

REPORT OF THE CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
To the
O'ahu County Democrats, Democratic Party of Hawaii

May 13, 2023

The members of the Resolutions Committee ("RC") include: Co-Chair Brenden Kinoshita, Co-Chair Darolee Prewitt, Will Caron, Julia LoPresti, Kaimookalani Muhlestein, Sam Mitchell, Flora Obayashi, Jeanne Ohta, Anthony Makana Paris, Martha Randolph, John Salerno, Abby Simmons, Sarah Simmons, David Strand, Jyun Yamamoto, Brandon Young.

At its April 18, 2023 meeting, the RC appointed an Ad Hoc Subcommittee consisting of Chair Anthony Makana Paris, Will Caron, Jeanne Ohta, Martha Randolph, John Salerno, and Sarah Simmons. The Ad Hoc was authorized to make non-substantive edits & reformatted as needed to correct spelling and grammar and to conform with the convention submission rules, the posted and published resolutions of the county, and the format described in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*. The Ad Hoc Committee was also authorized to consult with the authors of the resolutions submitted to address concerns raised by the RC and make recommendations to the RC for substantive amendments for approval.

The RC met on April 18, 22, and 24, 2023, and considered and debated eight subject matter resolutions. The resolutions being recommended for adoption by the O'ahu County Convention are attached as Exhibit "A".

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee

Committee Co-Chair

Committee Co-Chair

Member in attendance:

April 18, 2023 - Called to Order 6:00 p.m.; Recessed 8:00 p.m.

Voting Members - Brenden Kinoshita, Darolee Prewitt, Will Caron, Julia LoPresti, Kaimookalani Muhelstein, Jeanne Ohta, Anthony Makana Paris, Martha Randolph, John Salerno, Abby Simmons, Sarah Simmons, David Strand, Jyun Yamamoto, Brandon Young

Guests/Observers - Melodie Aduja

April 22, 2023 - Called to Order 1:00 p.m.; Recessed 3:00 p.m.

Voting Members - Brenden Kinoshita, Darolee Prewitt, Will Caron, Flora Obayashi, Jeanne Ohta, Anthony Makana Paris, Martha Randolph, Abby Simmons, Sarah Simmons, David Strand, Jyun Yamamoto, Brandon Young

April 24, 2023 - Called to Order 6:00 p.m.; Adjourned 7:11 p.m.

Voting Members - Brenden Kinoshita, Darolee Prewitt, Will Caron, Julia LoPresti, Kaimookalani Muhlestein, Flora Obayashi, Jeanne Ohta, Anthony Makana Paris, Martha Randolph, Abby Simmons, Sarah Simmons, David Strand, Jyun Yamamoto, Brandon Young

Guests/Observers - Michael Golojuch, Jr.

EXHIBIT “A”

2023-1: Urging the City and County of Honolulu to expand the installation and use of non-“greenhouse gases” (GHG) emitting sources of electricity, such as, but not limited to, solar panels, wind turbines, hydroelectric, ocean wave generators, combined with battery storage technology, as the alternative to incineration-based power plants; and require the use of carbon capture technology for all existing GHG emitting power plants

Whereas, The O’ahu County Climate Action Plan 2020-2025 calls for our island to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45 percent over the next five years and put us on the path to carbon neutrality by 2045; and

Whereas, Current and rapidly evolving, non-GHG producing, and battery storage technologies are becoming less expensive and more efficient to install and can produce cheaper and reliable electricity, and are therefore, more capable of providing a substantial, consistent, and controllable contribution to Oahu’s power requirements; and

Whereas, To achieve the State and County’s GHG reduction goals, expanded installations of alternative non-polluting power sources, including but not limited to, solar panels, wind turbines and wave generators, are necessary, but can and must be done with acute awareness of Hawaiian cultural and community impact concerns, and operated in accordance with environmental regulations for the preservation of local wildlife and endangered species; and

Whereas, According to the 2022 *Hawaii State Energy Office Facts and Figures Report*, Fossil fuels (coal and petroleum) which emit GHG, still provide over 77% of Hawaii’s electric power, and “renewable sources” (currently including Biomass burning, which also produces carbon emissions) produced approximately 29% of which, only about 20% was from non-emission producing sources; and

Whereas, Oahu’s H-Power municipal multisource waste burning plants produces most of Oahu’s GHG, which are highly dangerous to the health of all island residents and especially to those who live near those power plants, and which can cause cancers, respiratory illnesses, birth defects and neurological problems; and

Whereas, The Public Utilities Commission supports Oahu’s status as a National leader in clean, renewable energy by promoting the best, cheapest, and most environmentally safe and reliable mix of power generating resources moving forward toward Hawaii’s climate change mitigation and energy production goals; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O’ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i urges the City and County of Honolulu and Hawai’i State Legislators for the island of O’ahu who are members of the Democratic Party to expand the installation and use of non-GHG emitting sources of electricity, including but not limited to, solar panels, wind turbines, hydroelectric, and ocean wave generators, combined with battery storage technology, as the alternative to all forms of incineration-based power plants; and require the use of carbon capture technology to all current and new GHG producing power plants; and be it so

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

2023-2 Urging the City and County of Honolulu and the Hawai'i State Legislature to severely restrict the use, manufacture and importing of all products which contain any variety or form of PFAS chemical compounds, and eventually ban those products as soon as it becomes practical, on O'ahu

Whereas, According to Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry 2019 *PFAS - An Overview of the Science and Guidance for Clinicians on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)*, PFAS also known as "forever chemicals", are manmade toxic chemical substances which have been found in drinking water all over the USA, and can build up (bio accumulate) in all forms of animal food sources such as fish, domestic farm animals and wildlife, entering a human body via consumption, skin contact, breathing, and exposure to waste products which contain them can cause various forms of cancer, immune system deficiencies, organ damage, and affect human growth, with investigations ongoing; and

Whereas, PFAS chemicals come in many forms,(PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA (GenX) PFBS), and are used as coatings to make products heat, oil, stains, grease and water, resistant, which include, most food service/take out products, clothing, textiles in all forms, carpets, soaps and gels, makeups, sunscreens and their containers, non-stick cookware to name only a few, most of which are usually discarded, to be burned for power on O'ahu, or dumped on our beaches or into our ocean; and

Whereas, They are also integral to the preferred forms of firefighting foams, which have recently been the source of massive drinking water pollution on O'ahu, in the September 2020 firefighting foam spill at Red Hill and the November 2022 spill of approximately 1,300 gallons of firefighting foam from the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility in Halawa, which dumped massive concentrations of Toxic PFAS chemicals into drinking water that served both civilian and Navy O'ahu residents; and

Whereas, Recent investigations by the Department of Health, and the Board of Water Supply have detected low levels of PFAS in multiple drinking water wells on O'ahu, including but not limited to, Waipio Heights, Halawa and Aiea Halawa Shaft, Makakilo, Aina Koa Well 1, Kipapa Acres, Waipahu Well 2, Del Monte Kunia Village; and

Whereas, PFAS chemicals do not naturally break down in any form of the environment, remaining toxic for literally thousands of years, and are easily transmittable during the entire time, thereby continuing to be a health threat causing illnesses and toxin-related deaths in human beings and animal life long after being discarded and can cause various cancers which means that safe removal and storage of all PFAS containing waste products and chemical spills must be a priority for O'ahu County; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the City and County of Honolulu and the Hawai'i State Legislators for the island of O'ahu who are members of the Democratic Party to severely restrict and ban the importation, manufacturing, sale, offer for sale, distribution for sale, and use of products containing PFAS Chemicals whether intentionally or unintentionally added, and to further explore alternative and safer options for the disposal of products containing PFAS being used on O'ahu; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the City and County of Honolulu to work with the Board of Water Supply and provide necessary funding to develop a plan for the treatment of PFAS in Oahu's water wells; and be it

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

2023-3: Urging the Honolulu City Council to designate Oahu's coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure which must be protected from human engendered damage in all forms

Whereas, Oahu's coral reefs are vital for mitigating the damage and losses resulting from climate change related events like storm damage, coastal flooding, and beach erosion, so long as they are healthy and strong; and

Whereas, Oahu's coral reefs have been damaged by human engendered actions and can be managed, preserved, and restored, by employing established natural solutions; and

Whereas, According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) live coral cover has declined by as much as forty percent in some areas, and Oahu has experienced multiple coral bleaching events in the past ten years, especially in the massive Statewide events of 2015 and 2019, resulting in, but not limited to, 75% of the coral around the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport bleached, Yokohama Bay, Makua Beach, Kāne'ohe Bay high percentages of bleaching, and which the NOAA concluded resulted as much from human waste discharge and pollution as from ocean temperatures; and

Whereas, The health and sustainability of Oahu's coral reefs are being threatened by climate change related rising sea levels and ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, unsustainable fishing practices, invasive species and land-based sources of pollution and run-off; and

Whereas, Studies from the United States Geological survey have shown that healthy coral reefs can absorb up to ninety-seven percent of wave energy, thereby protecting coastal properties from storm surge and trapping sediments, and further estimated that Hawaii's coral reefs protect \$836,000,000 worth of coastal infrastructure from flooding annually; of which the major portion is on Oahu; and

Whereas, Climate scientists and other experts predict an increase in the number and severity of hurricanes, higher levels of rainfall in fewer storm events, in addition to ever increasing sea surface temperatures and ocean acidification, which already undermine the health of our reef systems and will continue to do so if current climate conditions persist; and

Whereas, Ten million visitors travel to Hawai'i annually to experience, amongst other natural resources, the beauty of our ocean coastline, beaches, reefs and reef sea life, and in doing so contribute nearly \$17 billion to our state economy annually; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawaii urge the Honolulu City Council to designate Oahu's coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure for Honolulu County and take all necessary actions to protect them from human generated damage and to employ established natural solutions to preserve and restore them as needed; and be it

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

2023-4: Celebrating the protection of the right to privacy and bodily autonomy in Hawai'i through the enactment of Act 2, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023

Whereas, The people of Hawai'i have a long-standing tradition of protecting an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy; and with the enactment of Act 1, Session Laws of Hawai'i 1970, Hawai'i was the first state in the nation to legalize abortion; and

Whereas, The Hawai'i State Constitution was amended in 1978 to explicitly codify the right to privacy; and in 2006, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed Act 35, Session Laws of Hawai'i which established the State's policy to protect a pregnant person's right to choose or obtain an abortion of a nonviable fetus or an abortion necessary to protect a pregnant person's life or health; and

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court overruled nearly fifty years of federal precedent by holding in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 142 S.Ct. 2228 (2022), that the United States Constitution does not confer a right to an abortion; a decision which resulted in abortion bans or severely restricted abortion access in many states that threaten the rights of equality, liberty, and privacy in reproductive health care decisions; and in response, the O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i organized an ad hoc committee on abortion to track the Supreme Court decision and to coordinate a response with other community organizations; and

Whereas, The passage of SB1, SD2 signed into law by Governor Green as Act 2 aims to bolster the State's policy to protect an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy, including those of minors, and to declare that the laws of other states authorizing civil actions and criminal prosecutions for receiving, seeking, providing, or aiding and abetting the provision of reproductive health care services are contrary to the State's public policy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i celebrates the protection of the right to privacy and bodily autonomy in Hawai'i through the enactment of Act 2, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023, ensuring that all people have the right to make reproductive health care decisions about their own bodies and ensuring that safe, legal abortion remains available in the State of Hawai'i; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognize the importance of upholding these rights, regardless of changes in the legal landscape, and support efforts to prohibit recognition and enforcement of other states' laws that impose civil or criminal liability relating to reproductive health care services; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i congratulate the Hawai'i State Legislature and Governor Green for their decisive action in defending the rights of the people of Hawai'i; and encourage other states to follow Hawaii's example in protecting the right to privacy and bodily autonomy, ensuring that all individuals have access to safe, legal, and comprehensive reproductive health care services; and be it

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

2023-5: Supporting equality and representation in government for all LGBTQIA+ persons and rejecting legislation which cause significant harm to and placing LGBTQIA+ individuals at increased risk for physical harassment, violence, incarceration and increased rates of suicide

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform believes in full equality before the law for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Agender, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) community (Democratic Party of Hawai'i 2022 Platform); and

Whereas, the O'ahu County Democrats 2021 Oahu County Platform includes the topic of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the Democratic Party of Hawai'i uphold the values of the Democratic Party and support efforts for diversity, equity and inclusion in government; and

Whereas, Members of the Grand Old Party (GOP) across the United States have introduced over 400 anti-LGBTQIA+ bills so far in 2023 and during the 32nd session of the Hawai'i State Legislature some O'ahu republican party legislators have introduced similar anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation introduced and passed by their colleagues across the continent; and

Whereas, these extreme republican members of the House and Senate have a track record of voting against bills supporting equal rights, inclusivity and bodily autonomy; and

Whereas, The aforementioned bills are causing significant harm to and placing LGBTQIA+ individuals at increased risk for physical harassment, violence, incarceration and increased rates of suicide; and

Whereas, These extreme republican members of the House and Senate currently serve in O'ahu county districts; and

Whereas, These aforementioned GOP legislators do not reflect the values of inclusion and the aloha spirit of Hawai'i and the O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, The Oahu County Democrats adopted Resolution 2022-14: Urging our elected officials to study, reflect upon, speak up about, and be advocates for the Spirit of Aloha as defined by Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 5-7.5; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports the spirit of Aloha and rejects the politics of hate, division and fear in Honolulu County and supports the equal treatment under the law for all LGBTQIA+ persons and the right to participate in and be represented at all levels of government in our City and County of Honolulu; and be it

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

2023-6: Urging the Honolulu City Council to exempt from real property tax those property owners of residential units within one-half mile of an active landfill or deemed to have been impacted by those landfills as a matter of environmental justice

Whereas, The 2008 *Hawai'i Environmental Justice Initiative Report's* definition of "environmental justice" for Hawai'i recognized that "no one segment of the population or geographic area should be disproportionately burdened with environmental and/or health impacts resulting from development, construction, operations and/or use of natural resources"; and

Whereas, Residents within one-half mile of an active operation of municipal solid waste landfills or construction and demolition landfills are disproportionately burdened generally; and

Whereas, for example, According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, residents in the two census tracts abutting PVT Land Company LTD.'s landfill in Nānākuli, O'ahu, a predominantly Native Hawaiian community, live ten years less than the state average of eighty-two years and have the second and third lowest life expectancies in the entire State; and

Whereas, Hawaii's progressive Environmental Justice law, Act 73, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2020, addressed only future operations of waste and disposal facilities, including landfills, and did not address the safety and health of those residents suffering from the active operation of existing facilities; and

Whereas, Honolulu residents living near active landfills have experienced a myriad of health problems, including risk of reduced lung function, asthma, ataxia, paralysis, and lung cancer, as the air quality of their homes becomes contaminated with unmitigated dust pollution; and

Whereas, These residents have incurred substantial costs as a direct result of living near active landfills, including medical and funeral expenses, home repair and repainting due to the unnatural buildup of dust, and the installation and maintenance of air filtration systems; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Honolulu City Council to exempt from real property tax those property owners of residential units within one-half mile of an active landfill or deemed to have been impacted by those landfills as a matter of Environmental Justice; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the City and County of Honolulu to grant such tax relief to owners of such residential units that are not owner-occupied, if they provide and maintain an air filtration system for their rental; and be it

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

2023-7: Affirming O'ahu County Democrats' efforts to get out the vote

Whereas, One of the purposes of the O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i is to help elect Democrats up and down the ticket; and

Whereas, In 2022 the O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i saw the largest loss of Democratic state seats in decades solely on the island of O'ahu; and

Whereas, In 2020 for the first time in over 20 years the O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i saw the election of mayor for the City and County of Honolulu for a full 4 year term go to a non-Democrat; and

Whereas, In 2022 the O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i saw a large drop off in actual voters in the Primary and General election compared to the 2020 elections; now, therefore be it

Resolved, Affirming O'ahu County Democrats Efforts to Get Out the Vote; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i requests the the O'ahu County Chair to create an ad hoc committee entitled GOTV O'ahu for the purpose of getting Democrats to vote in elections in the City and County of Honolulu; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recommends the following as the purpose of this ad hoc committee: recruit Democratic volunteers to assist with phone bank, door knocking, and sign waving; develop and implement a real world get out the vote plan for primaries and general elections; assist in developing a communication plan & budget to reach as many Democratic voters as possible; and assist the O'ahu County Treasurer with fundraising to pay for these activities; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recommends that this ad hoc committee not be used to campaign for any one candidate or slate of candidates in any primary or general election in coordination with the State's Coordinated Campaign, as appropriate; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recommends that members of the ad hoc committee not be anyone whose name will appear on a primary or general election ballot nor a campaign manager or treasurer for any candidate's campaign whose name appears on a primary or general election; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recommends that this ad hoc committee provide quarterly reports, and reports after the primary and general election to the O'ahu County Committee to ensure that the committee stays on mission, meeting goals, and see the effectiveness of their plan; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution shall be distributed to all members of the 2023 – 2025 O'ahu County Committee and all members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i that reside on O'ahu.

2023-8: Strengthening the Democratic party's position at all government levels in 2024

Whereas, The Democratic Party has long championed the causes of social justice, economic equity, environmental protection, and equal opportunity for all; and

Whereas, the Chair of the Oahu County Democrats appointed a special committee called Organizing for Elections 2024; and

Whereas, Winning seats at the county, state, and federal level is crucial for advancing progressive policies that improve the lives of the people we represent; and

Whereas, Strong Democratic representation at all levels of government will enable us to better address issues such as climate change, healthcare, education, and social justice, thus fostering a more equitable society; and

Whereas, The O'ahu Democratic Party is committed to upholding the core values of the Democratic Party and the betterment of our community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the O'ahu County Committee to:

- Devise and implement comprehensive strategies to support candidates who embody Democratic values and have strong connections to their communities against Republican candidates in the general election in 2024; and
- Strengthen our grassroots organizing efforts by fostering relationships with local organizations, community leaders, and activists, and by encouraging active participation and engagement from our members; and
- Enhance our communication and messaging strategies to effectively reach and resonate with a diverse electorate, emphasizing the importance of Democratic representation at all levels of government; and
- Encourage party unity and collaboration by facilitating open dialogues among Democratic elected officials, candidates, party members, and the community at large; and
- Urge all Democrats to join us in our mission to strengthen the Democratic Party's position at all levels of government, working together to build a brighter future for all; and be it

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