

Report of the Convention Resolutions Committee
O'ahu County Democrats, Democratic Party of Hawai'i
April 22, 2021

The 2021 Convention Resolutions Committee met online via Zoom over four sessions on April 10, 15, 17, and 22, 2021. Presiding Officer was Betty Vega. TJ Jasper served as Scribe. Sunyeen Pai served as Document Manager, and Zoom Administrator was Lynn Hiyakumoto (non-voting member).

Fourteen (14) proposed resolutions were submitted.

The 2021 Convention Resolutions Committee **recommends** the following ten (10) resolutions (Part I) be adopted by the 2021 O'ahu County eConvention delegates with the provision that the Secretary of O'ahu County Committee shall have authority to correct any non-substantive errors and make conforming changes as necessary.

2021-01: Urging the O'ahu County Democrats to endorse the Digital Equity Declaration adopted by the Broadband Hui and take steps to support its goals

2021-02: Recognizing outstanding performance of Sharlette L. Poe, U.S. Census Bureau Partnership Specialist-Hawai'i

2021-03: Honoring Marsha Rose Joyner

2021-04: Urging our elected officials to include the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community in homelessness response planning

2021-05: Honoring Jean Fujinaga

2021-06: Urging the State Legislature and the City and County of Honolulu to keep suitable agricultural lands for agriculture and keep agricultural lands affordable for farming

2021-07: Supporting legislative action to end the commercial harvesting of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade

2021-08: Honoring Faye Kennedy

2021-09: Honoring Michele Yooko Matsuo

2021-10: Urging the Hawaii State Legislature to ban the sale of sunscreens that contain the toxic chemicals avobenzone and octocrylene that are harmful to human life, wildlife, and coral reefs

The 2021 Convention Resolutions Committee **does not recommend** the following four (4) resolutions (Part II) be adopted by the 2021 O'ahu County eConvention delegates.

2021-11: Urging the Department of Defense Missile Defense Agency to resist siting the Homeland Defense Radar-Hawai'i at the Kahuku Training Area Site 1

2021-12: Encourage the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu to promote ocean safety tourism

2021-13: Urging the Solid Waste Branch of the Division of Environmental Services of the City and County of Honolulu to change its manner of converting waste to energy from H-POWER to FastOx gasification

2021-14: Urging the Public Utilities Commission, HECO, the Honolulu City Council, and all other relevant decision-makers to disapprove a transition of the Kapolei Power Plant to KES Energy Storage

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Resolutions Committee,

Betty B. Vega
Co-Chair

TJ Jasper
Co-Chair

Members in Attendance

April 10, 2021 - Called to Order 12:06 pm; Recessed 2:05 pm

Voting Members - Melodie Aduja, Juanita Brown Kawamoto, George Casen, Douglas Chafe, Will Caron, Mike Grimes, TJ Jasper, Jo Jordan, Dennis Jung, Flora Obayashi, Sunyeen Pai, Larry Smith, Betty Vega, Cora Yamamoto

Guests/Observers - Lynn Otaguro, Judy Parrish, Carlos Santana

April 15, 2021 - Called to Order 6:01 pm; Recessed 8:02 pm

Voting Members - Melodie Aduja, Juanita Brown Kawamoto, George Casen, Douglas Chafe, Will Caron, Mike Grimes, TJ Jasper, Jo Jordan, Dennis Jung, Stephen Laudig, Flora Obayashi, Sunyeen Pai, Makana Paris, Larry Smith, Betty Vega, Cora Yamamoto

Guests/Observers - Lynn Otaguro, Judy Parrish, Carlos Santana

April 17, 2021 - Called to Order 12:00 pm; Recessed 2:02 pm

Voting Members - Melodie Aduja, Juanita Brown Kawamoto, George Casen, Douglas Chafe, Will Caron, Mike Grimes, Carl Jacobs, Jo Jordan, Dennis Jung, Stephen Laudig, Flora Obayashi, Sunyeen Pai, Larry Smith, Betty Vega, Cora Yamamoto

Guests/Observers - Judy Parrish

April 22, 2021 - Called to Order 6:00 pm; Adjourned 7:40 pm

Voting Members - Melodie Aduja, Juanita Brown Kawamoto, Alan Campo, George Casen, Douglas Chafe, Will Caron, TJ Jasper, Jo Jordan, Dennis Jung, Flora Obayashi, Sunyeen Pai, Larry Smith, Betty Vega, Cora Yamamoto.

Guests/Observers - Carlos Santana.

Part I
Resolutions Recommended for Adoption

2021-01: Urging the O'ahu County Democrats to endorse the Digital Equity Declaration adopted by the Broadband Hui and take steps to support its goals

Whereas, The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing caused many in-person services to shut down; and

Whereas, Digital access became critical for essential services and participation in many aspects of the economy and community life; and

Whereas, Residents who lack adequate broadband infrastructure, internet-capable devices, affordable high quality broadband service and digital literacy are unable to access services or participate in activities that require internet use; and

Whereas, The lack of digital access and literacy is especially problematic for those living in rural communities or who are socioeconomically disadvantaged; and

Whereas, During this time, individuals representing government, business, education, and non-profits from within the state and nationally, came together to discuss issues concerning digital equity and formed the Broadband Hui; and

Whereas, The Broadband Hui created and adopted a Digital Equity Declaration; and

Whereas, The Digital Equity Declaration defines digital equity as “the condition in which all Hawai'i's residents, keiki to kupuna, have the information technology capacity needed to participate fully in our society, democracy and economy, including civics, social and cultural activities, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services;” and

Whereas, The Digital Equity Declaration sets forth goals to enable all Hawai'i residents to use digital resources to be connected and successful in their lives, including access, literacy, and livelihood, so that Hawai'i residents will have access to quality internet and training and support to use technology, and be able to participate in education, health, government, commerce, and culture with those digital resources; and

Whereas, The Digital Equity Declaration also sets forth goals for government, healthcare, culture and art, education, and business to help build structures to ensure that resources and services are available to all residents and communities; and

Whereas, Digital Equity will benefit our people and communities, our economy, and our city and state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i adopt the Broadband Hui's Digital Equity Declaration and take steps to support its goals; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Hawai'i State Legislators for the island of O'ahu who are members of the Democratic Party, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and all members of the Honolulu City Council.

2021-02: Recognizing outstanding performance of Sharlette L. Poe, U.S. Census Bureau Partnership Specialist-Hawai'i

Whereas, The Census Bureau's mission is to serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy; and

Whereas, The decennial census counts the United States population and households, providing the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support states, counties and communities' vital programs; and

Whereas, In fiscal year 2016, Hawai'i received \$3,682,543,845 through 55 federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 Census, the 2020 Census will determine federal funding to the states, and fair and equitable distribution in future fiscal years; and

Whereas, The O'ahu County Committee passed a resolution to support the 2020 Census and became a Community Partner through its Affirmative Action Committee, Census Subcommittee with the Census Bureau in Hawaii through its Partnership Specialist, Sharlette L. Poe, who developed and executed a plan to assure full participation in the Census Bureau's first time to accept responses online, by phone, or mail; and

Whereas, Sharlette L. Poe, personally and through her staff, substantially engaged attendees at nine region legislative priorities meetings across O'ahu held by the O'ahu County Committee October through November 2019 to speak, answer questions, provide brochures, and explain how "Your 'Ohana Counts" in the 2020 Census; and

Whereas, Sharlette L. Poe kept engaged with the Census Subcommittee throughout 2020 to guide efforts in the "Kick-Up" campaign and "Social Media Blitz" so more people in Hawai'i, despite COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, would respond to the Census, and to continuously monitor the status of self-response rates for focused contact up until the October 15, 2020 deadline; and

Whereas, Based on the collective efforts of many citizen's groups, members of Complete County Committees, and community partners working with Partnership Specialist Sharlette L. Poe, the state of Hawai'i counted 99.9% of households through self-response and by Census enumerators; and

Whereas, Sharlette L. Poe continued her outstanding engagement into 2021 keeping Community Partners informed on Census data releases and available training to make the most of Census data for affirmative action, diversity, equity, and inclusion purposes; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i sincerely thank Sharlette L. Poe for her dedication to duty, professionalism, outstanding community engagement, and boundless energy that contributed to successful enumeration in the state of Hawaii for the 2020 Census; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Community Partnership and Engagement Program/2020 Decennial Census/Los Angeles Region Office (which oversees Census work in Alaska, California, Hawai'i, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington).

2021-03: Honoring Marsha Rose Joyner

Whereas, Marsha Rose Joyner was born in Baltimore, Maryland, into a family whose fight for Black equality and justice goes back more than 140 years; and

Whereas, Marsha Rose Joyner honored the legacy of her Great-Granduncle, John Oliver, who was born a slave, became an attorney, was on the Grand Jury that indicted Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States; and

Whereas, Marsha Rose Joyner devoted a lifetime to the struggle for equality for all; and

Whereas, Her family on her mother's side owned and operated the *Afro-American*, one of the largest and best-known chains of Black-owned newspapers in the United States; and

Whereas, Marsha recognized the struggle for equality was not an individual endeavor, saying, "It [civil rights] was always something that was a part of my life because the newspaper fought against discrimination for more than a hundred years. I think for most African Americans and other minorities, that was always a way of life, the struggle against this whole way of life in America. It wasn't just the South, it was all of the United States;" and

Whereas, When the United States Supreme Court decided *Brown v. Board of Education*, Marsha was one of five students admitted to Baltimore's Western High School in September 1954, even though the school's principal said, "I will never see a colored girl graduate from my school;" and

Whereas, Marsha served as the President of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition of Hawai'i, she was also one of the original people who fought to make Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a holiday in Hawai'i; and

Whereas, Marsha Rose Joyner was a pioneer in the Civil Rights Movement and a bold Civil Rights advocate her entire lifetime; and

Whereas, Marsha Rose Joyner dedicated much of her time to promoting and supporting the Democratic Party both in Hawai'i and nationally; and

Whereas, Marsha Rose Joyner contributed numerous hours as a volunteer for countless Democratic Party candidates and campaigns; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognize the legacy of Marsha Rose Joyner as a pioneer in the Civil Rights Movement; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i honor the life of Marsha Rose Joyner (May 22, 1938 to April 10, 2021) and acknowledge the impact she has left on the Democratic Party, the State of Hawai'i, and the United States of America; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Marsha's husband, Kenneth R. Joyner, and the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and all elected officials who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

2021-04: Urging our elected officials to include the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community in homelessness response planning

Whereas, Our streets are overflowing with our neighbors without homes that may be due to poverty, substance abuse, and mental health needs; and

Whereas, In Hawai'i, 45 in every 10,000 people (more than double the national average) were homeless in 2019 according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress while the national average was 17 people per 10,000; and

Whereas, Most of Hawai'i's homeless population lives on O'ahu, more than 4,400 people, according to the island's 2019 point-in-time count, and more than half of these people are unsheltered, living on sidewalks, in parks and in other public places not meant for human habitation, and homelessness has steadily increased on O'ahu over the last decade; and

Whereas, The State Homeless Coordinator clarified there is a particular need for mental health and substance abuse services in addition to housing to address homelessness; and

Whereas, The O'ahu Mayor's Office on Housing issued a report entitled, "Unsheltered in Honolulu" that examined unsheltered homelessness in Honolulu from 2017 to 2020, which noted that, "the majority of all 7,496 unique individuals counted as unsheltered in the 2017-2020 point-in-time reports identified Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders at 54%, almost a third identified as White at 32%, and the remainder as multiracial or Asian; and

Whereas, The Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) issued a State of Hawai'i Draft Consolidated Plan PY2021 Annual Action Plan (Plan) which provides for a five-year strategy, including a market analysis to address the housing needs of Hawai'i's citizens through the State's administration of the HOME Investment Partnerships, National Housing Trust Fund, Emergency Solutions Grant and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS programs; and

Whereas, The Plan ensures that jurisdictions receiving federal assistance for housing and related needs of low-income and moderate-income families to improve the availability and affordability of decent, safe, and sanitary housing in suitable living environments; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge our elected officials who are members of the Democratic Party, to study, reflect upon, and speak up in advocacy for the homeless in our community, especially those suffering from substance abuse and/or in need of mental health services; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Mayor's Office on Housing, members of the Honolulu City Council, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Department of Hawaiian Homelands to work with HHFDC to assure that the largest unsheltered population consisting of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders be properly represented in the Plan; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Hawai'i State Legislators for the island of O'ahu who are members of the Democratic Party, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, all members of the Honolulu City Council, Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

2021-05: Honoring Jean Fujinaga

Whereas, Jean Fujinaga was born on January 7, 1940 in 'Aiea, Hawai'i; and

Whereas, She enjoyed writing so much that as a ninth-grader, she was hired at the Honolulu Star-Bulletin as an editor of The 'Aiea Cannus Speak and as a correspondent would visit the 'Aiea Community Association for news on the 'Aiea community; and

Whereas, At Waipahu High School, she was a page editor of The Cane Tassel and was a member of the Honor Society as a sophomore; and

Whereas, She received a \$180 'Aiea Lion's Club Scholarship to attend the University of Hawai'i (UH), Manoa and thereafter she worked three summers at the Del Monte Cannery earning \$200 a year to pay for her tuition at UH without having to ask her parents; and

Whereas, She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa, and a Master of Arts in English from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); and

Whereas, She strived to achieve her Master's Degree English because of the need for Community College teachers but when she returned to Hawai'i, there were no community colleges at that time; and

Whereas, She was an instructor in English at the University of Hawai'i in the fall of 1965, and pursued graduate work at the University of Hawai'i in Educational Philosophy; and

Whereas, She received her Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University, and a Doctor of Philosophy from Columbia University; and

Whereas, Jean Fujinaga became a bold feminist in the 1960s; and

Whereas, She worked as a legislative aide for Congressional Representative Patsy Mink, in her Washington D.C. office and she also worked for State Representative Tom Okamura; and

Whereas, Jean Fujinaga devoted most of her life to public service behind the scenes working for Patsy T. Mink, Tom Okamura, and the Governors' Association; and

Whereas, Jean spent hundreds of hours organizing the Aiealani Senior Citizens' Group at the City and County of Honolulu's 'Aiea District Park, and at the 'Aiea Public Library as her parents were active in both institutions and she desired to continue in their legacy and heritage, and to remain a part of the community; and

Whereas, Jean's thoughts included, "My roots are here in 'Aiea. I have done many interesting things in my life because I have not been afraid"; and

Whereas, Jean Fujinaga supported dozens of campaigns of Democrats from the 1950s until her last day of life on February 7, 2021; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i honor the life and work of Jean Fujinaga (January 7, 1940 to February 7, 2021); and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to her brother, Paul Fujinaga, and the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and all elected officials who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

2021-06: Urging the State Legislature and the City and County of Honolulu to keep suitable agricultural lands for agriculture and keep agricultural lands affordable for farming

Whereas, Almost all the eastern half of O'ahu are designated for agricultural use amid a sea of urban and conservation land; and

Whereas, The Olomana Heights residential development is offering lots starting at \$1 million for two acres but using farmland for luxury homes is not a good thing when the O'ahu County is trying to grow more of the food it consumes; and

Whereas, Many farmers and residents of O'ahu disagree with using agricultural lands for "gentlemen estates; and

Whereas, County-level zoning laws generally allow farm dwellings, defined as single-family homes where owners can live on the land that they farm; however, the definition is broad, it does not have to be merely an accessory to a working farm but it can be mainly a residence so long as there is some token agricultural activity going on; and

Whereas, Landowners can generally make more money using land for luxury homes rather than for growing crops causing the proliferation of "fake farms;" and

Whereas, The Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting proposed agricultural uses for "farm dwellings" include the planting of fruit trees, vegetables and herbs, and the county ordinance allows for many other uses without a special permit, including aquaculture, composting, roadside stands, sawmills, and livestock grazing and production; and

Whereas, For a bona fide farmer, farmland is just too expensive given that farmers have to compete for farmland being used for luxury housing developments; and

Whereas, Fake Farm developments cause agricultural land to be divided up into small parcels, many of which become too small for commercial farming uses; and

Whereas, Larger tracts of land provide economies of scale so that farmers and ranchers can efficiently produce food and allows farmers and ranchers to diversify and fallow the land between crops for better productivity and less pest pressure; and

Whereas, Agricultural zoning efforts have to conserve parcel size into productive units in order to provide suitable, adequate farmland to maintain productive and feasible agricultural farmland; and

Whereas, Non-agricultural uses on agriculture land drive up the cost of agricultural lands making it difficult for farmers to own or lease lands and farmers need affordable housing for themselves and their farm workers; and

Whereas, The requirements that a "farm dwelling" must truly be an accessory to the farm and farm operations must produce \$10,000 annually are necessary conditions to discourage gentleman farms; and

Whereas, To improve food security for O'ahu, bona fide agriculture has to be protected; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the State Legislature and the City Council are urged to preserve lands zoned for agriculture to be used primarily for productive agricultural purposes only; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Hawai'i State Legislators for the island of O'ahu who are members of the Democratic Party, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and all members of the Honolulu City Council.

2021-07: Supporting legislative action to end the commercial harvesting of reef wildlife for the aquarium pet trade

Whereas, Hawai'i's coral reefs and the wildlife dependent upon them are severely threatened by the commercial harvesting of reef wildlife which is driven by the aquarium pet trade outside Hawai'i, in addition to climate-change-induced ocean warming and acidification, pollution, and sedimentation; and

Whereas, Climate change is forecast to kill 70% of Hawai'i's coral reefs over the next 30 years; and

Whereas, The aquarium pet trade targets certain herbivorous fish for ornamental purposes; and

Whereas, Fish are key for coral reef survival in the face of climate change, among other reasons because they keep algae in check and prevent it from overtaking stressed corals; and

Whereas, Commercial aquarium catch reports reveal that collection of the herbivorous yellow tang, *kole*, orangespine unicornfish (*umaumalei*), and Achilles tang (*paku'iku'i*) in Kāne'ohe Bay, O'ahu, dramatically increased with the yellow tang take exceeding the average island-wide take going back to 2000; and

Whereas, Coral reefs and the wildlife dependent upon marine life are a Public Trust resource "held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people;" and

Whereas, By reducing the abundance of marine life and diminishing the beauty and health of Hawai'i's coral reefs, the aquarium trade degrades the value and limits the myriad of benefits provided by these critical ecosystems; and

Whereas, Commercial harvesting of reef wildlife for sale for ornamental purpose outside Hawai'i is neither compatible with the local values and lifestyles of Hawai'i's residents, nor does it significantly contribute to the quality of life or economy of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, This highly destructive and wasteful enterprise can no longer be justified, nor be mitigated by mere regulation, given the challenges with enforcement; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Legislature to immediately take action to end commercial harvesting of our coral reef wildlife, especially herbivores, for the aquarium pet trade; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Hawai'i State Legislators for the island of O'ahu who are members of the Democratic Party, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and all members of the Honolulu City Council.

2021-08: Honoring Faye Kennedy

Whereas, Faye Kennedy was the daughter of Wiley Choice and Zella Rae Jackson Kennedy, born April 3, 1931, in Kansas City, Missouri, she married Patrick Joseph Daly (1931-2015) January 7, 1961 and she received her Associates of Arts degree from Pasadena City College in California in 1951, her Bachelor of Arts degree from Hunter College in New York in 1955, and a Certificate of Alliance Francaise in Paris in 1956, and she was a vocational counselor at the New York State Division of Employment in New York City from 1957 to 1965, a social worker for the New York State Parole Division in New York City from 1965 to 1977, and also a parole officer fighting for prison reform before moving to Hawai'i more than 40 years ago, and along with her sister, Florynce "Flo" Kennedy (a key member of the Civil Rights movement), together and apart, they spent their lives fighting for civil rights; and

Whereas, Faye's background and education gave her both a deep understanding and a powerful voice on issues of racial minorities, women, sexual orientation, disabilities, and all other forms of discrimination, and all the groups that she joined were multiracial and multigenerational, she understood the real value of diversity and inclusiveness and social justice; and

Whereas, Faye was a deeply respected member of the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (1994 – 2008) and served as a Hawai'i State Delegate to four Democratic National Conventions in Chicago (1996), Los Angeles (2000), Boston (2004), and Denver (2008, for Hawai'i's own Presidential Nominee Barack Obama); and

Whereas, She made an impact at every level, from the grassroots community level on her Neighborhood Board, at the State level with the Civil Rights Commission, and at the Federal level with the U.S. Advisory Council on Civil Rights, among many other civil rights activists groups; and

Whereas, Faye served as Co-Chair of the Hawai'i Friends for Civil Rights since 2007, 1st Vice President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People–Hawai'i from 2003 to 2007, President of the Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus, Hawai'i Yacht Club since 2003, and a Board Member of Hawai'i Youth at Risk from 1991 to 1994, American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i from 1992 to 2002, and Hawai'i Literacy, Inc. from 1987 to 1997; and

Whereas, Faye was a member of numerous civil rights groups, including the Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women since 2004, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition of Hawai'i from 1989 to 1993; Hawai'i Advisory Committee of the United States Civil Rights Commission from 1990 to 2007, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women from 1993 to 1995, Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission from 1995 to 2003, and was listed as a notable social worker and author by Marquis Who's Who, and in 1976, authored and published a book entitled, *Goodbye Diane*; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes the legacy of Faye Kennedy as a steadfast pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement, where she dedicated her life to being a champion for all vulnerable groups, not just African American, in a multicultural society; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i honor the life of Faye Kennedy (April 3, 1931 - February 28, 2020) and acknowledge the impact of she has left on the Democratic Party, the State of Hawaii, and the United States of America; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Neighborhood Board Commission, Hawai'i Friends for Civil Rights, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People-Hawai'i Chapter, Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus, Hawai'i Youth at Risk, the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Literacy, Inc., Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition of Hawai'i, the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and all elected officials who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

2021-09: Honoring Michele Yooko Matsuo

Whereas, Michele Yooko Matsuo was born on September 1, 1956, the only child of Theodore “Ted” Seigoro and Dorothy Itsue (Nekomoto) Matsuo of Honolulu, and Michele’s father, Ted, was a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, very active in the 442nd Veterans Club, and her mother, Dorothy, authored two books on the 442nd, *Boyhood to War – History and Anecdotes of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team*, and *Silent Valor – The Story of the 442nd Medics*; and

Whereas, With all of their family’s focus on the Nisei veterans of World War II, Michele grew up surrounded by these brave men, attended their meetings and events, and remained close friends with them over the years, even after her father’s passing in 2005, and Michele was exceptionally devoted to these Nisei veterans, assuring that their historic accomplishments would be remembered; and

Whereas, She was an active board member and secretary of the 442nd Veterans Club and a board member of the 442nd Legacy Center, whose mission was to perpetuate the memory of the Nisei soldiers and to care for the 442nd Veterans Club building in Mo’ili’ili; and

Whereas, Michele attended the University Lab School as her mother was a health services administrator at the University of Hawai’i (UH), Manoa, and after graduating from college, she received her Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University, passed the Hawai’i bar examination and practiced law for 42 years in private practice; and

Whereas, Michele was a member of the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i representing Senate District 10 (2010-2012), District Chair for House District 23 in Manoa (2006-2008), served as chair of the Education Caucus (2016-2018), helped numerous Democratic Party political campaigns, giving political advice and oftentimes serving as a bridge between older Democrats, particularly Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) and younger Democrats, and she worked tirelessly for Democratic candidates since her childhood until her last day on Earth December 22, 2020, and she was deeply passionate in her fight for the protection of the indigenous pueo, the Hawaiian owl, in its UH West nesting grounds; and

Whereas, She served as a Commissioner on the Real Estate Commission in 1989 and dedicated her life to the Manoa community through many organizations and the Democratic Party of Hawai’i; and

Whereas, Michele served as Vice-President and Director of Allegra Publishing Company, Inc., and Vice-President and Director of family-owned Strategy Pacifica, Inc., her pride and joy was in her daughter, Allegra, where they started Allegra’s clothing design business called “The Kitty Caffe” as they were both avid travelers specializing in clothing that could withstand the rigors of travel; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O’ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i recognizes the legacy of Michele Matsuo as a steadfast member of the State Central Committee for Senate District 10, House District 23 Chair, dedicated champion of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i, the Manoa Community, and the legacy of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; and be it

Resolved, That the O’ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i honor the life of Michele Matsuo (September 1, 1956 to December 22, 2020) and acknowledge the impact she has left on the Democratic Party and the State of Hawai’i; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to her husband, Bradley John Mossman, her daughter, Allegra Somei Kealohikeaokalani Matsuo Mossman, and the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i, and all elected officials that are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i; and the 442nd Veterans Club and 442nd Legacy Center.

2021-10: Urging the Hawaii State Legislature to ban the sale of sunscreens that contain the toxic chemicals avobenzone and octocrylene that are harmful to human life, wildlife, and coral reefs

Whereas, More and more research shows that avobenzone and octocrylene are life-threatening to O'ahu's reefs and human life, including keiki; and

Whereas, Fifty organizations, businesses, individuals, and eminent scientists, representing more than 1,000 constituents and concerned citizens have voiced their concern over these harmful chemicals which are being used and sold in sunscreen products; and

Whereas, There is overwhelming evidence showing these chemicals are unsafe and ineffective as sunscreen that are known worldwide as damaging reef toxins that irreversibly interfere with the life cycles of O'ahu's marine life, including coral, algae, fish, shellfish, sea urchins, and marine mammals; and

Whereas, Avobenzone can cause hormonal disruptions and has been shown to be toxic to marine plants; and

Whereas, Octocrylene is a chemical pollutant prevalent in coastal environments and has been found in O'ahu's reefs; and

Whereas, Research shows that octocrylene collects in coral tissue and reduces their resistance to coral bleaching, and is a hormone disruptor that has been shown to cause deformities in the brains and reproductive organs of developing fish, possibly threatening entire populations, and octocrylene has been detected in fish and shellfish that are consumed by O'ahu's residents and visitors; and

Whereas, Octocrylene affects thyroid function and delays testicular development and causes problems with female reproductive organs, and octocrylene also degrades into a chemical called benzophenone, which is a carcinogen; and

Whereas, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has found that sunscreen chemicals, including octocrylene, harm corals, green algae, mussels, sea urchins, fish, and dolphins; and

Whereas, The Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control, American Cancer Society, World Health Organization, as well as hundreds of scientists and dermatologists, have reported that certain chemical sunscreens are harmful to many life forms, including humans, and have not been shown to decrease skin cancer; and

Whereas, The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not recognize avobenzone and octocrylene as safe and effective for use in sunscreens; and

Whereas, There are alternative sunscreens that are FDA approved as safe and effective, such as zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, which offer better skin protection and are less environmentally harmful; and

Whereas, Sunscreens containing octocrylene and avobenzone should be banned from sale on O'ahu based on the Precautionary Principle, which states that if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing severe harm to the public domain (affecting general health or the environment globally), the action should not be taken in the absence of scientific near-certainty about its safety, and under these conditions, the burden of proof of absence of harm falls on those proposing the action, not those opposing it; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to ban the sale of sunscreen that contain the toxic chemicals avobenzone and octocrylene as being harmful to human life, coral reefs, and reef animals; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Hawai'i State Legislators for the island of O'ahu who are members of the Democratic Party, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and all the members of the Honolulu City Council.

Part II
Resolutions NOT Recommended for Adoption

2021-11: Urging the Department of Defense Missile Defense Agency to resist siting the Homeland Defense Radar-Hawai'i at the Kahuku Training Area Site 1

Whereas, The Department of Defense Missile Defense Agency (MDA) has proposed a radar facility, Homeland Defense Radar-Hawai'i (HDR-H) at the Kahuku Training Area, Site 1 (KTA-1), at a cost of \$1,900,000,000, for the purpose of detecting high altitude intercontinental ballistic missiles launched from North Korea toward Hawai'i and the continental United States; and

Whereas, Newer generation ballistic, hypersonic, and low-flying cruise missiles, capable of Mach 4 speed, greater maneuverability, and greater accuracy are being developed in China, Russia, and the United States, that are capable of evading ground-based radar detection by overflying air defense sensors and flying below ballistic missile sensors, rendering the HDR-H obsolete, such that the MDA defunded the HDR-H in the 2020 Defense Authorization Act; and

Whereas, A partial refunding of \$133,000,000 was included in the December 2020 appropriations bill over the objection of MDA, triggering negative public reaction in the surrounding communities; and

Whereas, There are serious environmental, social, and cultural concerns associated with HDR-H, including electromagnetic emissions, toxic waste disposal, a diesel power plant requiring one hundred fifty thousand gallons of fuel storage; clearing of up to one hundred sixty acres impacting cultural sites and the environment; and the plan for a contamination shelter in case of chemical fallout, all of which compound the frustration of O'ahu's residents over the military endangering the Moanalua-Waimalu Aquifer below the Red Hill Underground Fuel Tank Facility and the Pearl Harbor superfund sites are a few examples of military-caused degradation and resulting high risk of harm to the people, wildlife, and the environment; and

Whereas, The siting of the HDR-H will have an adverse impact on the Kahuku Motocross Park, which is a family park, the only one on O'ahu, which comprises of 400 acres, 7 miles of dirt trails, hills, and jumps, with several different tracks, will change its regular business hours to accommodate the Radar; and

Whereas, The operation of the radar would case a hazard in areas of the National Airspace System where high intensity radiated fields (HIRF) would exceed FAA certification standards for aircraft electrical and electronic systems, therefore, a Restricted Area of 9 miles within the radar's field-of-view where the flight of aircraft would be restricted for helicopter and sky-diving tours; and

Whereas, KTA-1 is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 and 36 CFR part 800 as Kahuku is known for its Native Hawaiian historic and cultural resources; and an Environmental Impacts Statement to assess the following resource topics: Airspace management, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, environmental justice, geology and soils, hazardous materials and waste management, health and safety, infrastructure (utilities), land use, noise and vibration, socioeconomic, transportation, visual resources and water resources; and

Whereas, The communities surrounding KTA-1 do not favor further development, especially further militarization, in its agricultural, country community, especially after the protests that lead to 55 arrests surrounding the AES Corp. Nā Pua Makani Kahuku Wind Farms built on state land; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats that the MDA is urged to resist siting the HDR-H at the KTA-1 as preventing adverse environmental, social, and cultural impacts outweigh the benefits of an obsolete HDR-H where newer ballistic, hypersonic, and low-flying cruise missiles can evade its ground-based detection; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Members of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation; OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense; Hawai'i State Democratic O'ahu Legislators; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Mayor the City and County of Honolulu; and Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council.

2021-12: Encourage the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu to promote ocean safety tourism

Whereas, the international ocean safety community has grown exponentially; and

Whereas, ocean safety and ocean activities have been a major focus in Hawai'i throughout its history; and

Whereas, water safety cannot exist without awareness of the best, up to date training equipment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i encourage the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu to support ocean safety Lifeguard Services participation in programs both online and in person with the international ocean community, and be it

Ordered, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

2021-13: Urging the Solid Waste Branch of the Division of Environmental Services of the City and County of Honolulu to change its manner of converting waste to energy from H-POWER to FastOx Gasification

Whereas, The Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) is shutting down the largest single source of electricity, the AES coal-burning power plant in Kapolei, which produces about 20% of O'ahu's power, the state's most populous island; and

Whereas, HECO is also working to bring online dozens of renewable energy projects built by third parties, even amidst protests from residents who want clean power but not produced in their back yards as seen in the eight turbines in the AES Na Pua Makani Wind Farm in Kahuku; and

Whereas, Until more big renewable projects are brought online, the giant Kapolei Energy Storage I LLC (KES) battery will be charged largely with electricity produced by oil-burning power plants, and not renewable energy, which is central to Hawai'i's renewable energy policy to generate virtually all electricity sold in the state with renewable resources by 2045; and

Whereas, The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services, Solid Waste System relies heavily on the Covanta H-POWER Plant (Honolulu Program of Waste Energy Recovery) to reduce the volume of municipal solid waste (waste) on Oahu; and

Whereas, H-POWER is capable of consuming 3,000 tons of waste per day, reducing by 90% the volume of waste that goes to the landfill; and

Whereas, H-POWER, owned by the City and County of Honolulu, processes the waste and burns it in furnaces to produce steam that drives a turbine generator and the electricity is sold to HECO and distributed to customers on O'ahu; and

Whereas, H-POWER, as a renewable energy source, emits more than double the global warming pollution of Kahe (our largest oil plant) and about 40% more than the AES coal plant; and

Whereas, H-POWER is the #1 source of mercury and hydrochloric acid pollution on O'ahu, accounting for 37% and 77% of the total air emissions from industrial sources on the island; and

Whereas, H-POWER is one of the top 5 sources of particulate matter on O'ahu, which is a known carcinogen; and mercury and hydrochloric acid pollutants are present both in ash and after the "pollution controls technology scrubs" and "cleans" the smokestack emission; and

Whereas, The alternative Sierra Energy uses closed-loop FastOx gasification technology which provides waste flexibility, simple design, emits no greenhouse gas emissions and most importantly eliminates the need for landfills; and

Whereas, Unlike H-POWER, FastOx gasification converts household waste, hazardous waste, tires, medical waste, construction and demolition materials into energy safely and responsibly; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Solid Waste Branch of the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services, to convert from H-POWER technology to FastOx gasification technology to provide an efficient, effective, and environmentally-sound waste to energy for the consumers of energy on the island of O'ahu; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor, Hawai'i State Legislators for the island of O'ahu who are members of the Democratic Party, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, all members of the Honolulu City Council, and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services, Solid Waste Branch.

2021-14: Urging the Public Utilities Commission, HECO, the Honolulu City Council, and all other relevant decision-makers to disapprove a transition of the Kapolei Power Plant to KES Energy Storage

Whereas, O'ahu ratepayers will face a significant increase in electricity costs in late 2022, as Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) turns again to oil to fill a gap in fuel sources when it shuts the AES coal-burning power plant in Kapolei, which is now producing about one-fifth of the island's power; and

Whereas, Hawai'i's top energy regulator, the Public Utilities Commission Chairman, suggests that the cost of producing power to replace the power produced at the HECO Kapolei coal plant could triple, because oil is a fiscally poor substitute; and

Whereas, HECO's plan to fill the void is to bring online a giant battery storage project in Kapolei, known as the Kapolei Energy Storage I LLC (KES), to provide reliable power when needed and fill the gap in production that will be left by the coal-burning plant; and

Whereas, The electricity to be produced by the KES battery will cost 25 cents to 30 cents or more per kWh, depending on oil prices; and

Whereas, Hawai'i's energy customers already face the nation's highest cost of electricity at more than 28 cents per kWh, which is almost three times the national average of just over 10 cents, and 40% higher than the next most expensive state, Alaska, where it is a little over 20 cents; and

Whereas, While the coal plant generates power for about 8 cents per kilowatt hour and some renewable projects using solar, and storage is expected to cost 11 cents; and

Whereas, Until more big renewable projects can be brought on line, the giant KES battery will be charged largely with electricity produced by oil-burning power plants, and not renewable energy, which are central to Hawai'i's renewable energy policy to generate virtually all electricity sold in the state with renewable resources by 2045; and

Whereas, HECO is shutting down the largest single source of electricity, the coal plant that produces about 20% of O'ahu's power on the state's most populous island, and while at the same time it is also working to bring online dozens of renewable energy projects built by third parties, even amidst protests from residents who want clean power but not produced in their backyards; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Public Utilities Commission, HECO, the Honolulu City Council, and all other relevant decision-makers to disapprove a transition of the Kapolei Power Plant to KES Energy Storage; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor, Hawai'i State Legislators for the island of O'ahu who are members of the Democratic Party, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and all members of the Honolulu City Council.