

# **O‘AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI‘I**

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS 2019 O‘ahu County Convention Resolutions Committee Meeting Kalākaua Middle School Saturday, April 20, 2019**

TO: O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

The Convention Committee on Resolutions met on Saturday, April 20, 2019. The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:15 a.m. and was adjourned at 1 p.m.

The committee considered 33 resolutions submitted via email by April 18, 2019, 4:30 p.m., as pursuant to O‘ahu County Convention Rule 4-B. One (1) resolution was brought to the committee on the day-of for late consideration by a two-thirds vote of the committee members, pursuant to O‘ahu County Bylaws section 11.3, which failed. Of the 33 resolutions considered, 26 of them are recommended by the committee for adoption by the O‘ahu County Convention delegates; four (4) are not recommended for adoption; and three (3) have been withdrawn by the moving delegate.

The committee used a process that was open to all members of the O‘ahu County Democrats in good standing who wished to submit proposals and attend the deliberations of the committee. Whenever possible, the drafter of the resolution was invited to summarize the contents and intent of the resolution, as well as to answer questions and comment on proposed amendments from the committee. Two (2) observers were present for part of the meeting, and other guests that did not sign in were sometimes present along with the committee members. The committee chairs made sure to only count committee members during voting. The committee thanks its member, Stephanie Fitzpatrick, for acting as scribe and inputting suggested amendments using track-changes, for review by the committee, before votes to amend were taken. This was helpful as many members had not had a chance to review the documents ahead of time.

The co-chairs would like to recommend that, for future conventions, the planning chairs set a deadline for document submissions at least two (2) weeks in advance of the pre-convention committee meetings to give committee members ample time to review documents ahead of time. The co-chairs feel this would help move discussion along more quickly and ensure that committee members have an easier time making informed votes. The co-chairs would also like to recommend that the future convention planning co-chairs emphasize that resolutions already adopted in the past are still in effect, and new resolutions dealing with the same topic must have a different ask, or must be structured as amendments to prior resolutions already adopted.

The co-chairs would like to thank the participating committee members and guests for ample, fair, amicable, and relatively concise discussion that allowed us to review all of the submitted resolutions in the allotted time frame. Substantive amendments in the resolutions presented here were made in-committee by consensus of a majority of committee members present. Technical, non-substantive changes and stylistic revisions in the resolutions presented here were undertaken by the co-chairs after adoption to conform to the O‘ahu County Convention Rules and the convention rules of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

With aloha,

Will Caron  
Committee Co-Chair

Becky Gardner  
Committee Co-Chair

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

1. Co-Chair Will Caron, 20-2
2. Co-Chair Becky Gardner, 20-1
3. Michele Golojuch, 42-3
4. Nathaniel Harmon, 21-3
5. Jun Shin, 26-1
6. Carlos Santana, 28-3
7. Martha Torney, 20-2
8. Debbie Shimizu, 31-3
9. Nate Hix, 20-3
10. Stephanie Fitzpatrick, 24-3
11. David Farrell, 20-3
12. Charessa Fryc, 29-2
13. Ronson Fox, 31-5
14. Aileen Wada, 33-5

### Observers:

1. Leimomi Khan, 26-3
2. Justin Salisbury, 26-2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, President Trump has vetoed said resolution; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## NOT RECOMMENDED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## References

1. "Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2017," U.S. Census Bureau, September 2018.
2. Schneider, et al., "Mirror, Mirror 2017: International comparison reflects flaws and opportunities for better U.S. health care," Commonwealth Fund, July 17, 2017.
3. Claxton, et al., "Health benefits in 2018: Modest growth in premiums, higher worker contributions at firms with more low-wage workers," Health Affairs, October 2018.
4. "National Health Expenditures Fact Sheet 2017," U.S. Centers for Medicare &
5. Sawyer and Cox, "How does health spending in the U.S. compare to other countries?" Kaiser Family Foundation, December 7, 2018.
6. Himmelstein et al., "Medical bankruptcy: Still common despite the Affordable Care Act," American Journal of Public Health, March 1, 2019.
7. National Health Expenditure Accounts, U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, December 2018.
8. 2018 Annual Report of the Boards of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds, June 2018.
9. Morra, et al., "U.S. physician practices versus Canadians: spending nearly four times as much money interacting with payers," Health Affairs, August 2011.
10. Woolhandler, et al., "Costs of health administration in the U.S. and Canada," NEJM, Sept. 21, 2003.
11. Woolhandler and Himmelstein, "Single-payer reform: The only way to fulfill the President's pledge of more coverage, better benefits, and lower costs," Annals of Internal Medicine, April 2017.
12. Downing, et al., "Physician burnout in the electronic health record era: Are we ignoring the real cause?" Annals of Internal Medicine, July 3, 2018.
13. Pollin, et al., "Economic analysis of Medicare for All," Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, November 30, 2018.
14. Marmor and Oberlander, "From HMOs to ACOs: The Quest for the Holy Grail in U.S. Health Policy," Journal of General Internal Medicine, March 13, 2012.
15. Himmelstein and Woolhandler, "Medicare's rollout vs. Obamacare's glitches

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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