



REPORT OF THE CONVENTION PLATFORM COMMITTEE
O'ahu County Democrats, Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Moanalua High School | May 4, 2019

The Convention Platform Committee met at Kalakaua Middle School on April 20, 2019 to review the proposals submitted.

Two (2) proposals were submitted, one of which offered substantive changes to align the party platform with the proposed O'ahu General Plan, as amended in 2017. A copy of the platform's final draft, which contains the committee's proposed amendments, is attached.

After hearing a compelling argument in favor of strengthening the county platform significantly with specific policy recommendations so that there would no longer be any doubt or ambiguity amongst our elected officials regarding where O'ahu Democrats stand on important issues affecting us all across these islands, the Committee recommends that the proposed amendments to the Oahu County Platform be adopted by 2019 O'ahu County Convention delegates, with the proviso that the Secretary of the O'ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary:

(1) Preamble (Page 8, lines 8-26): Speaks to the historic legacy of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, by adding language underscoring our determination to uphold that legacy as bequeathed to us by our party forebears. Adds language to note O'ahu Democrats' support for the provisions of the Paris Climate Accord.

(2) Agriculture (Page 2, line 11 – page 3, line 35): Proposed amendments are as follows:

- **(Page 2, line 16)** Adds language to note that O'ahu Democrats encourage protection of our marine resources, and ensure and improve the health of our reefs and marine life.
- **(Page 2, line 26)** Adds language to "ethical and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry and eggs."
- **(Page 2, lines 38-40)** Adds language to note that O'ahu Democrats support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety.
- **(Page 2, lines 42-43)** Adds language to recognize the essential link between the availability of adequate and affordable water and low-cost electrical power as essential components of viable agricultural businesses.
- **(Page 3, lines 2-3)** Adds language to support land use planning and infrastructure development to support sustainable diversified agriculture, including low cost inter-island transportation of agricultural products.

- **(Page 3, lines 5-6)** Adds language to support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification and value-added products.
- **(Page 3, lines 8-9)** Adds language to support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step toward preserving high-grade productive lands for current and future needs.
- **(Page 3, lines 11-12)** Adds language to support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at point of entry.
- **(Page 3, lines 14-15)** Adds language to promote solid waste policies that divert green waste and food scraps for making invasive species-free compost and enhanced mulch available to our farmers, landscapers, and residents.
- **(Page 3, lines 17-19)** Adds language to support the development of new generations of farmers,” and “support increased availability of training in agriculture and related business requirements at centers of education around the state.
- **(Page 3, lines 19-20)** Adds language to support making available incentives and low-cost loans to enable new farmers to establish farming operations.
- **(Page 3, lines 22-25)** Adds language to support the establishment of agricultural parks and clustered farming lots to allow small farmers to share required utilities and utilize fertile land efficiently,’ and “support the establishment of community-supported food hubs for drying, canning, freezing, and distribution of agricultural crops and produce.
- **(Page 3, lines 27-29)** Adds language to support a more fair and equitable distribution of water and agricultural lands and the development of agricultural land trusts to keep land in farming in perpetuity and to keep land costs down.

(3) Arts and Culture (Page 3, line 37 – page 4, line 5): Proposed amendments are as follows:

- **(Page 3, line 41-42)** Adds language to support adequate funding for the arts, individual artists, and arts and cultural organizations.
- **(Page 4, lines 1-5)** Adds language to support [continued] public funding for the Arts and Humanities and for programs providing art and music education in primary and secondary schools, and protect and promote the unique artistic and cultural contributions of the artists who create and preserve Hawai‘i’s heritage.

(4) Economy and Commerce (Page 4, lines 7-26): Proposed amendments are as follows:

- **(Lines 9-10)** Added language to encourage entrepreneurs to stay in Hawaii.
- **(Lines 17-26)** Added language to encourage simplification of government processes affecting business in Hawai‘i, additional investment in higher education, and reduction of our State’s dependence upon tourism.

(5) Education (Page 4, line 28 – page 6, line 5): Proposed amendments are as follows:

- **(Page 4, lines 33-35)** Added language to support making public colleges, public universities, trade, mentorship and apprenticeship programs available, accessible, and tuition-free.
- **(Page 4, lines 37-39)** Added language to support increased funding for birth to grade 3 education and early childhood teacher education, and encourage coordination of departments so that there is Continuity of Care that includes medical providers when appropriate.

- **(Page 4, lines 41-43)** States O‘ahu Democrats’ belief that our State should have the best-educated population and workforce in the world, and adds language to make early childhood education and universal preschool a priority.
- **(Page 5, lines 1-4)** Adds language to:
 - a. Support investment in early childhood education programs like Head Start;
 - b. Support every families’ access to high-quality childcare and preschool programs; and
 - c. Support efforts to raise wages for childcare workers, and to ensure that early childhood educators are experienced and high-quality.
- **(Page 5, lines 6-10)** States the belief of O‘ahu Democrats that a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems, and adds language to support investment in high-quality STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) classes, community schools, computer science education, arts education, and expanding distance learning models and career pathways.
- **(Page 5, lines 10-13)** States the belief of O‘ahu Democrats that educational policy and curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education,” and adds language to “support the utilization of both objective and subjective means of measuring students’ performance and progress.
- **(Page 5, line 16)** Added language to support providing quality education and library services to every student regardless of learning capacity, “or ability to pay.”
- **(Page 5, lines 21-24)** Adds language to:
 - a. Support adequate funding for mandatory public education Pre-K through grade 12,
 - b. Support an additional dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education;
 - c. Support the maximum utilization of Federal funds to supplement the State’s expenditures on education; and
 - d. Oppose the practice of unfunded mandates from the Federal government.
- **(Page 5, lines 26-28)** States the belief of O‘ahu Democrats that Hawai‘i’s educational facilities must be maintained, renovated and built to 21st century standards so that our students learn in well-designed, safe environments.
- **(Page 5, lines 30-34)** Adds language to:
 - a. Support hiring the most qualified teachers, administrators and specialists for our educational system; and
 - b. Support partnerships with universities and colleges that prepare educators in Hawai‘i or elsewhere.
- **(Page 5, lines 36-38)** Adds language to underscore the support of Oahu Democrats for all efforts to ensure that our students are safe in our schools and free from violence, bullying and all forms of discrimination and bias, and to support policies in all our schools that protect, honor and address the needs of all our students.
- **(Page 5, lines 40-42)** Adds language to support the disruption of the school-to-prison pipeline by opposing disciplinary policies that disproportionately affect any particular class of students, and to support the use of restorative justice practices that help students and staff resolve conflicts peacefully and respectfully.
- **(Page 6, lines 1-5)** Adds language to:

- a. Support eliminating opportunity gaps, particularly those that lead to students from low-income communities arriving on day one of kindergarten several years behind their peers;
- b. Support equitable and adequate State funding for public education and expanding Title I funding for schools that see a high concentrations of children in poverty; and
- c. Support ending curriculum gaps that maintain and exacerbate achievement gaps.

(6) Environment and Energy (Page 6, line 7 – page 8, line 13): Proposed amendments are as follows:

- **(Page 6, line 8-14)** Adds, solely for the sake of emphasis, the entire provision of Article XI, Section 1 on the Hawai‘i State Constitution, which provides for the people of Hawai‘i an inherent right to clean air, clean water and clean land, and that the State of Hawai‘i has a fiduciary duty to the people of these islands as the trustee for their natural resources.
- **(Page 6, lines 14-20)** Reiterates that Article XI, Section 1 is a preventative doctrine and not a remedial one, which requires the State of Hawaii fulfill its duty, inter alia, to ensure the following Public Trust purposes:
 - a. Domestic water use of the general public, particularly drinking water;
 - b. The exercise of Native Hawaiian and traditional and customary rights including appurtenant rights;
 - c. Reservations of water for Hawaiian Home Land allotments, and
 - d. Maintenance of waters in their natural state.
- **(Page 6, lines 21-25)** Adds language to urge candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change, including funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.
- **(Page 6, lines 29-31)** Adds language to support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation.
- **(Page 6, lines 34-37)** States the belief of Oahu Democrats in:
 - a. The vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources;” and
 - b. “The conservation and collaborative stewardship of our shared natural heritage: the public lands and waterways, the oceans, mountains and all that makes Hawai‘i’s great outdoors priceless.
- **(Page 6, lines 37-41)** Adds language to urge action to keep Hawai‘i’s public lands public, strengthen protections for our natural and cultural resources, increase access to parks and public lands for all people, protect native species and wildlife, and harness the immense economic and social potential of our public lands and waters.
- **(Page 7, lines 1-3)** Adds language to support best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement; and support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.
- **(Page 7, lines 7-8)** Adds language to emphasize the paramount importance that we protect our fragile environment from further damage due to residential over-development and the depletion of prime agricultural land.

- **(Page 7, lines 23-28)** Adds specific language to emphasize the urgency of resolving the Red Hill fuel tank issue by no later than the year 2030.
- **(Page 7, lines 37-43)** Adds language to:
 - a. Encourage the use of clean alternative fuel sources to include our public transportation systems;
 - b. Support increasing the use of public transit, telecommuting, car and vanpooling, ridesharing, biking, walking, and other forms of transportation thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution; and
 - c. Encourage the urgent need to develop the use of a variety of cost-effective energy providing systems, encourage transit-oriented development, and support tax incentives that encourage renewable energy initiatives.
- **(Page 8, lines 8-13)** States the belief of Oahu Democrats that carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases should be priced to reflect their negative externalities, and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and help meet our climate goals, and our commitment to defending, implementing and extending smart pollution and efficiency standards and fuel economy standards for automobiles and heavy-duty vehicles, building codes and appliance standards, and to expanding clean energy research and development.

(7) Foreign Policy (Page 8, lines 15-19): Adds language to emphasize our support for a strong foreign policy that promotes peace, human rights, international cooperation and the “International” rule of law.

(8) Government and Political Reform (Page 8, line 21 – page 9, line 27): Proposed amendments are as follows:

- **(Page 8, lines 21-27)** Adds language to:
 - a. Support limitations on political, campaign or issue-related donations by organizations, corporations, and individuals;
 - b. Promote the practice of public financing of all elections, to ensure that the power to bring positive change to our county and state lies in the hands of individual voters;
 - c. Emphasize the belief of Oahu Democrats that money does not equal speech, and that corporations are not people for purposes of First Amendment protections; and
 - d. Support and encourage legislation that would limit the impact of the Citizens United decision.
- **(Page 9, lines 10-13)** Adds language to support full funding for the broadcast of all major State Legislature and County Council hearings and other proceedings including the provisions for remote testimony and funding for the televising of public hearings at the State and County levels.
- **(Page 9, lines 25-27)** Adds language to support reforms to our criminal justice system, including abolition of asset forfeiture in the absence of criminal convictions, bail reform and measures that encourage the reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals into greater society and reduces their rate of recidivism.

(9) NEW SECTION – Healthcare (Page 9, line 29 – page 10, line 12): New language is added as follows:

- **(Page 9, lines 30-33)** Adds language to assert the belief of O‘ahu Democrats that healthcare is a right and not a privilege or commodity.
- **(Page 9, lines 35-37)** Adds language to support robust funding of the Hawai‘i Health Authority (HHA) to design a statewide, unified, cost-effective healthcare system that includes comprehensive healthcare services for all, and then submit that design to the legislature for evaluation.
- **(Page 9, line 39 – page 10, line 8)** Identifies the structural components of the aforementioned statewide unified, cost-effective healthcare system.
- **(Page 10, lines 10-12)** Adds language to support a universal single-payer healthcare system similar to or better than HR 1384, Expanded and Improved Medicare For All, wherein all individuals residing in the United States and U.S. territories are provided with comprehensive healthcare services.

(10) NEW SECTION – Reducing Prescription Drug Costs (page 10, lines 14-24): New language is added as follows:

- **(Page 10, lines 15-20)** Adds language to:
 - a. Support cracking down on price gouging by drug companies and cap the amount that consumers have to pay out-of-pocket every month on prescription drugs;
 - b. “Encourage prohibiting anti-competitive pay for delay” deals that keep generic drugs off the market, and we support allowing individuals, pharmacists, and wholesalers to import prescription drugs from licensed pharmacies in Canada and other countries with appropriate safety protections; and
 - c. Urge Medicare to negotiate lower prices with drug manufacturers.
- **(Page 10, lines 22-24)** Adds language to urge Hawai‘i’s Medicaid Program to join an existing multi-state prescription drug discount purchasing group as Medicaid, and then, via the HHA’s or other State Health Agency’s ability to create a unified statewide system, enable delivery of that discount to all state residents.

(11) NEW SECTION – Enabling Cutting-Edge Medical Research (Page 10, lines 26-31): New language is added to support accelerating the pace of medical progress, investing more in our scientists and giving them the resources they need to invigorate fundamental studies in the life sciences in a growing, stable and predictable way, and to encourage progress against the full range of diseases, including diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer’s, HIV and AIDS, cancer, and other diseases, especially chronic diseases.

(11) NEW SECTION – Combatting Drug and Alcohol Addiction (Page 10, line 33 – page 11, line 2): New language is added to:

- Support confronting epidemic of drug and alcohol addiction, especially the opioid and crystal methamphetamine (Ice) crisis and other drugs plaguing our communities by vastly expanding access to prevention and treatment, supporting recovery, helping community organizations, and promoting better practices by prescribers.
- Support expanding access to care for addiction services and ensuring that insurance coverage is equal to that of any other health conditions.
- Encourage educating our youth and their families, teachers, coaches, mentors, and friends to intervene early to prevent drug and alcohol abuse and addiction.

- Encourage State and local leaders to establish evidence-based, age-appropriate, and locally-tailored prevention programs, including school-based 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.

(12) NEW SECTION – Mental Health Care (Page 11, lines 4-11): New language is added to encourage:

- Treatment of mental health issues with the same care and seriousness that we treat issues of physical health.
- Support for a robust mental health workforce.
- Promotion of better integration of the behavioral and general health care systems.
- Support for health professionals to ensure that everyone has access to mental health care.
- Expansion of community-based treatment of substance abuse disorders and mental health conditions and fully enforcing our parity law.

(13) NEW SECTION – Securing Reproductive Health Rights and Justice (Page 11, lines 13-27): New language is added to state unequivocally that O‘ahu Democrats are committed to:

- Protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights and justice.
- Ensuring that every woman enjoys full and unfettered 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.
- Combatting violence, harassment and intimidation of reproductive health providers, patients, and staff.
- Defending the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which extends affordable preventative healthcare to women, including no-cost contraception and prohibits discrimination in healthcare based on gender.
- Opposing discrimination and barriers that inhibit meaningful access to reproductive healthcare services, including those based on gender, sexuality, race, income, disability, and other factors.
- Providing quality, affordable, comprehensive healthcare, evidence-based sex education and a full range of family planning services to help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, and thereby, also reduce the need for abortions.

(14) Housing (Page 11, line 29 – page 12, line 26):

- **(Page 11, lines 36-38)** Adds language to urge that the definition of “affordable” be amended from 30% to 25% of monthly income for all income brackets.
- **(Page 11, lines 40-44)** Adds language to support families who’ve lost their homes, support those working toward financial stability, encourage sustainable home ownership for more families, and combatting escalating housing and rental costs.
- **(Page 12, lines 1-7)** Adds language to “support a substantial increase in funding to construct, preserve, and rehabilitate affordable housing rental units,” and encourage the State to do more to alleviate the perpetual shortage of available and affordable rental housing.
- **(Page 12, lines 9-17)** Adds language to:

- a. Support programs to prevent displacement of existing residents, especially in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities;
- b. Create affordable and workforce housing; and preserve neighborhood-serving nonprofit organizations and small businesses;
- c. Support reinvigorating housing production programs, repair public housing, and increase funding for rental assistance programs;
- d. Support robust funding to end homelessness in our cities and counties once and for all, through targeted investment to provide the necessary outreach, social series, and housing options for all populations experiencing homelessness; and
- e. Support engaging in a stronger, more coordinated, and better funded partnership among Federal, State, and local governments to end chronic homelessness.”
- **(Page 12, lines 19-27)** Adds clarifying language to support for proactive housing policies for economically challenged communities.

(15) Human Rights, Civil Rights and Economic Justice (Page 12, line 29 – page 14, line 13):

Proposed amendments are as follows:

- **(Page 12, lines 35-37)** Adds language to expand the concepts of “‘*ohana*” and “family” to include people regardless of sexual orientation, blood relation, marital status, or gender, gender identity or gender expression, who choose to join together to offer one another moral, spiritual and economic support.
- **(Page 12, lines 39-40)** Adds language to support full equality and nondiscrimination with respect to duties, benefits and responsibilities regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.
- **(Page 13, lines 12-21)** Provides language to reaffirm an individual’s right to self-determination for purposes of gender identification, and to reaffirm Oahu Democrats’ unequivocal support for that right.
- **(Page 13, lines 27-30)** Reaffirms our support of a strong safety net of programs to provide families with an equal opportunity to build their assets and become self-sufficient.
- **(Page 13, line 37 – page 14, line 2)** Adds language to support legislation and best practice policies that prioritize the safety, security and Well-being of our foster children, who are our most vulnerable *keiki* in our community.
- **(Page 14, lines 5-7)** Adds language to clarify the opposition of Oahu Democrats to the human trafficking of children and adults, regardless of the reasons and rationales for such an immoral and illicit trade, and our support for legislative and judicial efforts to eradicate it to the extent possible.

(16) Immigration (Page 14, lines 15-27): Adds language to:

- Denote O‘ahu Democrats’ opposition to racial profiling; and
- Support a national immigration policy that holds employers that violate immigration law accountable and provides penalties proportionate to their responsibility.

(17) NEW SECTION – Kupuna and People with Disabilities (Page 14, line 29 – page 15, line 8): New language is added to note that O‘ahu Democrats:

- Support strengthening and expanding the home care workforce, giving seniors and people with disabilities access to quality, affordable long-term care, services, and supports, and ensuring that all of these resources are readily available at home or in the community;

- Support “aging-in-place” and the kupuna caregivers program to assist family members to remain employed while providing support to kupuna including services attendant to adult day care;
- Encourage policies and programs that support “active aging” for Kupuna.

(18) Labor (Page 15, lines 10-40): Proposed amendments are as follows:

- **(Lines 11-12)** Reiterates O‘ahu Democrats’ support for efforts to build and retain a qualified workforce, and for the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively, per the Hawaii State Constitution.
- **(Lines 15-25)** Adds language to encourage state legislators to:
 - a. Raise the minimum wage;
 - b. Mandate paid family and sick leave;
 - c. build our workforce for jobs in emerging technologies, in green industries, in renovation, and in green construction, so that jobs are not dependent on ever-expanding real estate development; and
 - d. Protect workers from any form of discrimination, sexual harassment or abuse in the workplace.
- **(Lines 27-29)** Adds language to support:
 - a. Strict enforcement of union contracts;
 - b. The right of workers to unionize, to strike without job loss, to have a safe workplace, and to mediate and arbitrate disputes; and
 - c. The repeal of the anti-labor Taft-Hartley Act.
- **(Lines 30-34)** Adds language to support:
 - a. Automatic dues payment to unions;
 - b. Repeal of all “right to work” laws;
 - c. Strict laws against employers requiring credit checks or social media passwords for employment purposes;
 - d. Protection of undocumented workers from prosecution, deportation or job loss for reporting employer labor law violations; and
 - e. The Jones Act.
- **(Lines 36-40)** Adds language to support:
 - a. Programs that prepare people with disabilities for independent and productive lives; and
 - b. The elimination of glass ceilings that prevent women and minorities from advancing to the highest levels of government, education and business.

(19) NEW TITLE – Native Hawaiians and Hawaiian Culture (Page 16, line 1 – page 17, line 6): Upon consultation and deliberation with members of the Native Hawaiian Caucus, the Platform Committee is recommending to delegates of the Oahu County Convention that we reinstate much of the former language which existed in the county platform prior to last year’s amendments:

- **(Page 16, lines 2-7)** Adds language to support:
 - a. Native Hawaiian rights to self-determination in the formation of their chosen governmental entity;
 - b. Recognition of Native Hawaiians as indigenous people as provided by the U.S. Constitution, which will add to the process of Native Hawaiian self-determination; and

- c. The international rights of the Native Hawaiian people.
- **(Page 16, lines 8-14)** Adds language to support:
 - a. The Kanaka Ma`oli as they strive to retain their ancestral heritage, their former kingdom's lands and their right for self-determination;
 - b. The integration of Native Hawaiian traditions and values into Hawai'i's public policies;
 - c. The empowerment of Native Hawaiians through the support of Hawaiian Language Immersion schools and Hawaiian charter-based schools, the protection of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and the Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands (DHHL); and
 - d. Funding for the development and enhancement of Hawaiian Home Lands, and development of community-based healthcare initiatives.
- **(Page 16, lines 15-22)** Adds language to reaffirm the recognition by Oahu Democrats that the January 1893 overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i by U.S. political and business had the net effect of depriving the Native Hawaiian people of their right to self-determination.
- **(Page 16, lines 24-28)** Reaffirms the support by Oahu Democrats for the Native Hawaiians' right to self-determination and their right to reparations for the theft of land and resources, and for the protection of Native Hawaiian education programs.
- **(Page 16, lines 30-34)** Reaffirms that Native Hawaiians are legally entitled to 20% of all revenues derived from the Public Lands Trust, and urges the reinstatement of that threshold by state legislators.
- **(Page 16, line 36 – page 17, line 6)** Adds language to support:
 - a. Hawaiian language immersion schools that contribute to the revitalization and continuation of the Hawaiian language and appropriate assessments that accurately reflect Hawaiian language immersion students' progress and support the Hawaiian language immersion program;
 - b. Hawaiian-focused schools and courses that provide culturally-based education in order to maximize choices in life and work;
 - c. Educational programming and efforts that embody Hawaiian values, language, culture and history as a foundation to prepare students for success in college, trades school, CTE (career technical education), career and communities; and
 - d. The growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing practices. We value and wish to foster the preservation of our host culture.

(20) Safety, Security, Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies (Page 17, lines 7-24): Adds language to support appropriate training and funding for less than lethal weapons, i.e. conducted energy devices (CEDs) such as the Taser, pepper spray, 12-gauge shotgun-delivered bean bags, and plastic/rubber balls, for all law enforcement officers, sheriffs, DLNR enforcement agents and other appropriate agency personnel.

(21) Technology (Page 17, line 26 – page 18, line 18): Proposed amendments are as follows:

- **(Page 17, lines 31-32)** Adds language in support of requiring computer literacy for all high school graduates.
- **(Page 17, lines 34-40)** Adds language to support ambitious public and private investments in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, and the creation of clean energy jobs with fair, well-paying wages in our communities.

- **(Page 17, line 42 – page 18, line 4)** Adds language to support education of the State’s workforce, entrepreneurship, and the use of new technology to create higher-paying jobs, bring more people into the workforce, and reduce inequality.
- **(Page 18, lines 6-11)** Adds language to urge the State to adopt a comprehensive a high-speed broadband policy to increase internet adoption and help hook up anchor institutions so they can offer free WiFi to the public, and deploy 5G technology for faster internet connections to underserved areas.
- **(Page 18, lines 16-18)** Adds language to support the University of Hawai‘i in its mission to increase awareness in science, technology and exploration to better understand our place in the universe and inspire and educate generations of young people in Hawai‘i to pursue a career in science.

(22) Transportation (Page 18, lines 20-38): Proposed amendments are as follows:

- **(Lines 21-23)** Adds language to support efforts to promote less reliance on fossil fuel and to support energy-efficient methods of transportation.
- **(Lines 24-25)** Adds language to urge county, state and federal officials to support efforts to provide more efficient and punctual convenient methods of public transportation, to include but not limited to, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, bicycle paths and lanes, mass transit, highways, airports, and ferry systems._
- **(Lines 26-27)** Adds language to support the allocation of resources including public funds to address all necessary transportation issues, including increased funding for mass transit.
- **(Lines 37-38)** Adds language to support the development of alternative emergency options for potential evacuation with special attention to rural areas that only have one access point.

(23) NEW TITLE – U.S. Military and Veterans Affairs (Page 18, line 40 – page 20, line 2):
Proposed amendments are as follows:

- **(Page 18, line 44 – page 19, line 5)** Adds language to urge the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to provide truly patient-centered care, such as providing women with full and equal treatment, including reproductive health services; expanding mental health programs; continuing effort to identify and treat invisible, latent, and toxic wounds of war; treating post-traumatic stress; and expanding the post-9/11 veteran’s caregiver program to include all veterans
- **(Page 19, lines 9-12)** Adds language to:
 - a. Support efforts to adequately fund the Hawai‘i Office of Veterans Services and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs;
 - b. Support supplementing VA healthcare with community care when needed;
 - c. Support the VA as a veteran’s primary medical care coordinator; and
 - d. Oppose further attempts to privatize VA healthcare.
- **(Page 19, lines 14-19)** Adds language to support full funding for the Veterans Treatment Court Program throughout the state.
- **(Page 19, lines 27-28)** Adds language to support the expansion of the presumption of herbicide exposure for veterans who served in the territorial waters of Vietnam during the Vietnam War, collectively known as Blue Water Veterans.
- **(Page 19, lines 30-33)** Adds language to support veterans by securing additional educational benefits and job training, ending chronic homelessness and combat-related suicide, and protecting and preserving the post-9/11 G.I. Bill for future generations.

- **(Page 19, lines 34-35)** Adds language to urge that military reservists and Guard members are treated fairly when it comes to employment health, education benefits, deployment, and reintegration.
- **(Page 19, lines 7-43)** Adds language to reiterate O‘ahu Democrats’ full support for diversity in the ranks of U.S. armed forces and national guard personnel, and to oppose any policies that ban or limit the ability of transgender people from serving their country through military service.
- **(Page 20, lines 1-2)** Adds language to reiterate O‘ahu Democrats’ opposition to war profiteering and the privatization of combat through employment of paramilitary contractors, especially the award of no-bid or sole source contracts.

(24) NEW SECTION – Protecting Our ‘Aina (Page 20, lines 4-10): Adds language to urge protection of our ‘āina from long-term degradation and prevention of harm to our cultural and community assets, as a result of military practices and training, and express our expectation that the military will restore, replace, reforest, and remove all unexploded ordnances and used shells from the damaged area.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

/s/ *Melodie Aduja*
MELODIE ADUJA (48-01)
 Committee Co-Chair

/s/ *Donald Koelper*
DONALD KOELPER (18-01)
 Committee Co-Chair

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Alan Burdick (33-02)
Ken Jacob (22-02)
Martha Nakajima (22-02)
Palasi Sam Puleasi (40-02)
Mahealani Cypher (48-05) (abstained)
Carolyn Golojuch (42-01) (abstained)

**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 21st 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 Hawaiʻi 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 Hawaiʻi’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 Hawaiʻi’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 Hawaiʻi.

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 Hawaiʻi’s great outdoors priceless. We need policies and
38 investments that will keep Hawaiʻi’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 21st 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.

19 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.

39 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

