



O'ahu County Democrats  
Convention Resolutions Committee

March 25, 2022

TO: DPH 2022 State Convention Platform Committee

FROM: Secretary, O'ahu County Committee

RE: Platform submission from the O'ahu County Democrats Convention

---

The annual O'ahu County Democrats Convention was held on Saturday, March 19, 2022 via Zoom. During the convention, the platform amendments included below were adopted for submission to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH) 2022 State Convention.

On behalf of the O'ahu County Committee, I am submitting the enclosed 14 platform amendments for consideration by the DPH 2022 State Convention Platform Committee in accordance with Rule 6.1 and Rule 8 of Standing Rules of the 2022 Biennial Convention of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

*Carlos A. Santana*

Carlos A. Santana

Secretary

O'ahu County Committee

## 2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM

### PREAMBLE PROPOSAL TO REPLACE THE STATE PLATFORM PREAMBLE

#### I. PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, united in common purpose, dedicate ourselves to the core principles of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

As the people's party, 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, as a servant of the dreams and aspirations of Hawai'i's people, we acknowledge that if we wish to lead, we must listen and be open to being transformed by what we hear. Moreover, if we ask for the people's trust, we must in turn trust the wisdom of the people.

To do this effectively, we understand that we need to activate, mobilize, and empower party members, and revitalize our party for the challenges ahead in the 21st century. Through a re-energized party, we will endeavor to bring together members of the party, elected officials, interested citizens, and community leaders to build a cosmopolitan society that will manifest the Aloha Spirit at its core and in every facet of community life. As Democrats we will strive to create a better society by providing equal opportunity for all, by honoring the wisdom and courage of our elders, by cherishing our children above ourselves, and by intelligently anticipating the opportunities and perils of the future. We resolve to steer a course into the uncertain future to secure a better society guided by the traditional values of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

~~[The abiding values of the Democratic Party are liberty, social justice, economic justice, and protection of the environment, and compassion and respect for the dignity and worth of the individual. At the heart of our Party lies a fundamental conviction that Americans must not only be free, but they must live in a fair society. These values compel us to integrate democratic ideals in all aspects of economic, social, educational, and cultural life in our communities, our State and our Nation. These principles must always be protected. As the Party of the People, we Democrats commit ourselves to these values. We are facing increased global challenges economically, ecologically, and socio-culturally. We, therefore, adopt a worldview that is sensitive to and addresses these challenges that is not based on short-term economic gains. This Platform outlines guiding principles for all members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"). The Democratic Party of Hawai'i holds that our Party and our Government shall strive for the following ideas and values:~~

- ~~1. Support and provide for a strong economy;~~
- ~~2. Preserve and strengthen the future of agriculture in Hawai'i;~~
- ~~3. Support strong labor practices, good jobs and a living wage;~~
- ~~4. Support measures to drastically reduce income and wealth inequality;~~
- ~~5. Protect and restore the civil and human rights of each person;~~
- ~~6. Support the rights of Native Hawaiians and the preservation of Native Hawaiian culture;~~
- ~~7. Support the eradication of discrimination;~~
- ~~8. Reform our Government, supporting transparency in government and free, fair, and democratic 28 Elections;~~
- ~~9. Provide an excellent, free public education for students at every level;~~
- ~~10. Support a comprehensive approach to ending poverty;~~
- ~~11. Provide high quality and free healthcare for every human being;~~
- ~~12. Protect and preserve Hawai'i's environment;~~
- ~~13. Achieve energy sustainability;~~
- ~~14. Adopt transportation policies that improve our quality of life;~~
- ~~15. Support military relations that honor and provide for all military personnel and veterans while 36 protecting our 'āina;~~
- ~~16. Support fair and just foreign policy that promotes peace.~~

~~Based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we also join in support of the following:~~

1. ~~End poverty in all its forms everywhere;~~
2. ~~End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;~~
3. ~~Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;~~
4. ~~Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;~~
5. ~~Achieve gender diversity and equality, and empower all women and girls and those that do not adhere to the gender binary;~~
6. ~~Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;~~
7. ~~Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;~~
8. ~~Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and living wage for all;~~
9. ~~Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;~~
10. ~~Reduce inequality among our people and communities;~~
11. ~~Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable~~
12. ~~Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;~~
13. ~~Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;~~
14. ~~Conserve and wisely use the oceans, seas and marine resources in a sustainable manner;~~
15. ~~Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss;~~
16. ~~Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and~~
17. ~~Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.]~~

## 2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM

### MAKE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR CULTURAL ASSETS A HIGH PRIORITY

Insert the following into Section II Legislative Priorities Action Planks, Paragraph 2 **Make Protecting the Environment and our Cultural Assets a High Priority** (starting on Page 2, Line 23):

#### **2. MAKE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR CULTURAL ASSETS A HIGH PRIORITY -**

advance measures to re-establish healthy Climate and Environment for humans and fellow species (including ban on use of chemicals that harm our marine waters such as oxybenzone; address climate ~~[change]-crisis[,];~~ guarantee the right to a clean, healthy, and livable Hawai'i; ban use of polystyrene for food uses; protect indigenous and organic food farms from contamination; require truth in labeling on all agricultural products and 50% Hawai'i grown to be labeled as Hawai'i grown; advance "Buy Local" and "Blue Zone Project" and other community wellness programs; restrict marine aquarium harvesting; give priority to clean alternative energy and nature based solutions such as promoting use of compost and recycling policies and avoidance of ~~[incarceration]-~~incineration; restrict the use of insecticides and herbicides deleterious to the web of life and implement the State biosecurity plan to address invasive species; protect and preserve our fragile ecosystems and cultural assets by requiring environmental and cultural assessments in advance of all development; advance set asides for Native Hawaiian Cultural Reserves and Parks, and reclaim ancient trails across the island)."

*Reason for proposal: Mainly to state our support for the [Hawai'i Green Amendment](#). Also removed "change" in favor of simply "climate crisis," inserted "clean" prior to "alternative energy" as a key qualifier, replaced "incarceration" with "incineration" as I believe it was originally meant to be, and adjusted semicolons.*

## 2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM

### EDUCATION

Addition to **Education** Plank (pages 2 &3)

#### **EDUCATION**

We believe that the future of our State as well as our Country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning. Educational facilities must be maintained, renovated and built to 21st century innovations so that our students learn in well-designed, safe environments.

Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in education shall be compensated with a competitive wage based on National standards while taking into consideration our State's cost of living. We support hiring the most qualified teachers, administrators and specialists for our educational system. We also support partnerships with universities and colleges that prepare educators and provide advanced degrees in Hawai'i or elsewhere who provide practicum support and or access.

We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects, cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations. We view standardized tests as just one way of evaluating learning and support multiple measures, including performance assessments such as portfolios and observations.

Consistent with these goals, we seek to make public college, public university, trade, mentorship and apprenticeship programs available to all seeking further education tuition free.

We need to ensure that our students are safe in our schools, free from bullying and discrimination, to include but not limited to, disability, gender bias, weight, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and/or religion. We support policies in all our schools that protect, honor and address the needs of transgender and gender nonconforming students. We need to ensure that they have access to proactive positive behavior supports rather than reactive responses.

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

We support an additional dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education. We support maximizing access to Federal funds to offset the State cost to provide specialized support.

We cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the Federal government.

We support adequate funding for mandatory public education Pre-K through 12. We do not support the use of tax monies in a voucher program or tuition tax credits for private education Pre-K-12. Use of tax

monies for vouchers or tuition tax credits may have the effect of reducing support for public education and weakening church and state separation. We support the constitutional separation of church and state in education, which has been a cornerstone of democracy.

We support that higher education should be a right, not a privilege.

To increase access to financial aid resources to low-income and marginalized students, the University of Hawaii system must eliminate loans as part of its financial aid package. This change would be life-changing for students, families, and future alumni. Eliminating loans will enable future alumnus to begin their careers or continue their studies with their debts greatly reduced or eliminated. The expansion of the University of Hawaii university system is made possible through gifts, endowments, and state and federal funding. Doing away with loans is joining a select group of top-tier institutions. For example, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Smith College have adopted no-loan aid policies.

**2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM**  
**KŪPUNA AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

~~[ENSURING A SECURE AND DIGNIFIED RETIREMENT]~~-(page 6)

**KŪPUNA AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

DPH believes that it should be easier to save for retirement and prepare for unforeseen risks and expenses. We will defend the right of workers to collect their defined benefit pensions and make sure workers get priority and protection when pension plans are in distress.

~~[Seniors]~~ Kupuna and people with disabilities should not have to choose between putting food on the table, keeping a roof over their heads, or buying the medication that they need to stay healthy. We strongly support funding critical programs to help seniors remain independent in their own home and communities. We are also committed to fighting the immense problem of ~~[elder]~~ kupuna and people with disabilities abuse, neglect, and exploitation as well as the high cost of care.

We face a long-term care crisis that prevents many seniors and people with disabilities from being able to live with dignity at home or in their communities. Most people who are aging or living with a disability want to do so at home, but face challenges finding and affording the support they need to do so. Programs that emphasize independence rather than institutionalization must be better structured to support them. We support strengthening and expanding the home care workforce, giving seniors and people with disabilities access to quality, affordable long-term care, services, and supports, and ensuring that all of these resources are readily available at home or in the community. We support government funded comprehensive long-term care insurance that takes the burden off of individuals and does not contract out long-term care to private business interests that profit by denying care.

We support "aging-in-place" and the kūpuna caregivers program to assist family members to remain employed while providing support to kupuna including services attendant to adult day care: (1) basic activities: i.e., transferring from bed to chair, moving about within the home, bathing, dressing, toileting, and eating; (2) instrumental activities: preparing meals, shopping, managing medications, laundry, using the telephone, managing money, housekeeping, and using available transportation; and (3) core services: personal care, homemaking, chores, home-delivered meals, adult day care, case management, assisted transportation, regular transportation, attendant care, and other important services. We encourage policies and programs that support "active aging" for kūpuna including, but not limited to, (1) health care practices that promote physical, emotional, mental, nutritional, and medical fitness; (2) financial fitness measures that provide tools and programs for financial health; (3) intergenerational equity; (4) elimination of ageism and elderly discrimination; and (5) enhancement of important social roles and purposes for kūpuna.

## 2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM

### **PURSUING OUR INNOVATION AGENDA: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATHEMATICS (STEAM)**

Insert the following into Section III Overarching Principles, Subsection A Education and Economic Wellbeing, Plank titled “**Pursuing Our Innovation Agenda: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM)**,” final paragraph starting on Page 7, Line 50:

#### **PURSUING OUR INNOVATION AGENDA: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATHEMATICS (STEAM)**

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

New technologies are already transforming our economy. We must harness these forces so that they create higher-paying jobs, bring more people into the workforce, and reduce inequality. We need to educate our people and train our workers; support entrepreneurship and promote inclusion in the digital economy; attract and retain talented people from all over the world; and invest in research and development, innovation hubs, as well as in getting ideas to market. We also need to ensure that all students can learn computer sciences by the time they graduate from high school.

High-speed internet connectivity is not a luxury, it is a necessity for 21st century economic success, social mobility, education, healthcare, and public safety. DPH will finish the job to connect every household in Hawai‘i to high-speed broadband, increase internet adoption, and help hook up anchor institutions so they can offer free WiFi to the public. We will take action to help Hawai‘i widely deploy 5G technology for faster internet connections to underserved areas and enable the Internet of Things and other transformative technologies.

DPH supports the University of Hawai‘i in its mission to increase awareness in science, technology and exploration to better understand our place in the universe and inspire and educate generations of young people in Hawai‘i to pursue a career in science. At the same time, DPH recognizes the responsibility of Hawai‘i colleges and universities to foster respectful and ethical changemakers who value and promote aloha ‘āina through their work, as well as the responsibility of the institutions themselves to ethically steward the lands they impact.”

*Reason for proposal: To use the debate over Maunakea and TMT as an example, people on all sides agree that UH’s management of the mountain has been inadequate to say the least. This amendment attempts to speak to that issue by demanding ethical education and land management.*



## 2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM

### REFORMING OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Insert the following into Section III Overarching Principles, Subsection A Education and Economic Wellbeing, Plank titled “**Reforming Our Criminal Justice System**,” paragraph starting on Page 8, Line 46:

#### **REFORMING OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Instead of investing in more jails and incarceration, we need to invest more in jobs and education and end the school-to-prison pipeline. We will remove barriers to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully re-enter society by “banning the box,” expanding reentry programs and restoring voting rights. “Banning the Box” would allow applicants the opportunity to demonstrate their qualifications before being asked about their criminal records.

The “war on drugs” has led to the imprisonment of hundreds of people in Hawai‘i, disproportionately people of color, without reducing drug use. Whenever possible, DPH will prioritize prevention and treatment over incarceration when tackling addiction and substance use disorder. We will build on effective models of drug courts, veterans’ courts, and other diversionary programs that seek to give nonviolent offenders opportunities for rehabilitation as opposed to incarceration.

We encourage the Federal government to remove cannabis from the list of “Schedule I” Federal controlled substances and to appropriately regulate ~~[it providing reasoned pathway for future legalization]~~ and legalize it for medical and adult recreational use. We support policies that will allow more research on cannabis, as well as reforming laws to allow legal cannabis businesses to exist without uncertainty. We support restorative justice, including appropriate record expungement, for persons convicted of cannabis possession, use, and related charges that would presumably not exist under legalization.

We have been inspired by the movements for criminal justice that directly address the discriminatory treatment of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and other disadvantaged ethnicities to rebuild trust in the criminal justice system. We require that ~~[convicted Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and all other races and ethnicities who reside within the State of Hawai‘i remain incarcerated in the State of Hawai‘i]~~ residents of Hawai‘i, if convicted and incarcerated, remain incarcerated in Hawai‘i, especially those of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island descent.”

*Reason for proposal: The cannabis-related amendments are self-explanatory. They were inserted here as opposed to the plank about drug policy because they relate to the criminal justice system.*

*The proposal shown in the second paragraph is just a matter of syntax and re-phrasing “convicted Native Hawaiians.”*

## 2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM

### TECHNOLOGY

We propose substituting the following plank for the **TECHNOLOGY** plank of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i 2018 Platform (page 10):

#### **TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL EQUITY**

We believe that digital access is a critical and essential service necessary for many aspects of our economy and community life. We support achieving digital equity to ensure that all of Hawaii's residents, from *keiki* to *kūpuna*, 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 for access to essential services.

We support access to high-quality internet and training to use technology for all of Hawaii's residents, and support efforts to ensure their ability to use digital resources to be connected and successful in their lives. We support efforts in government and industries to achieve digital access and the availability of services and resources to all residents and communities, as these efforts are beneficial to our people and communities, and the future of our economy and state.

We support both net neutrality to ensure free, open access to the internet and the protection of personal data as a personal right. We recognize that technological innovation may have unintended consequences and believe in practices that promote technology ethics among creators and developers as well as ethical uses of their products by the public. We support legislative action and regulation in pursuit of that same goal.

## 2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM

### TRANSPORTATION

#### TRANSPORTATION

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

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

We support a policy that expands accessibility to beaches by allowing items, such as surfboards and canoe paddles, on public transportation, such as Honolulu's TheBus.

## 2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM

### HEALTHCARE

#### HEALTHCARE

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

Therefore, we support robust funding of the Hawai'i Health Authority (HHA) or other State Health Agency to design a statewide, unified, cost-effective healthcare system that includes comprehensive healthcare services for all, and then submit that design to the legislature for evaluation.

Such a universal, comprehensive healthcare system would: (1) Unify the delivery of healthcare in Hawai'i by establishing a single network, benefit structure, reimbursement system, drug formulary, and prior authorization policies; (All state-regulated payers would be required to pay into this unified system, including Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, and health insurance provided by the state and counties, and commercial health insurance plans funded by employers and individuals.); (2) provide parity of mental and physical health coverage; (3) provide cost-effective regulation of comprehensive health care delivery systems with an administrative overhead of less than 3%; (4) include and protect all women's healthcare needs including reproductive rights and the healthcare needs of the LGBTQIA community; (5) provide preventative health programs; (6) provide long-term care, dental, and vision care; and (7) provide healthcare to Compact of Free Association (Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau) (COFA) citizens and other non-citizens lawfully residing in Hawai'i on an equal basis with US citizens and permanent residents.

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

On the Federal level, we support a universal single-payer healthcare system similar to or better than HR [676] 1976, Expanded and Improved Medicare For All, wherein all individuals residing in the United States and U.S. territories are provided with comprehensive healthcare services.

Immediate improvements must be made by restoring the full range of dental services to Hawaii's Medicaid beneficiaries, by the elimination of Direct Contracting Entities from Medicare and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) from Medicaid, by a qualitative audit of Hawaii's Medicaid MCOs, by elimination of improper "upcoding" of medical services, and elimination of improper listing of "ghost" service providers in insurers' networks of providers.

## 2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM

### HONORING NATIVE HAWAIIANS

#### HONORING NATIVE HAWAIIANS

##### Self-Determination and Self-Governance

- (1) Native Hawaiians are kanaka maoli, indigenous, aboriginal people of Hawai'i. We
- (2) support Native Hawaiian rights to self-determination to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development. We support their self-governance in the formation of their chosen governmental entity, to include, among others, federal recognition, restoration of the Hawaiian Kingdom, independence or the existing state of affairs. We support their government by having a just and equitable relationship with any government.

##### Consultation and Leadership Empowerment

- (3) We support the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in decisions related to county, state, federal, and international affairs, and increasing the representation of Native Hawaiians in government leadership positions.

##### Justice and Reconciliation with the U.S.A.

- (4) We support Native Hawaiians in their efforts to secure justice from the federal and state governments to repair the harms suffered and endured by the Native Hawaiian people and 'āina. We support proactive actions by the federal and state governments to enhance Native Hawaiian culture, health, language, housing, education, agriculture, and jobs.

##### Public Land Trust and Stewardship

- (5) We urge the state to fulfill its Public Land Trust responsibilities under AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII INTO THE UNION, ACT OF MARCH 18, 1959, PUB L 86-3, 73 STAT 4 and pursuant to Hawai'i State Constitution Article XVI, Section 7, and including HRS §10-13.5, which requires that 20% of the revenue be provided annually to Native Hawaiians.
- (6) We believe that we have a moral and profound duty to honor, respect, and enforce the state's fiduciary obligation to malama (protect and preserve) public lands, waters, air, flora, and fauna.
- (7) We urge the state to use the 'Aha Moku (generational-cultural practitioners) and implement Native Hawaiian land management practices in preserving, protecting, and sustaining Hawaii's natural and cultural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.
- (8) We support economic policies and practices that preserve and perpetuate Native Hawaiian cultural practices and the protection of Hawaii's natural resource

##### Home lands and Safe and Affordable Housing

- (1) We urge the Legislature to effectuate the Hawai'i Constitution Article XII, Section 1, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, by appropriating sufficient funds towards Hawaiian home lands for the purpose of (1) development of home, agriculture, farm and ranch lots; (2) home, agriculture, aquaculture, farm and ranch loans; (3) rehabilitation projects to include educational, economic, political, social and cultural processes by which the general welfare and conditions of native Hawaiians are improved; and (4) the administration and operating budget of the department of Hawaiian home lands.
- (2) We support full funding of the Hawaiian Homes Commission budget and other housing programs to ensure that no Native Hawaiian is homeless, here in their homeland. We support the increase of affordable and safe housing and fight to significantly reduce homelessness on and off Hawaiian home lands, especially among Native youth, kupuna, and veterans.

##### Hawaiian Culture and Traditional & Customary Practices

- (3) We urge the state to protect all rights, including intellectual property rights, and those customarily and traditionally exercised by Native Hawaiians cultural and religious purposes and for subsistence, including fishing and farming.

- (4) We support the rights of Native Hawaiians to practice their culture and religious beliefs on Hawai'i lands and sacred sites and urge all governmental entities to ensure access to and protection of Native Hawaiian sacred sites and cultural resources.

#### **Health and Environmental Justice**

- (1) We support policies that address social determinants of health that adversely impact the well-being of Native Hawaiians. We support Native Hawaiian traditional and customary medicinal treatment programs, practitioners, and practices, especially in rural and Homestead communities and when treating those with drug and substance abuse and mental illness.
- (2) We support Environmental Justice for Native Hawaiians that are disproportionately affected by exposure to environmental hazards, uneven negative impacts from environmental procedures and policies, targeting and zoning of toxic and waste facilities, food deserts, and little access to and insufficient maintenance of natural spaces.

#### **Citizen Rehabilitation and Reintegration**

- (1) We support reforming the criminal justice system to address the disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians, including bail reform and restorative justice which includes Ho'oponopono. We support community programs to reduce recidivism, promote wellness, vocational training, and substance abuse treatment, and to support culturally relevant and appropriate intervention programs and services and reintegration into society.

#### **Education and Immersion Schools**

- (1) We urge the state to comply with Hawai'i State Constitution Article X, Section 4 to provide Hawaiian education programs consisting of language, culture and history in the public schools. We encourage the use of community expertise as a suitable and essential means in furtherance of Hawaiian education programs.
- (2) We support the strengthening of Hawaiian education programs in values, language, culture, and history in the state's public and private schools.
- (3) We support the full funding of Hawaiian Focused Public Charter Schools and Hawaiian Immersion Schools and courses in the public schools that include Hawaiian values, language, culture, and history. We support educational assessments that recognize culturally based education in measuring student progress.
- (4) We support educational attainment to include applied trades, trade schools, and post-high education.
- (5) We support the reform of the Zero Tolerance policy, that has disparate treatment on Native Hawaiians, to provide culturally responsive approaches to discipline and support services

~~[Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai'i and deserve a just relationship with the State and Federal Governments. We support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing practices. We value and wish to foster the preservation of our host culture. We support the efforts of Native Hawaiians rights to pursue self-determination. We also support their right to pursue the international rights of Native Hawaiian people.~~

~~We acknowledge the past injustices and the misguided, harmful Federal and State policies and actions based on outdated and discredited values and beliefs that resulted in the destruction of the Hawaiian Nation's economies, social, and religious systems, the taking of their lands, and the creation of intergenerational trauma that exists to this day. We believe that we have a moral and profound duty to honor, respect, and uphold our sacred obligation to the Hawaiian Nation State and the Hawaiian people.]~~

~~DPH also supports efforts for self-governance and self-determination of Native Hawaiians whose values are the foundation of the Hawaiian Islands. We support proactive actions by the Federal and State governments to enhance Native Hawaiian culture, health, language, and education. We recognize and honor the contributions and sacrifices made in service to our county by Native Hawaiians. We support the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in decisions related to county and state affairs.~~

~~We support Hawaiian language immersion schools that contribute to the revitalization and continuation of the Hawaiian language and appropriate assessments that accurately reflect Hawaiian language immersion students' progress and support the Hawaiian language immersion program. We support~~

~~Hawaiian-focused schools and courses that provide culturally-based education in order to maximize choices in life and work. We support educational programming and efforts that embody Hawaiian values, language, culture and history as a foundation to prepare students for success in college, career and communities.~~

~~We support the construction and use of micro-housing units on Hawaiian home lands approved by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and leased to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries who meet the minimum Hawaiian blood quantum requirement, notwithstanding county zoning laws. We support multi-level housing in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and agribusinesses for Native Hawaiians by creating ag-tech zones to promote agricultural innovation and diversify the State's agricultural systems for domestic consumption and export.~~

~~We support Native Hawaiians in their efforts to secure justice from our Federal and State governments to repair harms endured by the Hawaiian People and the 'āina since 1893. We support the right of Native Hawaiians to self-determination, including the formation of their chosen governmental entity.]~~

## 2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM

### ENVIRONMENT

#### ENVIRONMENT

~~[The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential.]~~ We have the inherent right to clean land, clean water, and clean air, as recognized by the Hawai'i State Constitution and the Precautionary Principle. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

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

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, ~~[which includes reducing]~~ to reduce our carbon footprint ~~[for the]~~ to benefit [of] current and future generations.

We support the protection of our 'āina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

The Navy has twenty World War Era underground bulk fuel storage tanks at Red Hill above Pearl Harbor with a capacity of 250 million gallons. These tanks are a direct threat to the drinking water of urban communities. This situation highlights the fragility of our water resources and the importance of protecting them throughout the state. We demand environmentally sound actions to preclude further risk of catastrophic releases by defueling, dismantling, decommissioning, and decontaminating the Facility as soon as possible.

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

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

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

Cesspools throughout Hawai'i threaten drinking water, coral reefs and the health of people who swim and surf in our island waters. They create a serious public safety issue, environmental problem and economic danger that is exacerbated by the effects of climate change. We support septic tank upgrades and wastewater sewage systems where feasible by ~~[2025]~~ 2035.



## 2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM

### ENERGY

Insert the following into Section III Overarching Principles, Subsection C Energy and Environmental Wellbeing, Plank titled “**Energy**,” paragraph starting on Page 17, Line 50:

#### **ENERGY**

We seek to achieve energy sustainability based on renewable energy sources. We must encourage the use of clean alternative fuel sources to include our public transportation systems. We must increase the use of public transit, telecommuting, car and vanpooling, ridesharing, biking, walking, and other forms of transportation thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. We must also urgently develop the use of a variety of cost-effective energy providing systems, encourage transit-oriented development, and support tax incentives that encourage renewable energy initiatives.

We oppose any tax breaks to fossil fuel industries or public subsidization of the fossil fuel industry or any producer of dirty energy.”

We support energy independence, self-sufficiency, affordability and reliability for Hawai'i through the development of renewable alternative energy sources. Specifically, we need to support policies that foster the development of energy production methods that de-emphasize carbon-based fuels and promote renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC).

Electricity rates in Hawai'i are among the highest in the Nation even though we enjoy an abundance of sunshine year-round. Electric utility companies and cooperatives must open the grid to alternative power sources including solar panels and geothermal energy. We support the effort of our government officials to require utilities to provide for the maximum, comprehensive, integrated use of renewable energy and associated technologies such as storage and smart grid technologies.

*Reason for proposal: “Dirty energy” is a little better at encompassing the types of industry we oppose subsidizing. For example, the Hu Honua project may qualify for tax credits because they purport to produce renewable energy. However, while their biomass approach may technically be “renewable,” it is also dirty energy because it depends on wood burning.*

## 2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM

### COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE BUILD A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY, AND SECURE ENVIROMENTAL JUSTICE

Insert a new paragraph at the end of Section III Overarching Principles, Subsection C Energy and Environmental Wellbeing, Plank titled “**Combat Climate Change, Build a Clean Energy Economy, and Secure Environmental Justice**” (Page 18, after Line 35):

#### **COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE BUILD A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY, AND SECURE ENVIROMENTAL JUSTICE**

We are committed to getting 100 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources within a decade. We will cut energy waste in homes, schools, hospitals, and offices through energy efficient improvements; modernize our electric grid; and make manufacturing the cleanest and most efficient in the world. These efforts will create hundreds of new jobs and save families and businesses money on their monthly energy bills. We will transform Hawai'i's transportation by reducing fossil fuel consumption through cleaner fuels, vehicle electrification, and increasing the fuel efficiency of cars, boilers, ships, and trucks. We will make new investments in public transportation and build bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across our urban and suburban areas. We believe that the tax code must reflect our commitment to a clean energy future by preserving and extending tax incentives for energy efficiency and clean energy.

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

We will work to expand access to cost-saving renewable energy by low-income households, create good paying jobs in communities that struggled with energy poverty, and oppose efforts by utilities to limit consumer choice or slow clean energy deployment. We will streamline State permitting to accelerate the construction of new transmission lines to get low-cost renewable energy to market, and incentivize wind, solar, and other renewable energy.

DPH emphasizes the need to secure environmental, climate, and energy justice for all citizens of Hawai'i, especially Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and low-income neighborhoods. We promote projects that prioritize the physical, social, and cultural well-being of impacted communities.”

*Reason for proposal: Contrary to the title of this plank, there was no explicit justice component mentioned in the existing language.*

**2022 DPH State Convention PLATFORM**  
**PLATFORM OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII'**

Replace the State Platform planks with the following:

- Agriculture  
*Preserve and Strengthen the Future of Agriculture in Hawaii*
- Arts and Culture  
*Support Investments in Arts and Humanities and Promotion of Arts and Culture*
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
*Eliminate Barriers to Full Representation and Participation*
- Disaster and Emergency Preparedness  
*Support Safety and Security as a Right for All Hawaii Residents*
- Economic Sustainability  
*Support and Provide for a Strong Economy*
- Education  
*Provide an Excellent, Free Public Education for Students at Every Level*
- Environment and Energy  
*Protect and Preserve Hawaii's Environment and Achieve Energy Sustainability*
- Government  
*Reform Our Government, Support Transparency in Government and Free, Fair, and Democratic Elections*
- Health  
*Provide High Quality and Free Healthcare for Every Human Being*
- Housing  
*Instill the Belief that Housing is a Basic Human Right*
- Human Rights, Civil Rights, and Economic Justice  
*Protect and Restore the Civil Rights of Each Person; Support the Eradication of Discrimination; Support a Comprehensive Approach to Ending Poverty*
- Kupuna and People with Disabilities  
*Support Policies and Programs that Promote Aging-in-Place and Active Aging for Kupuna*
- Labor and Workers' Rights  
*Support Strong Labor Practices, Good Jobs, and a Living Wage; Support Measures to Drastically Reduce Income and Wealth Inequality*
- Native Hawaiians and Hawaiian Culture  
*Support the Rights of Native Hawaiians and the Preservation of Native Hawaiian Culture*
- Technology and Digital Equity  
*Promote Digital Access as a Critical and Essential Service for the Functioning of and Participation in Our Economy and Community*
- Transportation  
*Adopt Transportation Policies that Improve Our Quality of Life*
- U.S. Military and Veterans' Affairs  
*Support All Military Personnel and Veterans While Protecting Our Aina*

**I. PREAMBLE**

The abiding values of the Democratic Party are liberty, social justice, economic justice, and protection of the environment, and compassion and respect for the dignity and worth of the individual. At the heart of our Party lies a fundamental conviction that Americans must not only be free, but they must live in a fair society.

These values compel us to integrate democratic ideals in all aspects of economic, social, educational, and cultural life in our communities, our State and our Nation. These principles must always be protected. As the Party of the People, we Democrats commit ourselves to these values. We are facing increased

global challenges economically, ecologically, and socio-culturally. We, therefore, adopt a worldview that is sensitive to and addresses these challenges that is not based on short-term economic gains. This Platform outlines guiding principles for all members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH").

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i holds that our Party and our Government shall strive for the following ideas and values:

1. Support and provide for a strong economy;
2. Preserve and strengthen the future of agriculture in Hawai'i;
3. Support strong labor practices, good jobs and a living wage;
4. Support measures to drastically reduce income and wealth inequality;
5. Protect and restore the civil and human rights of each person;
6. Support the rights of Native Hawaiians and the preservation of Native Hawaiian culture;
7. Support the eradication of discrimination;
8. Reform our Government, supporting transparency in government and free, fair, and democratic Elections;
9. Provide an excellent, free public education for students at every level;
10. Support a comprehensive approach to ending poverty;
11. Provide high quality and free healthcare for every human being;
12. Protect and preserve Hawai'i's environment;
13. Achieve energy sustainability;
14. Adopt transportation policies that improve our quality of life;
15. Support military relations that honor and provide for all military personnel and veterans while protecting our 'āina;
16. Support fair and just foreign policy that promotes peace.

Based on the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we also join in support of the following:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
5. Achieve gender diversity and equality, and empower all women and girls and those that do not adhere to the gender binary;
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
8. Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and living wage for all;
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
10. Reduce inequality among our people and communities;
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
14. Conserve and wisely use the oceans, seas and marine resources in a sustainable manner;
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably — manage forests, combat — desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss;
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build — effective, accountable — and inclusive institutions at all levels; and
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for — sustainable development.

## **II. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES ACTION PLANS**

**1. REBUILD THE MIDDLE CLASS AND STAMP OUT ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INEQUITIES** (including minimum wage of \$15 per hour by 2020 with cost of living increases thereafter; paid Family/Sick Leave by 2020; Provide Affordable Health Insurance for all (Single Payer Universal HealthCare Insurance); Make quality public education and vocational school alternatives a REAL priority

including at risk and youth with special needs; diversify the economy; eliminate tax loopholes for the wealthy and raise tax on income over \$200,000; reinstate full percentage of Public Land Trust Revenues set aside for the betterment of Native Hawaiians (20% of public lands annual revenues); legalize recreational cannabis; make affordable housing affordable; prevent discrimination; and substantially increase statutory exemptions from attachment or execution of real and personal property).

## **2. MAKE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR CULTURAL ASSETS A HIGH PRIORITY**

advance measures to re-establish healthy Climate and Environment for humans and fellow species (including ban on use of chemicals that harm our marine waters such as oxybenzone; address climate change crisis, ban use of polystyrene for food uses, protect indigenous and organic food farms from contamination; require truth in labeling on all agricultural products and 50% Hawai'i grown to be labeled as Hawai'i grown; advance "Buy Local" and "Blue Zone Project" and other community wellness programs; restrict marine aquarium harvesting; give priority to alternative energy and nature based solutions such as 30 promoting use of compost and recycling policies and avoidance of incarceration; restrict the use of insecticides and herbicides deleterious to the web of life and implement the State biosecurity plan to address invasive species; protect and preserve our fragile ecosystems and cultural assets by requiring environmental and cultural assessments in advance of all development; advance set asides for Native 34 Hawaiian Cultural Reserves and Parks, and reclaim ancient trails across the island).

**3. MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER NOW**—in schools and on the streets and in our homes (including advancing gun control measures such as ban on assault weapons and full background checks for all; make elimination of police corruption a priority; advance restorative justice programs for offenders and oppose privatization of prisons and provide an effective means of assisting victims of domestic violence).

**4. TAKE BACK OUR GOVERNMENT** (including measures to allow for direct democracy citizen initiatives with the appropriate protections to eliminate influences and impacts of "Big Money;" demand that all legislation be entitled to at least one hearing; require record of all legislative votes; advance open government measures; and raise ethical standards and campaign finance reforms).

### **III. OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES**

#### **A. EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING**

##### **EDUCATION**

We believe that the future of our State as well as our Country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning. Educational facilities must be maintained, renovated and built to 21st century innovations so that our students learn in well-designed, safe environments.

Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in education shall be compensated with a competitive wage based on National standards while taking into consideration our State's cost of living. We support hiring the most qualified teachers, administrators and specialists for our educational system. We also support partnerships with universities and colleges that prepare educators and provide advanced degrees in Hawai'i or elsewhere who provide practicum support and or access. We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects, cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations. We view standardized tests as just one way of evaluating learning and support multiple measures, including performance assessments such as portfolios and observations.

Consistent with these goals, we seek to make public college, public university, trade, mentorship and apprenticeship programs available to all seeking further education tuition free.

We need to ensure that our students are safe in our schools, free from bullying and discrimination, to include but not limited to, disability, gender bias, weight, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity,

gender expression, and/or religion. We support policies in all our schools that protect, honor and address the needs of transgender and gender nonconforming students. We need to ensure that they have access to proactive positive behavior supports rather than reactive responses.

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

We support an additional dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education. We support maximizing access to Federal funds to offset the State cost to provide specialized support.

We cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the Federal government.

We support adequate funding for mandatory public education Pre-K through 12. We do not support the use of tax monies in a voucher program or tuition tax credits for private education Pre-K-12. Use of tax monies for vouchers or tuition tax credits may have the effect of reducing support for public education and weakening church and state separation. We support the constitutional separation of church and state in education, which has been a cornerstone of democracy.

### **MAKING DEBT-FREE COLLEGE A REALITY**

Democrats are unified in their strong belief that every student should be able to go to college, public university, trade, mentorship and apprenticeship programs debt-free and a working family should not have to pay any tuition to go to public colleges, universities and other trade schools. We will also make community college free. The State government will push more colleges and universities to take quantifiable, affirmative steps in increasing the percentages of racial and ethnic minority, low-income, and first-generation students they enroll and graduate.

Achieving these goals depends on State and Federal investments in both students and their teachers. Whether full-time or adjunct, faculty must be supported to make transformative educational experiences possible.

### **GUARANTEEING UNIVERSAL PUBLIC PRESCHOOL AND QUALITY SCHOOLS FOR EVERY CHILD**

Democrats believe we must have the best-educated population and workforce in the world. That means making childhood education and universal preschool a priority, especially in light of new research showing how much early learning can impact life-long success. Democrats will invest in early childhood programs like "Early Head Start" and provide every family with access to high-quality childcare and high-quality preschool programs. We support efforts to raise wages for childcare workers, and to ensure that early childhood educators are experienced and high-quality.

We also support increased investment in after-school summer learning programs which help working families, keep kids safe, and inspire learning at a time when many students are left unsupervised. We must find ways to encourage mentoring programs that support students in reaching their full potential. Mentoring is a strategy to ensure that children living in poverty have the encouragement and support to aim high and enter the middle class.

We will focus on group mentoring which is a low-cost, high-yield investment that offers the benefit of building a supportive network of peers who push one another towards success.

Democrats believe all students should be taught to high academic standards. Schools should have adequate resources to provide programs and support to help meet the needs of every child. We will hold schools, districts, communities and the State accountable for raising achievement levels for all students—particularly low-income students, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities.

Democrats recognize and honor all the professionals who work in public schools to support students' education—teachers, education support professionals, and specialized staff. We know that good teachers are essential to improving student learning and helping all students to meet high academic standards. Democrats will launch a campaign to recruit and retain high-quality teachers. We will ensure that teachers receive the tools and ongoing professional development they need to succeed in the classroom and provide our children with a world-class education. We also must lift up and trust our educators, continually build capacity, and ensure that our schools are safe, welcoming, collaborative, and well-resourced places for our students, educators, and communities.

We will invest in high-quality STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) classes, community schools, computer science education, arts education, and expand distance learning models and career pathways. We will end the school-to-prison pipeline by opposing discipline policies which disproportionately affect Asian Americans, Filipino Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, students with disabilities, and youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer,

questioning, intersexual and asexual (“LGBTQIA”). We will support the use of restorative justice practices that help students and staff resolve conflicts peacefully and respectfully while helping to improve the teaching and learning environment. And we will work to improve school culture and combat bullying of all types.

DPH is committed to eliminating opportunity gaps—particularly those that lead to students from low-income communities arriving on day one of kindergarten several years behind their peers. This means advocating for labor and public assistance laws that ensure poor parents can spend time with their children. This means raising household incomes in poor communities. It means ensuring children have healthcare, stable housing free of contaminants, and a community free of violence to minimize the likelihood of cognitive delays. It means enriching early childhood programming to prepare children in areas such as literacy, numeracy, civic engagement and emotional intelligence. It means supporting equitable and adequate State funding for public education and expanding Title I funding for schools that see a large number of high concentrations of children in poverty. It means ending curriculum gaps that maintain and exacerbate achievement gaps.

### **LABOR**

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

As the party of working people 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; to protect employees' rights to organize and bargain collectively with their employers; to oppose the outsourcing of Hawai‘i's jobs; to promote employment opportunities and sustainable growth; to assist the economically disadvantaged and advocate for sound trade and economic policies; to train our local workforce in diversified and environmentally responsible industries, and build our workforce for jobs in emerging technologies, in green industries, in renovation, and in green construction, so that their jobs are not dependent on ever-expanding real estate developments.

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

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

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

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

## **RAISE INCOME AND RESTORE ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS**

### **RAISING WORKERS' WAGES**

We believe that the current minimum wage is a starvation wage and must be increased to a living wage. No one who works full time should have to raise a family in poverty. We should earn at least \$15 an hour and have the right to form or join a union and will work in every way we can—in Congress and the Federal government, in the State Legislature and with the private sector—to reach this goal. We also support creating one fair wage for all workers by ending the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers and people with disabilities.

### **PROTECTING WORKERS' FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

The Democratic Party believes that when workers are strong, Hawai‘i is strong. Democrats will make it easier for workers, public and private, to exercise their right to organize and join unions. Democrats believe that consumers, workers, students, retirees, and investors who have been mistreated should never be denied their right to fight for fair treatment under the law.

### **SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES**

We will fight to secure equal pay for women which will benefit all women and their families, particular women of color who are disproportionately impacted by discriminatory pay practices, and against other

factors that contribute to the wage gap. And we will combat the discrimination they face on and off the job. DPH will make sure that Hawai'i finally enacts paid family and medical leave by passing a family and medical leave law that would provide all workers at least 12 weeks of paid leave to care for a new child or address a personal or family member's serious health issue. We will fight to allow workers the right to earn at least seven days of paid sick leave. We will also require employers to provide paid vacation through legislation.

Our work and family policies must also help family caregivers. We will ensure that family caregivers have the support, respite care, and training they need to support their loved ones. We will create a strong stable paid caregiving workforce to help meet families' needs, by raising wages, improving access to training, and giving workers the opportunity to come together to make their voices heard in support of a stronger system.

#### **EXPANDING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMEOWNERSHIP**

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

We will preserve and increase the supply of affordable rental housing by expanding incentives to ease local barriers to building new affordable rental housing developments in areas of economic opportunity. We will substantially increase funding to construct, preserve, and rehabilitate affordable housing rental units. Not only will this help address the affordable housing crisis, it will also create good-paying jobs in the process. DPH believes that we should provide more state resources to the people struggling most with unaffordable housing: low-income families, people with disabilities, veterans, and the elderly. We will expand programs to prevent displacement of existing residents, especially in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities; create affordable and workforce housing; and preserve neighborhood-serving nonprofit organizations and small businesses. We will reinvigorate housing production programs, repair public housing, and increase funding for rental assistance programs. We will fight for robust funding to end homelessness in our cities and counties once and for all, through targeted investment to provide the necessary outreach, social services, and housing options for all populations experiencing homelessness. We will engage in a stronger, more coordinated, and better funded partnership among Federal, State, and local governments to end chronic homelessness.

#### **ENSURING A SECURE AND DIGNIFIED RETIREMENT**

DPH believes that it should be easier to save for retirement and prepare for unforeseen risks and expenses. We will defend the right of workers to collect their defined benefit pensions and make sure workers get priority and protection when pension plans are in distress.

Seniors should not have to choose between putting food on the table, keeping a roof over their heads, or buying the medication that they need to stay healthy. We strongly support funding critical programs to help seniors remain independent in their own home and communities. We are also committed to fighting the immense problem of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

#### **BUILDING 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE**

If we are serious about reversing the decline of the middle class, we need major Federal investments to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure and put our communities back to work in decent paying jobs in both the public and private sectors. The climate emergency and the need to expand the middle class demand that we make the most ambitious investment in Hawai'i infrastructure. We will put our communities to work updating and expanding our roads, bridges, public transit, airports and passenger and freight rail lines. We will build 21<sup>st</sup> century energy and water systems, modernize our schools, continue to support the expansion of high-speed broadband networks. We will protect communities from the impact of climate change and help to mitigate its effects in investing in green and resilient infrastructure. We will address the backlog of deferred maintenance in the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. We will protect public health and safety by modernizing drinking and wastewater systems. These investments will create secure, good-paying middle-class jobs today. DPH will fight to ensure resources and programs are adequately targeted to provide economic development, job training, and critical infrastructure investment in areas of greatest need.

#### **FOSTERING A MANUFACTURING RENAISSANCE**

DPH believes that one of the best ways to innovate, prosper, and create good-paying jobs is to make more in Hawai'i, which is why we firmly support Hawaiian manufacturing with a "Made in Hawai'i" plan.



We must revitalize hard-hit manufacturing communities; create thriving hubs of manufacturing and innovation throughout *Hawai'i*; and claw back tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, using the proceeds to reinvest in communities and works-at-home instead. DPH is proud of rescuing the agricultural industry from collapse with coffee, macadamia nuts, avocados, bananas, guavas, papayas, tomatoes and other fruits. In addition, other revitalized manufacturing industries involve bread, candy, dairy products, juices and soft drinks, indigenous food, printed materials (mostly newspapers), refined petroleum, stone, clay, glass products, clothing, jewelry, woodcraft, fabricated metals and shipbuilding.

### **CREATING FAIR, WELL-PAYING CLEAN ENERGY JOBS**

We must help *Hawai'i*'s workers and businesses compete for jobs and investments in global clean energy, high-tech products, internet technology products and advanced manufacturing. We must make Hawaiian manufacturing more internationally competitive by making it the greenest and most efficient in the world, including by investing in industrial energy efficiency.

### **PURSuing OUR INNOVATION AGENDA: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATHEMATICS (STEAM)**

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

New technologies are already transforming our economy. We must harness these forces so that they create higher-paying jobs, bring more people into the workforce, and reduce inequality. We need to educate our people and train our workers; support entrepreneurship and promote inclusion in the digital economy; attract and retain talented people from all over the world; and invest in research and development, innovation hubs, as well as in getting ideas to market. We also need to ensure that all students can learn computer sciences by the time they graduate from high school.

High-speed internet connectivity is not a luxury, it is a necessity for 21<sup>st</sup> 43 century economic success, social mobility, education, healthcare, and public safety. DPH will finish the job to connect every household in *Hawai'i* to high-speed broadband, increase internet adoption, and help hook up anchor institutions so they can offer free WiFi to the public. We will take action to help *Hawai'i* widely deploy 5G technology for faster internet connections to underserved areas and enable the Internet of Things and other transformative technologies.

DPH supports the University of *Hawai'i* in its mission to increase awareness in science, technology and exploration to better understand our place in the universe and inspire and educate generations of young people in *Hawai'i* to pursue a career in science.

### **SUPPORTING HAWAI'I'S SMALL BUSINESS**

By supporting small business and entrepreneurship, we can grow jobs faster in *Hawai'i*. We will cut red tape that holds back small business and entrepreneurs. We will open up access to credit because we know that small businesses are some of the best job creators in our State. We will provide tax relief and tax simplification. Democrats will provide targeted funding and support for entrepreneurship and small business growth in underserved communities. We realize the critical importance of small businesses as engines of opportunity for women, people of color, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and people in rural *Hawai'i* and will work to nurture entrepreneurship.

### **CREATING JOBS FOR HAWAI'I'S YOUNG PEOPLE**

To the extent permitted under Federal law, Democrats will make investments to spur the creation of jobs for our young people ages 16 to 24. The unemployment rate of Native Hawaiian, Asian American, Filipino American and Pacific Islander teenagers and youth with disabilities are far too high. Democrats will provide funding for a range of local programs that will put young people to work and create new career opportunities.

### **REMOVE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITIES AND ENDING SYSTEMIC ETHNIC AND RACIAL INJUSTICE**

Democrats will promote ethnic and racial justice through fair, just and equitable governing of all public serving institutions and in the formation of public policy. We will push for a societal transformation to make it clear that all lives matter and that there is no place for racism in our State.

### **CLOSING THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC WEALTH GAP**

Hawai'i's economic inequality problem is even more pronounced when it comes to racial and ethnic disparities in wealth and income. DPH believes it is long past time to close this racial wealth gap. Disparities in wealth cannot be solved by the free market alone, but instead government must play a role in eliminating systemic barriers to wealth accumulation for different racial groups and improving opportunities for people from all racial and ethnic backgrounds to build wealth. State policies must remove barriers to achieving sustainable homeownership and provide for greater diversity in State contracting practices, incentivize and expand access to retirement investment programs, increase opportunities for quality jobs and education and challenge the deeply rooted structures that perpetuate and exacerbate current disparities and ultimately impair and depress Hawai'i's economic growth and security.

### **REFORMING OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Instead of investing in more jails and incarceration, we need to invest more in jobs and education and end the school-to-prison pipeline. We will remove barriers to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully re-enter society by "banning the box," expanding reentry programs and restoring voting rights. "Banning the Box" would allow applicants the opportunity to demonstrate their qualifications before being asked about their criminal records.

The "war on drugs" has led to the imprisonment of hundreds of people in Hawai'i, disproportionately people of color, without reducing drug use. Whenever possible, DPH will prioritize prevention and treatment over incarceration when tackling addiction and substance use disorder. We will build on effective models of drug courts, veterans' courts, and other diversionary programs that seek to give nonviolent offenders opportunities for rehabilitation as opposed to incarceration.

We encourage the Federal government to remove cannabis from the list of "Schedule I" Federal controlled substances and to appropriately regulate it providing reasoned pathway for future legalization. We support policies that will allow more research on cannabis, as well as reforming laws to allow legal cannabis businesses to exist without uncertainty.

We have been inspired by the movements for criminal justice that directly address the discriminatory treatment of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and other disadvantaged ethnicities to rebuild trust in the criminal justice system. We require that convicted Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and all other races and ethnicities who reside within the State of Hawai'i remain incarcerated in the State of Hawai'i.

We support reforms to our criminal justice system, including but not limited to bail reform, that encourage the reintegration of formally incarcerated individuals into greater society and reduces their rate of recidivism.

### **AGRICULTURE**

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

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the Native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times. We need to ensure food safety, strive towards food security and strive to set the highest standards for food quality and nutrition.

We will promote ethical and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry and eggs.

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

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

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

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

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

~~We likewise support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification and value added products.~~

~~We support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step towards preserving high-grade productive lands for current and future needs.~~

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

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

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

~~Small farmers are the backbone of Hawaii's agricultural future. We support the establishment of agricultural parks and clustered farming lots to allow small farmers to share required utilities and utilize fertile land efficiently. We support the establishment of community-supported food hubs for drying, canning, freezing, and distribution of agricultural crops and produce.~~

~~We support the development of agricultural land trusts to keep land in farming in perpetuity and to keep land costs down.~~

### **ECONOMICS & COMMERCE**

~~Availability of financial support and a capable educated people are critical to our economic expansion and diversification. The management of businesses should be ethical and responsive to the community with transparency for investors and shareholders guaranteeing sound, healthy management. Innovation through the generation of intellectual property should be the goal of our economic diversification.~~

~~We must simplify government processes to encourage beneficial business development. We need to give priority to the development of "green" sustainable industries, diversification of our tourism market, and local business ownership. We need financial literacy and asset building programs to strengthen our 'ohana. Green commerce includes, but is not limited to, biodegradable or recycling packaging. We need to pursue relationships with the information technology industry. We must invest in world class higher education to stimulate our economic resources and we must reduce our dependence on tourism, real estate development, and military. A truly diversified economy will help to create diversified job market.~~

### **TECHNOLOGY**

~~We recognize that the responsible use and development of technology in all its manifestations offers immense potential for our community. We encourage research, development, and educational programs to promote technological proficiency and innovation. We support Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) initiatives in our public, private and charter schools as these prepare the next generation to address the needs of our state.~~

~~We maintain that State and local government databases should be integrated to promote efficiency in government. We support both net neutrality to ensure free and open access to the internet, and the protection of personal data as a personal right.~~

### **TRANSPORTATION**

~~We recognize the necessity of providing a safe, efficient transportation infrastructure. We endorse efforts 36 to promote less reliance on imported fossil fuel and to support energy efficient methods of transportation. Therefore, we support County, State, and Federal efforts to provide more efficient and punctual methods of public transportation, to include but not limited to: sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, bicycle paths and lanes, mass transit, highways, airports, and ferry systems. We support the allocation of resources including public funds to address all necessary transportation issues, including increased funding for mass transit. We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on the automobile by employing private and public use of alternative modes of travel. We encourage efforts to provide better vehicle and pedestrian safety. We support initiatives that will provide our State with more fuel efficient vehicles, affordable mass transit and well-identified bike lanes. In order to be best served by mass transit, we must recognize the importance of the integration in an urban setting of any new modes of mass transportation with existing and future public streets and highways, bike lanes, retail establishments and services, and truly affordable housing — while maintaining a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all future high density developments.~~

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

### **GLOBAL ECONOMY AND INSTITUTIONS**

~~DPH will protect and grow the global economy. We believe we must be responsible stewards and work with our partners to prevent another worldwide financial crisis.~~

~~DPH believes that global institutions — most prominently the United Nations — and multilateral organizations have a powerful role to play and are an important amplifier of American strength and influence. Many of these organizations need reform and updating and as such, we cannot turn our back on the international system that our country built. It has provided decades of stability and economic growth for the world and for America.~~

## **B. HEALTHCARE, HOUSING, AND SOCIO-CULTURAL WELLBEING**

### **HEALTHCARE**

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

~~Therefore, we support robust funding of the Hawai'i Health Authority (HHA) or other State Health Agency to design a statewide, unified, cost effective healthcare system that includes comprehensive healthcare services for all, and then submit that design to the legislature for evaluation.~~

~~Such a universal, comprehensive healthcare system would: (1) Unify the delivery of healthcare in Hawai'i by establishing a single network, benefit structure, reimbursement system, drug formulary, and prior authorization policies; (All state-regulated payers would be required to pay into this unified system, including Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, and health insurance provided by the state and counties, and commercial health insurance plans funded by employers and individuals.); (2) provide parity of mental and physical health coverage; (3) provide cost-effective regulation of comprehensive health care delivery systems with an administrative overhead of less than 3%; (4) include and protect all women's healthcare needs including reproductive rights and the healthcare needs of the LGBTQIA community; (5) provide preventative health programs; (6) provide long term care, dental, and vision care; and (7) provide healthcare to Compact of Free Association (Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau) (COFA) citizens and other non-citizens lawfully residing in Hawai'i on an equal basis with US citizens and permanent residents.~~

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

~~On the Federal level, we support a universal single-payer healthcare system similar to or better than HR 676, Expanded and Improved Medicare For All, wherein all individuals residing in the United States and U.S. territories are provided with comprehensive healthcare services.~~

### **REDUCING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS**

~~We will crack down on price gouging by drug companies and cap the amount that consumers have to pay out of pocket every month on prescription drugs. We will prohibit anti-competitive "pay for delay" deals that keep generic drugs off the market, and we will allow individuals, pharmacists, and wholesalers to import prescription drugs from licensed pharmacies in Canada and other countries with appropriate safety protections. Democrats will also fight to make such that Medicare will negotiate lower prices with drug manufacturers.~~

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

~~DPH believes that we must accelerate the pace of medical progress, ensuring that we invest more in our scientists and give them the resources they need to invigorate our fundamental studies in the life sciences in a growing, stable and predictable way. We must make progress against the full range of diseases, including diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer's, HIV an AIDS, cancer, and other diseases, especially chronic ones.~~

### **COMBATING DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION**

~~We must confront the epidemic of drug and alcohol addiction, specially the opioid and crystal methamphetamine (Ice) crisis and other drugs plaguing our communities, by vastly expanding access to prevention and treatment, supporting recovery, helping community organizations, and promoting better~~

practices by prescribers. DPH is committed to assisting people struggling with addiction in Hawai'i to find and sustain healthy lives by encouraging full recovery and integration into society and working to remove common barriers to gainful employment, housing and education. We will continue to fight to expand access to care for addiction services and ensure that insurance coverage is equal to that of any other health conditions. We should also do more to educate our youth as well as their families, teachers, coaches, mentors, and friends to intervene early to prevent drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. We should help State and local leaders establish evidence-based, age-appropriate, and locally tailored prevention programs. These programs include school-based drug education programs that have been shown to have meaningful effects on risky behavior; community-based peer mentorship and leadership programs; and after-school activities that deter drug use and encourage life skills.

### **TREATING MENTAL HEALTH**

We must treat mental health issues with the same care and seriousness that we treat issues of physical health, support a robust mental health workforce, and promote better integration of the behavioral and general health care systems. Recognizing that maintaining good mental health is critical to all people, including young people's health and development, we will work with health professionals to ensure that all children have access to mental health care. We must also expand community-based treatment of substance abuse disorders and mental health condition and fully enforce our parity law.

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

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

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

### **ENSURING LONG-TERM CARE, SERVICES, AND SUPPORTS**

We face a long-term care crisis that prevents too many seniors and people with disabilities from being able to live with dignity at home or in their communities. The vast majority of people who are aging or living with a disability want to do so at home, but face challenges finding and affording the support they need to do so. Programs that emphasize independence rather than institutionalization must be better structured to support them. DPH will take steps to strengthen and expand the home care workforce, give seniors and people with disabilities access to quality, affordable long-term care, services, and supports, and ensure that all of these resources are readily available at home or in the community.

### **PROTECTING AND PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH**

Investment in our State's crumbling public health infrastructure is critical to ensuring preparedness for emerging threats; for preventing disease, illness, and injury in communities; and for promoting good health and wellbeing. Inadequate access to public health services has a disparate impact on poor, rural and minority communities where public health services are a significant source of healthcare. DPH will fight for increased investments in public health to better address emerging threats and the needs across our State. We will ensure adequate funding of public health education at the undergraduate, graduate, and medical school levels as well as adequate funding of residency training programs in public health, preventative medicine, and its subspecialties.

We must take a number of proactive steps so that all people—regardless of location, income or history—have the opportunity to live full, healthy lives. Democrats will fight for increased investments and coordination in public health to better address emerging threats as well as persistent needs across our State. Health equity among the communities remains elusive—higher income is strongly associated with longer life expectancy and the gap in life expectancy between the richest and poorest people is increasing. We continue to see unacceptable differences in health outcomes by race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. A growing body of research demonstrates the link between social factors—such as poverty, unemployment, experience of discrimination, and housing instability—and poor health. DPH will

continue to pursue policies addressing these social factors and empowering communities to respond to their most pressing health needs.

We cannot support the provisions that continue the practice of denying women coverage for abortion services. All women's healthcare decisions should be made by the patients and their doctors, and not restricted by the government. Contraceptives and preventative cancer screening should be easily available to all women.

We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition.

We also support the establishment of adequate mental health and statewide drug rehabilitation programs set up in conjunction with policing policies aimed at enabling all who seek assistance to obtain whatever support assistance is needed to allow them to remain free of drug dependence.

We support fair and equitable access to medical cannabis to be administered by the Department of Health, State of Hawai'i.

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

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

#### **DRUG POLICY REFORM**

We support legalization and regulation of cannabis and other cannabis derivatives. We support research and adoption of successful crime reduction strategies currently implemented in other States and Nations.

#### **HOUSING**

Housing is a basic human right and we believe that adequate, accessible, affordable, and safe housing should be available to all residents of Hawai'i. Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to individual income is the basis of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy. Recent and past real estate bubbles have fueled disproportionate rent increases, a key contributor to homelessness. Therefore, we support efforts to promote truly affordable housing for all citizens who rent. We also need economically affordable housing and encourage increased support to this end including preservation of existing housing stock. To this end, we support policies which re-think the current formula to determine "affordability" as this formula puts both rentals and sales out of the reach of most working families in Hawai'i. We strongly urge that the definition of "affordable" be amended to 20% 25% of monthly income for all income brackets.

We support the statutory "Senior Circuit Breaker Refundable Tax Credit" or other relief to ensure that senior citizens are not taxed out of their homes. We insist on a substantial increase in the statutory exemptions from attachment or execution of personal residences.

We believe in the concept of "Housing First" to develop affordable, stable housing and support services to break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options.

We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawai'i's homeless population to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups including, but not limited to, Native Hawaiian, Asian and Filipino American, Pacific Islander, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans, the aged, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersexual and Asexual (LGBTQIA) homeless youth population. We believe in the concept of "Housing First" and in developing affordable housing policies and programs like "Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)."

#### **HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

The inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the foundations of freedom, justice, and peace. We support affirmative action, the full implementation of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

We believe that the concept of "*ohana*" and "Family" includes people regardless of sexual orientation, blood relation, marital status, or gender, gender identity or gender expression, who choose to join together to offer one another moral, spiritual and economic support.

~~We support full equality and nondiscrimination with respect to duties, benefits and responsibilities regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.~~

~~We believe in women's equality and right to privacy, including but not limited to, equal access to reproductive services and care, shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence, and the right of rape victims to emergency contraception in the emergency room.~~

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

~~We support the full implementation of a law that allows members of the transgender community to amend their birth certificates to accurately reflect their self-identified genders. We support changes in the law that ensure that no one makes a decision for a person of what their gender is but that individual.~~

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

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

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

~~We support legislation and best practice policies that prioritize the safety, security and well-being of our foster children, who are our most vulnerable *keiki* in our community. This is the paramount consideration when making decisions regarding the time frame, criteria and justification for reunification and family placement. We will always respect family and familial bonds, but reunification with every biological family is not always the safest, most secure or in the best interests of every child. This is especially true in aggravated circumstances cases involving drug use history, physical abuse, sexual abuse and unstable housing. We strongly support the efforts of parents and all people to recover and reorganize their lives for the better, but our ultimate concern must also be for the short and long-term safety and wellbeing of our foster children.~~

### **ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

~~DPH is committed to ending the scourge of violence against women wherever it occurs—whether in our homes, streets, schools, military, workplace, or elsewhere. We will support comprehensive services for survivors and increase prevention efforts in our communities and on our school campuses. DPH will fight to bring an end to sexual assault—wherever it occurs, including on campuses—because everyone deserves a safe environment where they can learn and thrive, not live in fear. We will provide comprehensive support to survivors and ensure a fair process for all on-campus disciplinary proceedings and in the criminal justice system. We will increase sexual violence prevention education programs that cover issues like consent and bystander intervention, not only in college, but also in secondary school.~~

### **HONORING NATIVE HAWAIIANS**

~~Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai'i and deserve a just relationship with the State and Federal Governments. We support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing practices. We value and wish to foster the preservation of our host culture. We support the efforts of Native Hawaiians to pursue self-determination. We also support their right to pursue the international rights of Native Hawaiian people.~~

~~We acknowledge the past injustices and the misguided, harmful Federal and State policies and actions based on outdated and discredited values and beliefs that resulted in the destruction of the Hawaiian Nation's economies, social, and religious systems, the taking of their lands, and the creation of intergenerational trauma that exists to this day. We believe that we have a moral and profound duty to honor, respect, and uphold our sacred obligation to the Hawaiian Nation State and the Hawaiian people.~~

~~DPH also supports efforts for self-governance and self-determination of Native Hawaiians whose values are the foundation of the Hawaiian Islands. We support proactive actions by the Federal and State~~

governments to enhance Native Hawaiian culture, health, language, and education. We recognize and honor the contributions and sacrifices made in service to our county by Native Hawaiians. We support the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in decisions related to county and state affairs.

We support Hawaiian language immersion schools that contribute to the revitalization and continuation of the Hawaiian language and appropriate assessments that accurately reflect Hawaiian language immersion students' progress and support the Hawaiian language immersion program. We support Hawaiian focused schools and courses that provide culturally based education in order to maximize choices in life and work. We support educational programming and efforts that embody Hawaiian values, language, culture and history as a foundation to prepare students for success in college, career and communities.

We support the construction and use of micro housing units on Hawaiian home lands approved by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and leased to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries who meet the minimum Hawaiian blood quantum requirement, notwithstanding county zoning laws. We support multi-level housing in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and agribusinesses for Native Hawaiians by creating ag-tech zones to promote agricultural innovation and diversify the State's agricultural systems for domestic consumption and export.

We support Native Hawaiians in their efforts to secure justice from our Federal and State governments to repair harms endured by the Hawaiian People and the 'āina since 1893. We support the right of Native Hawaiians to self-determination, including the formation of their chosen governmental entity.

### **IMMIGRATION**

We believe that our nation should have a fair immigration policy that recognizes the diversity of our country and the contribution that immigrants make and have made in the sciences, arts, and culture. We support an immigration policy that provides a reasonable and timely path to citizenship for immigrants who follow the rule of law. We support a path to US citizenship for Dreamers (children of undocumented citizens.) We encourage policies that avoid militarization of our borders. We abhor policies that would deny education and health and human services to immigrant children. We must ensure that immigrant children are never separated from their families and are treated with fairness and respect in our schools and healthcare system. Immigration laws should not discriminate based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

We oppose racial profiling and encourage policies that avoid the militarization of our borders and deplore policies that would deny education and health and human services to immigrant children. We need to ensure that immigrant children, whether their parents are documented or undocumented, are treated with fairness and respect in our schools and in our healthcare system.

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

We support the United States embracing and welcoming refugees to our shores.

### **PROMOTING ARTS AND CULTURE**

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

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

## **C. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING**

### **ENVIRONMENT**

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations



will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

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

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our 'āina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

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

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

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

Cesspools throughout the State of Hawai'i threaten drinking water supplies, coral reefs and the health of people who swim and surf in our island waters. They create a serious public safety issue, environmental problem and economic danger that is exacerbated by the effects of climate change. We support septic tank upgrades and wastewater sewage systems where feasible by 2025.

### **ENERGY**

We seek to achieve energy sustainability based on renewable energy sources. We must encourage the use of clean alternative fuel sources to include our public transportation systems. We must increase the use of public transit, telecommuting, car and vanpooling, ridesharing, biking, walking, and other forms of transportation thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. We must also urgently develop the use of a variety of cost-effective energy providing systems, encourage transit-oriented development, and support tax incentives that encourage renewable energy initiatives.

We oppose any tax breaks to fossil fuel industries.

We support energy independence, self-sufficiency, affordability and reliability for Hawai'i through the development of renewable alternative energy sources. Specifically, we need to support policies that foster the development of energy production methods that de-emphasize carbon-based fuels and promote renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC).

Electricity rates in Hawai'i are among the highest in the Nation even though we enjoy an abundance of sunshine year-round. Electric utility companies and cooperatives must open the grid to alternative power sources including solar panels and geothermal energy. We support the effort of our government officials to require utilities to provide for the maximum, comprehensive, integrated use of renewable energy and associated technologies such as storage and smart grid technologies.

### **COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE BUILD A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY, AND SECURE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

We are committed to getting 100 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources within a decade. We will cut energy waste in homes, schools, hospitals, and offices through energy efficient improvements; modernize our electric grid; and make manufacturing the cleanest and most efficient in the world. These efforts will create hundreds of new jobs and save families and businesses money on their monthly energy bills. We will transform Hawai'i's transportation by reducing fossil fuel consumption through cleaner fuels, vehicle electrification, and increasing the fuel efficiency of cars, boilers, ships, and trucks. We will make new investments in public transportation and build bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across our urban

and suburban areas. We believe that the tax code must reflect our commitment to a clean energy future by preserving and extending tax incentives for energy efficiency and clean energy.

Democrats believe that carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases should be priced to reflect their negative externalities, and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and help meet our climate goals. Democrats are committed to defending, implementing and extending smart pollution and efficiency standards and fuel economy standards for automobiles and heavy duty vehicles, building codes and appliance standards. We are also committed to expanding clean energy research and development. We will work to expand access to cost saving renewable energy by low income households, create good paying jobs in communities that struggled with energy poverty, and oppose efforts by utilities to limit consumer choice or slow clean energy deployment. We will streamline State permitting to accelerate the construction of new transmission lines to get low cost renewable energy to market, and incentivize wind, solar, and other renewable energy.

#### **PROTECTING OUR PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS**

DPH believes in the conservation and collaborative stewardship of our shared natural heritage: the public lands and waterways, the oceans, mountains and all that makes Hawai'i's great outdoors priceless. We need policies and investments that will keep Hawai'i's public lands public, strengthen protections for our natural and cultural resources, increase access to parks and public lands for all people, protect native species and wildlife, and harness the immense economic and social potential of our public lands and waters.

DPH will approach conservation of our public lands and waters in a way that reflects the diversity of our State, by actively engaging all people in the great outdoors and protecting natural landscapes and cultural sites that tell the story of Hawai'i's complex history. To help meet these goals, we will work to build a diverse workforce in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) that manage Hawai'i's public lands, waters, and cultural sites.

Democrats oppose efforts to undermine the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act to protect threatened and endangered species.

Agricultural practices have a significant impact on our water, land, oceans, and climate. Therefore, we believe that in order to be effective in keeping our air and water clean and combating climate change, we must enlist farmers as partners in promoting conservation and stewardship.

#### **CONFRONT GLOBAL THREATS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP**

Climate change poses an urgent and severe threat to our National Security, and DPH believes it would be a grave mistake for the United States to wait for another nation to take the lead in combating the global climate emergency. According to the U.S. military, climate change is a threat multiplier that is already contributing to new conflicts over resources, catastrophic natural disasters, and the degradation of vital ecosystems across the globe. DPH recognizes the catastrophic consequences facing our State, our country, our planet, and civilization.

We believe that Hawai'i must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. We are committed to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat. Our generation must lead the fight against climate change and we applaud Hawai'i's leadership in joining the historic Paris Climate Accord. We will not only meet the goals set in Paris, we will seek to exceed them and push other countries to do the same by slashing carbon pollution and rapidly driving down emissions of potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons. We will support other States and developing countries in their efforts to mitigate carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, deploy more clean energy, and invest in climate resilience and adaptation.

### **D. WELLBEING OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OF THE GOVERNED**

#### **PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS**

It is a core principle of the Democratic Party to maximize voter participation for all Americans. Our democracy suffers when nearly two thirds of our citizens do not or cannot participate. Democrats believe we must make it easier to vote, not harder.

We will bring our democracy into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by expanding early voting and vote by mail, implementing universal automatic voter registration and same day registration and making Election Day a national holiday. We will restore voter rights for those who have served their sentences. And we will continue to fight against discriminatory voter identification laws which disproportionately burden young voters, diverse communities, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, low income families, people with disabilities, the elderly, and women.

## **GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM**

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

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

This includes the protection of funding for the televising of public hearings at the State and County levels, as well as the funding of the Public Access Room at the Legislature.

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

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

We support the separation of State and Church as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of America in the First Amendment as well as Article VI, and believe this right is meant to support equality and not erode it. We also oppose any legislation that weakens that wall. Separation of State and Church is meant to ensure that no single religion can impose its particular beliefs on members of the general population.

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

Notwithstanding claims of national security, the policy of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i is to demand the President and Congress of the United States, in order to uphold due process and its application to any place "subject to [United States] jurisdiction", to remove all prisoners at Guantanamo to the United States, provide them with a fair civilian trial, and forthwith close the detainee facilities at Guantanamo that have offered unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment.

## **SAFETY, SECURITY, NATURAL DISASTERS & OTHER EMERGENCIES**

We support safety and security in all dimensions as a basic function of government. We support just law enforcement and enhancement of crime prevention, without compromising civil liberties. This encompasses the full protection of the law, including enforcement of victim's rights, restitution, counseling, therapy, Orders of Protection, and shelters for victims and survivors of domestic violence and other criminal wrongs. We support appropriate training for all law enforcement officers and agency personnel. We support full enforcement of the State of Hawai'i's hate crimes statute.

We demand the protection of the people of Hawai'i and their property against natural and man-made disasters. 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. This includes investment in early warning systems, emergency management and response systems, and adequate emergency sheltering.

## **E. NATIONAL SECURITY, THE MILITARY, PEACE AND VETERANS' RIGHTS**

### **NATIONAL ISSUES**

Many issues can only be addressed at the National level. As American citizens and Hawai'i Democrats, we have the right and the duty to express our views on these issues to our Congressional delegation, as

~~well as to the representatives we send to the Democratic National Convention and the Democratic National Committee.~~

~~We consider it imperative that our National Government re-establish regulations and guidelines, such as the Glass-Steagall Act, assuring that financial institutions operate fairly and transparently, and that they do not jeopardize the larger public interest in pursuit of their private gain. We endorse the principle that if such institutions are "too big to fail," then they are too big. We support the enactment and vigorous enforcement of laws that penalize those corporations (and their executives and directors) who have defrauded the public.~~

~~We believe that private ventures that may potentially endanger the environmental security of the planet should be closely and firmly regulated and monitored in their activities by the Federal Government. The Federal agencies responsible for such oversight must be adequately funded and staffed and must also receive appropriate and expert public oversight. The Gulf oil spill is the most compelling case in point. We support Federal initiatives, both from Congress and from the future administrations that would mitigate the catastrophic cultural, economic, and environmental damage created by Federal policies on globalization.~~

~~We condemn the deeply flawed process by which our Government has decided to use our military forces in acts of preventive war.~~

~~Companies that shut down their operations and move to another place should be forced to make their abandoned employees and communities whole and to pay their fair share of taxes. Companies, which move their headquarters to foreign countries to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, should be sanctioned and fined.~~

~~We ask that federal policies that violate the U. S. Constitution and/or international law, many of which were initiated by the previous Republican administration, be reexamined. Where they are found to be detrimental to our civil rights, and to human rights in general, and unless they are clearly essential to prevent clear and present danger to our national security, we call for their abolition.~~

#### ~~**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**~~

~~We support a foreign policy that respects Constitutional process and rights, honors human dignity, promotes adherence to international agreements, and integrates diplomatic, economic, military, educational and cultural policies. We support a fully funded, prompt, orderly and complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops and military contractors from Iraq. We oppose measures that compromise full withdrawal and endorse diplomatic efforts with all parties in the region. We recognize that regime change can be more harmful and is not always the best policy.~~

#### ~~**FOREIGN POLICY**~~

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

#### ~~**U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**~~

~~The Armed Forces in Hawai'i and their families sacrifice to serve and defend our country and to help us in time of need. We encourage the continuation of efforts to coordinate military activities with affected communities. Hawai'i should honor their service by strongly supporting the best possible care of wounded and disabled veterans. We therefore support efforts to fully fund the Hawai'i Office of Veterans Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA).~~

~~We support our Veterans and our Veterans organizations and efforts to keep our Veteran's Hospitals fully funded.~~

~~We oppose further attempts to privatize VA healthcare. We support supplementing VA healthcare with community care when needed. However, we support the VA as the primary medical care coordinator.~~

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

~~We honor the service of all our military members.~~

~~We support the efforts of our Congressional Delegation to extend benefits for our Reservists and National Guard who have suffered brain injury and/or PTSD. We support efforts to protect our troops from sexual predators who commit sexual assault and command rape within their service branches and support specialized treatment for victims of such crimes.~~

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

~~We support the protection of our 'āina against destruction by military use.~~

~~We support the best training for our military; however, we urge protection of our 'āina from long-term degradation and prevention of harm to our cultural and community assets.~~

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

#### **SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AND KEEP FAITH WITH OUR VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS**

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

~~We will fight for every veteran to have timely access to high-quality health care and timely processing of claims and appeals. We must also look for more ways to make certain the VA provides veteran-centric care, such as providing women with full and equal treatment, including reproductive health services; expanding mental health programs; continuing effort to identify and treat invisible, latent, and toxic wounds of war; treating post-traumatic stress; and expanding the post-9/11 veteran's caregiver program to include all veterans.~~

#### **A STRONG MILITARY**

~~DPH welcomes and honors all Americans who want to serve and will continue to fight for their equal rights and recognition. We commit ourselves to insuring fair treatment for LGBTQIA veterans, including by proactively reviewing and upgrading discharge records for veterans who are discharged because of their sexual orientation. Our military is strongest when people of all races, religions, sexual orientations, and gender identities are honored for their service to our country.~~