its testimony, expressed appreciation of the intent of HCR No 192, HD1, but did not support the resolution, noting that, “Licensing and permit requirements for teachers in the state of Hawai‘i are governed by the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board. This board is the entity that sets professional and performance standards for licensing, which includes a teaching field in Special Education Orientation and Mobility.”; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board to accept the National Orientation and Mobility Certification from the National Blindness Professional Certification Board, the same way that it accepts the Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist certification from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals, for teachers providing orientation and mobility services within the DOE, thus expanding opportunities for qualified teachers to serve blind keiki and reducing discrimination against blind teachers of orientation and mobility in the Department; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Office of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of the Department of Education, the Chair of the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board, the Administrator of the Hawai‘i Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind Branch (Ho‘opono), the President of the National Blindness Professional Certification Board, the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawai‘i, and the President of the Hawai‘i Association of the Blind.

**2019-10: Urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to Facilitate Diversified Ag Within the Tenets of the Public Trust Doctrine**

Whereas, The State of Hawai‘i imports more than 90 percent of its food; and

Whereas, This lack of food security poses an existential threat to the existence of society in the Hawaiian archipelago in light of increasingly volatile global climate and geopolitical conditions; and

Whereas, The Hawaiian archipelago was capable of sustaining a large population with food and natural resources to spare in total isolation for hundreds of years thanks to careful management of these resources via konohiki stewards that oversaw the Ahupua‘a System; and

Whereas, Elements of this stewardship are enshrined within the Public Trust Doctrine of Article XI of the Hawai‘i State Constitution, which guarantees the public’s right to access these resources in a responsible manner; and

Whereas, These protections are meant to ensure that all development, including that of agricultural endeavors, is carefully considered and does not degrade the natural environment; and

Whereas, These protections clearly set forth a hierarchy of use of public resources that correctly places for-profit uses at the bottom and only allows profit-seeking entities access to these public resource after all other uses have been satisfied; and

Whereas, For-profit entities such as Alexander & Baldwin (A&B) have subverted the principles enshrined within this doctrine for more than 100 years, diverting public water resources at the expense of the public, traditional and customary practitioners, and small-scale farmers that could help alleviate our food insecurity; and

Whereas, A&B has attempted to further subvert the intent of the Public Trust Doctrine through abuse of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)’s revocable holdover permit system; and

Whereas, The 9th Circuit Court upheld this conclusion in a 2016 decision that nullified A&B’s revocable permits, exclusive of any other such permits held by any other entities; and

Whereas, A&B then lobbied the State Legislature to circumvent that legal decision by changing the law to the exclusive benefit of A&B; and

Whereas, An amended committee draft of said bill would have, instead, required the DLNR to move the other revocable permit holders whose permits were not nullified by the 2016 court ruling onto long term leases, which would have aided in the business model planning for diversified agricultural operations; and

Whereas, A&B lobbied the legislature to kill this committee draft, from which it was excluded due to the 2016 court ruling; and

Whereas, The death of said committee draft set the state back in its purported joined goals of increased food security and environmental stewardship; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the DLNR to use its internal processes to do what the legislature failed to do by moving revocable permit holders, excluding A&B, onto long-term leases, and by requiring all future agricultural development beyond the scope of these permits to undergo environmental impact review consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Office of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the Chairperson of the DLNR.

## **2019-11: Urging the State of Hawai‘i to Take Urgent Action on Climate Change**

Whereas, To strengthen the global response to climate change, world leaders from 185 countries ratified the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “limit global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius, while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius”; and

Whereas, Leading climate scientists warned, in the 2018 National Climate Assessment released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that the world will risk experiencing catastrophic impacts of climate change if global action is not taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent by 2030 and net 0 percent by 2050; and

Whereas, The United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the impacts of climate change, having emitted 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emission through electricity and heat production, industry, cultivation of crops and livestock, deforestation, transportation, and powering buildings; and

Whereas, On June 6, 2017, five (5) days after the United States of America withdrew from the Paris Agreement, Hawai‘i became the first state to enact law that outlining emissions reduction goals in-line with those of the Paris Agreement; and

Whereas, The proposed Green New Deal calls for accomplishment of these goals through a 10-year national mobilization effort; and

Whereas, The proposed Green New Deal also enumerates the goals and projects of the proposed mobilization effort, which include:

- Building smart power grids (i.e., power grids that enable customers to reduce their power use during peak demand periods);
- Upgrading all existing buildings and constructing new buildings to achieve maximum energy and water efficiency;
- Removing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation and agricultural sectors;
- Cleaning up existing hazardous waste and abandoned sites;
- Ensuring businesspersons are free from unfair competition; and
- Providing higher education, high-quality health care, and affordable, safe, and adequate housing to all; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s 2018 Platform supports action on climate change and reads as follows: “We believe in the science of climate change, affirm human activity as its primary cause and main driver, and support emergency preparedness and planning efforts to mitigate its impacts”; and

Whereas, the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s 2018 Platform recognizes and believes that carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gasses should be priced to reflect their negative externalities, and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy; and

Whereas, Equity and justice must be a fundamental consideration in climate resilience planning and policy, especially for people in vulnerable communities, including communities of color, migrant populations with limited English language proficiency, low-income workers, elderly and youth, people with disability, the unhoused, and indigenous peoples; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i encourages full civic participation from all residents of Hawai‘i, community organizations, businesses, faith groups, and academic institutions, in dealing with the global climate crisis; and be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i commits to advocating for immediate climate change policies and implementation and to making education a more central part of the efforts to combat climate change; and be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation to stand behind the proposed Green New Deal which centers around job creation, fairness, equity, and justice in its solutions, by supporting the following goals:

- Achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions;
- Establishing high-wage green jobs and ensuring economic security for all;
- Investing in infrastructure and industry;
- Securing clean air and water, climate and community resiliency, healthy food, access to nature, and a sustainable environment for all;
- Promoting justice and equality; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the members of the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, to the members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature that are also members of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, to the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, and to the members of Hawai‘i’s Congressional Delegation.

## **2019-12: Urging the State of Hawai‘i to Take Urgent Action on its Housing Shortage**

Whereas, The State of Hawai‘i has grappled with a critical shortage of affordable housing for decades, and the problem grows worse by the year and threatens to undermine the quality of life and negatively affect the state’s social and economic foundations; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i acknowledges the State of Hawai‘i’s affordable housing needs and supports any action to advocate for proposed strategic actions relating to policies, incentives, regulations, programs, financial tools, and investments; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s Platform articulates its belief that housing is a basic human right; that affordable housing should be fair in proportion to an individual’s income as the basis of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy to protect against recent and past real estate bubbles that have fueled disproportionate rent increases, which is a known, key contributor to homelessness; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i advocates for strategies for the preservation and creation of affordable housing; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports programs and strategies that will prevent the displacement of existing residents in the State of Hawai‘i, especially in the state’s Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports the creation and preservation of affordable and workforce housing and programs of housing production, rental assistance and funding of rental assistance programs, and repair efforts to the state’s public housing; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports policies that will re-assess the current formula of affordable housing to determine “affordability” in the State of Hawai‘i for both rentals and sales of affordable units; and

Whereas, A supportive and joint goal to increase affordable housing units in the State of Hawai‘i requires providing financial support to affordable housing developers, allowing the state and counties to pursue affordable housing developments, and helping maintain and not rid of existing affordable housing; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i reaffirms its commitment to solving the affordable housing crisis, and supports action plans to increase the inventory of affordable housing units for residents of Hawai‘i; and be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports the adoption of new affordable housing policies and incentives for affordable housing developments and preserving the affordable housing inventory currently available throughout the state; and be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges Hawai‘i’s Congressional Delegation, the Hawai‘i State Legislature, and the members of the state’s four (4) county councils to coordinate investment a solution to this crisis, including through adoption of necessary zoning controls, requirements on parking, open space, and community design requirements and principles to allow for encouragement of the construction of new affordable and the maintenance of the existing affordable housing supply; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the members of the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, to the members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature that are also members of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, to the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, and to the members of Hawai‘i’s Congressional Delegation.



### **2019-13: Urging the State of Hawai‘i to Recognize and Honor the Right of Indigenous Peoples to Self-Determination**

Whereas, The right to self-determination is the right of a people to determine its own destiny; and

Whereas, This principle allows a people to choose its own political status and to determine its own form of economic, cultural and social development; and

Whereas, The right to self-determination of peoples is recognized in Article I of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration of Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation Among States (UN General Assembly, 1970), the Helsinki Final Act (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, CSCE, 1975), the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights (1981), the CSCE Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990), and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993); and

Whereas, The right to self-determination has been affirmed by the International Meeting of Experts for the Elucidation of the Concepts of Rights of Peoples brought together by UNESCO from 1985 to 1991; and

Whereas, This body came to the conclusion that (1) peoples' rights are recognized in international law, (2) the list of such includes the right to self-determination and the right to existence, in the sense of the Genocide Convention; and

Whereas, The inclusion of the right to self-determination in the International Covenants on Human Rights and in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, referred to above, emphasizes that self-determination is an integral part of human rights law which has a universal application; and

Whereas, It is recognized that compliance with the right of self-determination is a fundamental condition for the enjoyment of other human rights and fundamental freedoms, be they civil, political, economic, social or cultural; and

Whereas, Exercise of this right can result in a variety of different outcomes ranging from political independence through full integration within a state; and

Whereas, The importance lies in the right of choice, so that the outcome of a people's choice should not affect the existence of the right to make a choice; and

Whereas, The right to self-determination is recognized in international law as a right of process (not of outcome) belonging to peoples; therefore be it

Resolved, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the State of Hawai‘i to recognize and honor the right of indigenous Hawaiians to choose their own destiny; and be it

Ordered, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai‘i, the Lieutenant Governor of Hawai‘i and the 76 members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature.

**2019-14: Urging the Hawai‘i State Legislature to Comply with HRS §10-13.5 that Requires 20 Percent of Public Land Trust Revenue be Given to Native Hawaiians**

Whereas, Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of the Hawaiian archipelago and have never given up their inherent right of self-determination; and

Whereas, In a joint resolution adopted by the One Hundred and Third Congress of the United States, signed into law as Public Law 103-150, November 23, 1993, the Congress apologized to Native Hawaiians on behalf of the United States for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i; and

Whereas, After the illegal overthrow of Queen Lili‘uokalani’s government and the establishment of the Republic of Hawai‘i in 1894, the republic claimed the Crown Lands and merged the Government and Crown Lands into the “public lands” through the 1895 Land Act; and

Whereas, In 1898, the Republic of Hawai‘i transferred nearly 1.8 million acres of Government and Crown Lands to the United States under the Joint Resolution for Annexation; and

Whereas, When Hawai‘i became a state in 1959, most Government and Crown Lands, including the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act trust lands, were transferred to the State of Hawai‘i, however the United States retained use and control of almost 375,000 acres of land; and

Whereas, Section 5(f) of the Admission Act affirms the State of Hawai‘i’s public trust responsibilities: “The lands granted to the State of Hawai‘i by subsection (b) . . . shall be held by said State as a public trust for the support of the public schools and other public educational institutions, for the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians, as defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, for the development of farm and home ownership on as widespread a basis as possible, for the making of public improvements, and for the provision of lands for public use”; and

Whereas, In 1978, the people of Hawai‘i overwhelmingly ratified amendments to the constitution including Article XII, Section 4, that confirmed the state’s Public Trust responsibilities; Section 5 that established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA); and Section 6 which requires the OHA Trustees to manage and administer income and proceeds from a variety of sources, including a “pro rata portion” of the public land trust; and

Whereas, The Hawai‘i State Constitution does not define what percentage of the public land trust income and proceeds OHA should receive because that determination was left to the Hawai‘i State Legislature; and

Whereas, The Hawai‘i State Legislature determined that Native Hawaiians should get 20 percent of the Public Land Trust revenue (HRS §10-13.5); and

Whereas, Currently, Act 178, SLH2006 temporarily established OHA’s pro rata share of the income and proceeds of the public land trust for the betterment of the conditions of Native

Hawaiians at \$15,100,000 annually, and required state agencies to report public land trust revenues to the legislature each year; and

Whereas, Based on the annual accounting of the amounts derived from the public trust and additional research commissioned by OHA of receipts from the Public Land Trust in fiscal year 2015–2016, OHA has determined the minimum amount of applicable total gross public land trust receipts to be \$174,816,220 in fiscal year 2015–2016, and 20 percent of that income is \$34,963,244; and

Whereas, The Hawai‘i Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the legislature has a constitutional obligation to clarify the pro rata portion of revenues derived from the public land trust to which OHA is entitled to for the benefit of Native Hawaiians under Article XII, Sections 4 and 6 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution; and

Whereas, Native Hawaiians are recorded as having some of the worst social and health conditions in the United States; and

Whereas, OHA relies substantially on revenues derived from the public land trust to provide programs and services to Native Hawaiians towards improving the civic, economic, social welfare, and health of Native Hawaiians; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, at its 2004 Convention, adopted a resolution titled, “Recognition of Support for Justice for Native Hawaiians” that resolved:

- 1) To acknowledge the collective legal, political and socio-economic hardships that native Hawaiians endure;
- 2) To seek to correct these collective hardships and promote legal, political and socio-economic justice for native Hawaiians; and
- 3) To make a best effort to attain both State and National platforms to implement this resolution; and

Whereas, Both the state and national platforms recognize that Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai‘i and deserve a just relationship with the State and Federal Governments; that it has a moral and profound duty to acknowledge the past injustices; and that the Democratic Party has a moral duty to honor, respect and uphold our sacred obligation to the Native Hawaiian people; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Hawai‘i State Legislature to comply with HRS §10-13.5 that requires that 20 percent of the Public Land Trust revenue be given to Native Hawaiians through its trustee, OHA, to advance the civic, economic, social, and health welfare of Native Hawaiians; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the President of the Senate; the Speaker of the House, the

Chair of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, the Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, the Chair of the House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, the Chair of the House Committee on Finance, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

**2019-15: Supporting Equal Treatment of Compact of Free Association Residents in the Issuance and Renewal of State Driver's Licenses**

Whereas, In 1986, the United States Government entered into a Compact of Free Association (COFA) with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

Whereas, This compact grants the citizens of those nations the ability to move freely from their home nation and the United States, including the right to be lawfully present in the United States indefinitely, and the right to obtain driver's licenses issued by the State; and

Whereas, The United States enacted the Real ID Act in 2005, which creates new requirements to obtain a driver's license and imposes greater restrictions on the renewal and issuance of driver's licenses; and

Whereas, H.R. 3398, Real ID Act Modification for Freely Associated States (FAS) Act adopted by the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress (2017-2018) amended the Real ID Act of 2005 to ensure a FAS citizen admitted as a non-immigrant to the United States pursuant to a Compact of Free Association (COFA) can obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license on the same basis as any other long-term migrant in the United States; and

Whereas, H.R. 3398 became Public Law No: 115-313 on December 17, 2018; and

Whereas, the Hawai'i Department of Transportation has not yet implemented PL 115-313, pending receipt of implementing guidance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and

Whereas, Because of the delay in implementing guidance, COFA residents in the State are experiencing an undue and disproportionate burden by having to renew their driver's licenses every year; and

Whereas, The State has a duty to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all residents; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports the equal treatment of COFA residents in the issuance and renewal of driver's licenses; and be it

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Dept of Transportation (DOT) to give priority to implementing PL115-313 to bring equality in the treatment of COFA residents in the issuance and renewal of driver's licenses; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation; the Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, Honolulu Office; the State Director of Transportation; the Mayors of the City and County of Honolulu, County of Hawai'i, County of Kaua'i, and County of Maui; the Director of Transportation Services of the City and County of Honolulu; the Compact of Free

Association Committee Advocacy Network, and the President of the Micronesian Community Network.

## **2019-16: Supporting the Hawai‘i State Legislature in its Efforts to Address the Health Needs of Micronesians**

Whereas, Under a 1986 treaty known as the Compact of Free Association (COFA), residents of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are allowed to legally live and work in the United States; and

Whereas, The treaty was signed as a result of environmental damage to the region from U.S. nuclear weapons testing after World War II; and

Whereas, Many COFA citizens, as they are known, arrive in Hawai‘i and other states seeking better healthcare, but struggle to navigate the system; and

Whereas, Communities in COFA nations have some of the highest rates of tuberculosis, Hansen’s disease, and diabetes in the world; and

Whereas, COFA islanders have among the highest per capita United States military service and service-related deaths; and

Whereas, From 1946 to 1958, COFA islanders endured the testing and detonation of 67 nuclear bombs, which destroyed homelands and engendered a scourge of cancer that continues to afflict COFA islanders today; and

Whereas, The Compact Nations provide the United States with immeasurable benefits of national security, such as hosting the U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile defense system and granting the United States exclusive military strategic denial to millions of square miles of the Pacific Ocean—a distance of more than one and a half times the width of the continental United States—at a time when global relations among superpowers are increasingly fraught; and

Whereas, COFA residents have shared with Hawai‘i, through their master navigator, Pius “Papa” Mau Piailug, the gift of traditional navigation that was utilized by the Hōkūle‘a, enabling a Hawaiian cultural movement of immeasurable beauty and pride; and

Whereas, An estimated eighteen thousand COFA residents legally reside in Hawai‘i, with an unknown proportion being U.S. citizens who were born in the United States, and collectively comprise just 1.3 percent of the State's population; and

Whereas, COFA residents pay taxes and fully contribute to Hawai‘i's economy, and come from proud, rich, vibrant, and ancient Pacific cultures that enrich Hawai‘i's communities; and

Whereas, Contrary to the mutually beneficial intent of the trusteeship, COFA islanders are treated like bottom-tier citizens, denied state-funded health care coverage, and thrown into a maze of administrative and economic barriers that foster shame, illness, suffering, and death; and

Whereas, In a recent informal hearing at the Hawai‘i State Legislature, representatives from the Queen’s Health System told lawmakers they see around 1,300 COFA citizens every year; and



Whereas, Officials from the state Department of Health said the unpaid hospital expense cost taxpayers earning around \$38 million annually; and

Whereas, Hawai‘i legislators are seeking ways to improve health care for Micronesians, and the Hawai‘i House of Representatives introduced HCR217, urging the Department of Human Services to create a COFA Advisory to review such things as the best approach for providing parity in state-funded health coverage for otherwise eligible COFA residents; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports the Hawai‘i legislature in its efforts to address the health needs of Micronesians; and be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Department of Human Services to create a COFA Advisory Group, whether or not HCR217 is adopted by the Hawai‘i State Legislature; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, the Chair of the House Committee on Health; the Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health; and the Office of the Director of the Department of Human Services.

**2019-17: Urging the Hawai‘i State Legislature to Support Funding for Outreach to Educate the Public on the Importance of Vaccinations**

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i has a respect for science and sound medical practices; and

Whereas, Studies show that vaccination since 1900 has increased both the standard of living and has protected the population from epidemic disease; and

Whereas, A New York City judge upheld a mandatory measles vaccine amid a severe measles outbreak that has closed multiple schools and recorded 359 cases of measles since the outbreak began in October; and

Whereas, The growing anti-vaccination movement and resulting increases in vaccination exemptions in public schools has been shown to have endangered the community; and

Whereas, Anti-vaccination activists have contended that vaccination is medically risky; and

Whereas, Anti-vaccination activists believe shots can cause Autism, an assertion that has been repeatedly debunked; and

Whereas, The State of Hawai‘i likewise offers religious exemptions for vaccinations of formerly common, now all-but-eradicated diseases which will only make a come back if we, as a society, allow it through poor public health policy; and

Whereas, One of the greatest challenges to public health authorities is how to respond to today’s proliferation of misleading information about vaccines; and

Whereas, Studies show that simply correcting myths about vaccines may not be effective; and

Whereas, The Hawai‘i Department of Health promotes immunizations in accordance with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations to prevent the spread of diseases; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Hawai‘i State Legislature to appropriate funds for a public information campaign that reaches as wide an audience as possible through TV, radio, print and social media service announcements, with the intent of educating the public on the evidence-based facts regarding vaccinations; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and all 76 offices of the members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature.

**2019-18: Urging the Hawai‘i State Legislature to Adopt a Tax on Artificial Autonomous Labor**

Whereas, Hawai‘i’s largest job sector is the service and transportation industry; and

Whereas, These jobs will be particularly vulnerable to automation via autonomous vehicles and artificial intelligence; and

Whereas, Loss of tax revenue from elimination of these jobs will leave a deficit in the State of Hawai‘i’s annual budget, which will endanger the social safety net; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the establishment of a tax on artificial autonomous laborers, such as self-driving cars, that replace service and transportation industry jobs in the future, in order to slow industry-wide systematic layoffs and to provide a source of funding for reinforcing the social safety net; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature that are also members of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, as well as the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation.

## **2019-19: Urging the U.S. Government to Limit the Influence of Money in Politics**

Whereas, The term “dark money” refers to political spending by nonprofit organizations—for example, 501(c)(4) (social welfare) 501(c)(5) (unions) and 501(c)(6) (trade association) groups—that are not required to disclose their donors; and

Whereas, Such organizations can receive unlimited donations from corporations, individuals and unions; and

Whereas, These donors can therefore spend funds to influence elections without voters knowing the origin of the money in question; and

Whereas, Super-PACs must disclose their donors, but the same individuals or entities may set up both kinds of organizations; and

Whereas, This leads to a funnel effect whereby corporations and wealthy individuals can donate as much as they want to the nonprofit, which could then donate that money to the Super-PAC, which lists the nonprofit’s donation but not the original contributors to the nonprofit; and

Whereas, *The Associated Press*, Center for Public Integrity, and Sunlight Foundation all flagged dozens of donations of anywhere from \$50,000 to \$1 million routed through non-disclosing dark money shell LLCs to Super-PACs backing various presidential candidates during the 2016 presidential election; and

Whereas, The influence of this near-unlimited, all-but-anonymous money on both elections and the subsequent policy passed by the government is a corrupting one that tends to expand the power and influence of special interest groups, corporations and wealthy individuals; and

Whereas, This erodes the concept of democracy and threatens the well-being of people and planet; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation to introduce and support a new attempt to pass the “Disclosure Act” that would require disclosure of election spending by corporations, labor unions, super-PACs, and, most importantly, politically active nonprofits; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation to introduce and support legislation to empower small donors by providing public funds to amplify small donations through vouchers or matching funds; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation.

**2019-20: Urging the U.S. Government to Adopt a 70 Percent Marginal Income Tax Rate on Individual Incomes Over \$10 million**

Whereas, Over the past century, the top marginal tax rate on the highest-income Americans has often been much higher than it is now (37 percent), including between 1936 and 1980, when the top marginal rate was at least 70 percent, and between 1951 and 1963, when it was 90 percent; and

Whereas, Despite claims that taxing the wealthy hurts the economy, economic growth has often been better when taxes were higher on the rich than when they were lower; and

Whereas, *Politifact* found that the U.S.'s highest economic growth decade was the 1960s when the top income tax rates were between 70–90 percent; and

Whereas, According to an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, jobs were created at a six to eight times faster pace in the years following tax increases on the wealthy under Presidents Clinton and Obama, than in the aftermath of high-income tax cuts under President George W. Bush; and

Whereas, Recent economic research has determined that rich people could be taxed at much higher rates than they are now without deterring their incentive to make money, raising significant revenue for important public purposes; and

Whereas, Marginal tax rates do not mean that all of a taxpayer's income is taxed at 70 percent but, rather, it means that the portion of a taxpayer's income above a certain level would be taxed at that rate; and

Whereas, Less than one tenth of 1 percent of all taxpayers—just 16,000 households—reported income over \$10 million; and

Whereas, A calculation of a 70 percent marginal rate applied to that handful of the super wealthy could in theory raise close to \$720 billion over 10 years; and

Whereas, Several critical public investments could be funded many times over, in whole, or at least in substantial part, by this increased revenue, including a plan to boost teacher salaries and rebuild schools (\$100 billion), tuition-free college (\$800 billion), paying off more than half the nation's \$1.4 trillion in student debt, funding three-quarters of a \$1 trillion infrastructure plan, Title I funding for low-income education (\$270 billion), special education (\$180 billion), or Head Start (\$140 billion); therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation to support legislation to implement a marginal tax rate of at least 70 percent for incomes over \$10 million; and be it

*Ordered,* That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation.

**2019-21: Urging the U.S. Government to Dismantle the Immigrations & Customs Enforcement Agency and Reassign its Investigation Duties to the FBI**

Whereas, The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency was created in 2003 as part of the newly formed U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS); and

Whereas, The primary focus of ICE has become the deportation of undocumented immigrants, whether or not they have committed any crime, as well as the denial of asylum to refugees and the separation of undocumented children from their families; and

Whereas, The agency has been accused of committing human rights violations under the direction of the Trump Administration; and

Whereas, The immigration philosophy espoused by the agency is ineffective and divisive; and

Whereas, Genuine immigration reform that would implement a humane immigration system cannot proceed while ICE is operational; and

Whereas, The investigations component of ICE that focuses on issues such as fraud, human trafficking, gangs and drug rings would better serve residents of the United States as part of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI); therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation to support legislation that would dismantle ICE and place its investigations component under the jurisdiction of the FBI so that genuine immigration reform can proceed; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation.

**2019-22: Urging the U.S. Government to Adopt a Tax on All Centralized Custodial Electronic Monetary Transactions to Protect Consumers**

Whereas, Cash transactions at points of sale and over the Internet, worldwide, are on a decline, with countries like China and Sweden already going virtually cashless in all transactions; and

Whereas, Electronic transaction volume is expected to reach nearly 100 percent of all monetary transactions, representing billions of transactions per second; and

Whereas, Electronic transactions not using Blockchain technology necessitate the use of third party services, which extract the wealth of the State of Hawai‘i through centralized custodial electronic monetary transactions; and

Whereas, The multiple companies involved in these transactions between two individuals (Venmo, Cash.App, PayPal, Apple Pay, Facebook Coin, etc.) or individual and business (Visa, Mastercard, Apple Pay, Google Pay, Samsung Pay, Fitbit Pay, etc.) extract profits through behavioral future predictive power; and

Whereas, These companies profit from this data harvesting, which compromises the privacy of consumers, placing the people of Hawai‘i in direct harm of exploitation or identity theft; be it therefore

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation to introduce and support legislation establishing a federal tax on all centralized custodial electronic monetary transactions with all revenue being used to protect the consumer and repair damages to the general public caused by these malicious and predatory business practices; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation.



**2019-23: Urging the U.S. Government to Require Transparency of Sales of Consumer Data Collected by Third Parties**

Whereas, Many online centralized platforms offer their services without charge in exchange for customer data which is aggregated, packaged, and sold either directly or as metadata to centralized third parties; and

Whereas, These centralized third parties require intimate data collection on customers in order to provide client-server services; and

Whereas, Any third party that gets hold of the data may then sell said data to further undisclosed parties; and

Whereas, Our most sensitive data inevitably ends up in behavioral futures markets which is used to provide corporations with an unfair asymmetry of knowledge; and

Whereas, This current asymmetry of knowledge is used to generate unfair and unethical profit just as asymmetry in knowledge of the powerful has been used throughout history to control and profit off the people; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation to introduce and support legislation to require companies to make transparent what information they collect, exactly how it is collected, and every party that has access to that data, and to inform the client if a new party gains access to any past data collected in a simple easy-to-follow and -understand format, and to allow for an opt-out option; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation.

## **2019-24: Urging the U.S. Government to Demilitarize the Pacific**

Whereas, The United States Government has, beginning with the Spanish-American War and the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, adopted an adversarial ethos of military buildup within the Pacific that includes the construction of military bases, the deployment of military personnel and engagement in live-fire training exercises; and

Whereas, This adversarial ethos does not increase national security but, rather, increases hostility toward the United States; and

Whereas, Hawai‘i has already been caught in the crossfire of this adversarial ethos, resulting in significant loss of life on December 7, 1941; and

Whereas, On January 13, 2018, Hawai‘i was subjected to the very real possibility of being once again caught in the crossfire of this adversarial ethos when a false missile alert was sent out; and

Whereas, Live-fire training at Kaho‘olawe, Mākua Valley, Pōhakuloa, and elsewhere, has resulted in documented pollution and severe degradation of the natural environment, as well as the destruction of culturally significant sites; and

Whereas, Live-fire naval exercises, such as the war games known as “RIM-PAC,” have resulted in the destruction of marine life; and

Whereas, The construction of military bases on Hawai‘i, Guam, Jeju, Okinawa and throughout the Philippines has been met with opposition from indigenous peoples whose recognized right to self-determination has been routinely violated by the United States military; and

Whereas, The addition of large amounts of military personnel has destabilized these Pacific islands, displacing indigenous peoples, supplanting native food systems, hobbling public health among indigenous populations, straining the carrying capacity of housing stocks, increasing the cost of living, and erasing indigenous cultures; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Platform supports international peace and cooperation, environmental protection, the health, happiness and right to self-determination of all peoples, and the sustainability and preservation of life in the Pacific and across the world; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i Platform opposes oppression, war, human rights violations and the destruction of people and planet; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation to introduce legislation calling for an immediate de-escalation of military posturing, a reduction in troop deployment across the Pacific, an immediate end to live-fire training, an immediate end to the construction of new military bases throughout the

Pacific, and a complete environmental restoration of polluted sites paid for, in-full, by the Department of Defense; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the members of Hawai‘i’s Congressional Delegation.

**2019-25: Urging the U.S. Government to Sever Ties with Saudi Arabia and End the War in Yemen**

Whereas, the humanitarian crisis in Yemen as a result of the conflict there has directly resulted in more than 10,000 people killed and at least 40,000 wounded; and

Whereas, the conflict has left at least 9.8 million people in Yemen in acute need of health services and 17 million people in "crisis" or "emergency" food situations; and

Whereas, The conflict is a proxy war for Saudi Arabia's attempt at regional hegemony; and

Whereas, The Saudi Arabian government is a known violator of human rights both within and without of its borders; and

Whereas, Human Rights Watch (HRW) has written that the Saudi-led air campaign that began on 26 March 2015, had "conducted airstrikes in apparent violation of the laws of war, such as the March 30 attack on a displaced persons camp in Mazraq, northern Yemen, that struck a medical facility and a market"; and

Whereas, As a result of the abhorrent conditions the conflict has created, its dubious motivations and the possibility of war crimes led the United States Senate to support a resolution calling on the federal government to withdraw support for the Saudi-led campaign; and

Whereas, President Trump has vetoed said resolution; and

Whereas, This action is direct conflict with the United States' purported adherence to and belief in the human rights of all peoples; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the members of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation to support an override of President Trump's veto; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the members of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation to pressure the federal government to sever all ties with the Saudi Arabian government; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation.

## **2019-26: Urging the U.S. Government to Condemn Apartheid Legal Systems**

Whereas, The term “Apartheid” describes a legal system in which equal access and protections under the law are denied to certain citizens and residents of a country on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion or other demographic factors; and

Whereas, The United Nations has condemned Apartheid systems as violations of human rights; and

Whereas, Apartheid systems still exist within the world, and among the United States’ own allies, including within the State of Israel where Palestinian citizens and residents within the Occupied Palestinian Territories are “subjected to oppression on the basis of not being Jewish,” (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, “Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid,” 2017); and

Whereas, Examples of discrimination within the Israeli legal code include “discrimination in access to education, healthcare, employment, residency and building rights,” as well as “expulsions and home demolitions” (United Nations, 2017); and

Whereas, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are governed by “military law” alongside Jewish settlers “governed by Israeli civil law,” (United Nations, 2017) clearly demonstrating a disparate set of legal codes based on race, ethnicity and religion; and

Whereas, This clearly fits the definition of “Apartheid” as described above; and

Whereas, The United Nations’ Human Rights Council passed a resolution (A/HRC/31/L.37) in 2016 by a vote of 42 in favor, none against and five abstentions, demanding that Israel “comply fully with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation and in breach of the Convention” and calling for “urgent measures to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem” and further demanding that Israel “cease all practices and actions that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people”; be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation to introduce and support a resolution universally condemning Apartheid systems of government around the world; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegate to pressure the federal government to support United Nations efforts to pressure Israel to reform its legal code and end its Apartheid system; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation.

## NOT RECOMMENDED

### **2019-NR 1: Urging the O‘ahu County Democrats to Bar Lobbyists Representing For-Profit Entities from its Chair and Vice Chair Positions**

Whereas, The O‘ahu County Democrats (OCD) of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i is a structured political organization based on the ethics and principles of its leaders and members; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party is the party of the people, and not the party of for-profit interests, as reflected and expressed within the party platform, constitution and bylaws; and

Whereas, The OCD chairperson and vice chairperson are elected and called to further the platform and the principles and values of the Democratic Party expressed therein; and

Whereas, Unions represent the interests of organized labor and working people and nonprofits represent the interests of people and planet, both of which are in-line with party values; and

Whereas, The values of the party and its platform and the goals and values of for-profit interests can be in conflict with one another; and

Whereas, A clear conflict of interest can arise when a top party officer is also a lobbyist for a for-profit interest and must represent both interests; and

Whereas, This scenario lessens the credibility of the party; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall not allow registered lobbyists working on behalf of for-profit entities to be candidates for its chairperson or vice chairperson; and be it

*Resolved*, That the chairperson and vice chairperson of the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall not lobby on behalf of for-profit entities while occupying the positions of chairperson and vice chairperson; and be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i shall allow registered lobbyists working on behalf of unions and other nonprofits to be candidates for its chairperson or vice chairperson; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to all current O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i officers, Democratic Party of Hawai‘i officers and future candidates for O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i chairperson and vice chairperson.

**2019-NR 2: Urging the Honolulu City Council to Support Public Education Efforts to Explain How a Simplified Health Administration Policy via the Hawai'i Health Authority or a Federal Single Payer Bill Can Lower Private Insurance Premiums in Hawai'i by 30 Percent or Replace Premiums with a Much Lower Health Tax**

Whereas, Some 28.5 million Americans lacked health insurance in 2017<sup>1</sup>; and

Whereas, Compared to 10 other high-income countries, the U.S. ranks last in health care affordability and has the highest rate of infant mortality and mortality amenable to health care<sup>2</sup>; and

Whereas, Employer-sponsored health plans are increasingly unaffordable for workers since 85 percent of these plans include an annual deductible, and the average deductible was \$1,573 for single coverage in 2018<sup>3</sup>; and

Whereas, In 2017, the U.S. spent \$3.7 trillion on health care, or 17.9 percent of the Gross Domestic Product<sup>4</sup>, twice as much per capita on health care as the average of wealthy nations that provide universal coverage<sup>5</sup>; and

Whereas, Illness and medical bills contribute to 66.5 percent of all bankruptcies, a figure that is virtually unchanged since before the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and 530,000 families suffer bankruptcies each year that are linked to illness or medical bills<sup>6</sup>; and

Whereas, Overhead consumes 12.2 percent of private insurance premiums<sup>7</sup>, while the overhead of fee-for-service Medicare is less than 2 percent<sup>8</sup>; and

Whereas, Providers are forced to spend tens of billions of dollars more dealing with insurers' billing and documentation requirements<sup>9</sup>, bringing total administrative costs to 31 percent of U.S. health spending, compared to 16.7 percent in Canada<sup>10</sup>; and

Whereas, The U.S. could save over \$500 billion annually on administrative costs with a single-payer system<sup>11</sup>; and

Whereas, Billing-driven documentation that contributes to physician burnout would be greatly reduced under a single-payer reform<sup>12</sup>; and

Whereas, The savings from slashing bureaucracy would be enough to cover all of the uninsured and eliminate cost sharing for everyone else<sup>13</sup>; and

Whereas, A single-payer system could control costs through proven-effective mechanisms such as global budgets for hospitals and negotiated drug prices<sup>14</sup>, thereby making health care financing sustainable; and

Whereas, A single-payer reform will reduce malpractice lawsuits and insurance costs because

injured patients won't have to sue for coverage of future medical expenses; and

Whereas, A single-payer system would facilitate health planning, directing capital funds to build and expand health facilities where they are needed, rather than being driven by the dictates of the market; and

Whereas, A single-payer reform will dramatically reduce, although not eliminate, health disparities (the passage of Medicare in 1965 led to the rapid desegregation of 99.6 percent of U.S. hospitals<sup>15</sup>; and

Whereas, A single-payer system will allow patients to freely choose their doctors, give physicians a choice of practice setting, and protect the doctor patient relationship; and

Whereas, There is single-payer legislation in both houses of Congress, H.R. 1384 and S. 1129; and

Whereas, HRS 322-H provides for the existence of the Hawai'i Health Authority (HHA); and

Whereas, The HHA has the statutory authority to simplify and unify administrative procedures for each private insurance company in Hawai'i, which could result in a 30 percent reduction in Hawaii Medical Service Association, Kaiser Permanente, University Health Alliance, and Medicare Advantage premiums; and

Whereas, The HHA could expand Medicaid in Hawai'i to cover those who currently do not have health insurance; and

Whereas, The HHA could direct Medicaid in Hawai'i to designate homelessness as a medical condition; and

Whereas, The cost of paying the Medicaid expenses of the chronically homeless exceeds the cost of paying market rent for their housing, and being homeless is understood to exacerbate and create both injury, illness, and economic harm to all businesses including tourism; and

Whereas, The HHA could immediately proceed along a path to a single-payer system if Hawai'i's governor would authorize it to do so; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i joins national efforts aimed at expressing support to the Honolulu City Council for public education efforts aimed at explaining how universal access to comprehensive, affordable, high-quality health care through a state based All Payer system or a single-payer national health program is both a lower cost system and a more equitable Healthcare System, for everyone, in particular for those who pay for it.



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**2019-NR 3: Urging the U.S. Government to Regulate Anti-Competitive Monopolistic Bank Discrimination**

Whereas, Hawai‘i is unique from the other U.S. States by virtue of its geographical location and isolation; and

Whereas, Hawai‘i’s geographical isolation grants local banks a natural monopoly that banks on the mainland don’t have, as if an individual speaks out against or a business possesses competition to a single bank, the party can seek banking in the next town or state over; and

Whereas, The above is not possible in Hawai‘i, and a single bank denial can mean a complete cutoff from the entire financial system; and

Whereas, They are too big to fail; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges legislation to regulate anti-competitive monopolistic bank discrimination such that if a bank is too big to fail it should not be able to unilaterally discriminate against, and sentence to financial death, any party that is legal in the U.S. and State of Hawai‘i; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional delegation, and the 2020 Convention Resolutions Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

**2019-NR 4: Urging the U.S. Government to Pass Legislation Making Real Money In-Game Items Exchangeable**

Whereas, Video game publishers are increasingly forcing micro transactions into their games against the urging of the developers; and

Whereas, These micro transactions are purchased, sometimes in a deliberately roundabout fashion, with real money; and

Whereas, Despite the advertised rarity or price of the items, the publisher can at any point unilaterally revoke, increase the supply, or remove the item from the game entirely without refund; and

Whereas, For certain games, it can cost in excess of \$1,000 to unlock all the content for the game that is already on the disc at launch, which often has a base cost of \$60; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges legislation to regulate video game publishers to make all real world currency-purchasable in-game items exchangeable between games, such that an individual can recoup at least a fraction of the sunk cost of the items; and be it

*Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional delegation, and the 2020 Convention Resolutions Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.