

**2024 Democratic Party of Hawai'i State Convention  
Resolutions  
as adopted on May 18, 2024**

2024-01	Urging Hawai'i to Respond to the Emergency Threat of the Invasive Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) to the Environment, as well as the Economy and Natural Beauty of Hawai'i, by Aggressively Developing and Funding an Integrated Pest Management Control Program Working with the CRB Partnership	4
2024-02	Urging the Creation of a Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Mitigate Catastrophic Wildfires	5
2024-03	Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Increase Enforcement and Penalties Against Owners of Dangerous Dogs	6
2024-04	Urging Democratic Hawai'i State Lawmakers to Create a Progressive Tax System Based on Ability to Pay	7
2024-05	Urging Elected Officials at all Levels of Government to Protect and Preserve Access to Water Resources for the People of Hawai'i	8
2024-06	Urging Support to Continuously Monitor Stream Health Within the Waikōloa Hydrologic Unit	9
2024-07	Requesting the Governor to convene a Working Group to Plan for the Cleanup of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), Microplastics and Heavy Metals on State Lands and Waters to Protect Public Health and the Environment	10
2024-08	Urging Construction and Operation of a Public Environmental Toxins Laboratory in Hawai'i	11
2024-09	Urging State Agencies that Monitor Pollution Levels to Adopt More-Transparent Procedures	12
2024-10	Supporting Continuous Monitoring of Toxic Chemicals Released by Landfills and Waste Incinerators	13
2024-11	Supporting Safe Management of Incinerator Ash	14
2024-12	Supporting Safe Management of Ash and Debris Especially from the August 2023 Maui Wildfires	15
2024-13	Supporting Zero Waste for Clean Air, Job Creation, and Conserving Landfill Space	16
2024-14	Urging the Hawai'i State Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to Continue Efforts for Clean Energy Transformation Priorities, Natural Resource Management Policy Priorities, and Solid Waste Reduction Policy Priorities	17
2024-15	Urging the Hawai'i State Energy Office to Study Non-Burn Alternatives to Combustible Fuels	18
2024-16	Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Eliminate Biomass from the Renewable Portfolio Standard	19
2024-17	Urging the Hawai'i State Congressional Delegation, Relevant Federal Agencies, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Relevant State Agencies, State Senate and House Leadership, and County Governments to Diligently Pursue Funding of Subsurface Geological Surveys, and to Expedite Permitting and Development of Geothermal Power on all Hawaiian Islands	20
2024-18	Urging the Establishment of a Carbon Pricing and Dividend Program	21
2024-19	Promoting and Upholding the Aloha Spirit in Our Democratic Campaigns	22
2024-20	Requesting Democratic Candidates to Pledge to Conduct Fair Campaign Practices	23
2024-21	Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Create a System of Fully Public Financing of Campaigns	24

2024-22	Urging the Establishment of Ranked Choice Voting for all Hawai'i Elections	25
2024-23	Urging a Constitutional Amendment to Eliminate the Electoral College and Instead Elect U.S. Presidents and Vice Presidents by Equal Vote Count Per Voter	26
2024-24	Urging the U.S. Senate to Eliminate its Filibuster Rule Requiring a Super Majority of Votes and Instead Insist on Democracy with Simple Majority Rule	27
2024-25	Urging the Expansion of SNAP Benefits to Households Earning at or Below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level	28
2024-26	Urging the Establishment of Free School Meals for All Public School Students	29
2024-27	Urging the Enactment of Stronger Consumer Protection Laws for Condominium Owners	30
2024-28	Urging Support for Marriage Equality	31
2024-29	Affirming Transgender Rights by Protecting Gender Affirming Care	32
2024-31	Urging President Biden to Take Specific Actions to Achieve Peace in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories of Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem	33
2024-32	Urging the United States Congress to Immediately Reinstate Funding for the UNRWA Pending the Creation of an Agency Plan to Prevent Involvement in Terrorist Activities	34
Ceremonial (Non-Policy)		
2024-33	Thanking Michael Golojuch, Jr. for His Many Years of Service to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and the State of Hawai'i	35
2024-34	Celebrating the Life of Democratic Party of Hawai'i Legal Counsel Thomas Anthony "Tony" Gill	36
2024-35	Honoring and Recognizing Ron Menor, Honolulu City Council Member and Hawai'i State Senator	37

2024-01: Urging Hawai'i to Respond to the Emergency Threat of the Invasive Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) to the Environment, as well as the Economy and Natural Beauty of Hawai'i, by Aggressively Developing and Funding an Integrated Pest Management Control Program Working with the CRB Partnership

Whereas, The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) has no natural predators and the 6-inch invasive beetle is voracious; and

Whereas, If there are no coconut palms, CRBs will eat any other plants; and

Whereas, Females live 9 months, during which period they can lay up to 100 eggs; and

Whereas, Managing this beetle involves removing or destroying organic material that supports larval development such as decaying logs and stumps; and

Whereas, An alternative method is to set out traps and, when buying garden soil, ensuring that the seller isn't bringing the invasive soil to your home; and

Whereas, Hawai'i must take the opportunity to reduce the significant environmental and economic impact of the beetle; and

Whereas, The cost of this control will be expensive and ongoing for the state and counties; and

Whereas, There is an active statewide CRB Response program whose mission will be achieved through education, awareness, detection, prevention, and treatment, with the help of our partners and the public in employing Integrated Pest Management protocols; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the State of Hawai'i and county governments to prioritize and establish a fund to provide for the control of this invasive species; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor of Hawai'i, the Director of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Dean of the Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences at the University of Hawai'i, the Director of the State Department of Health, all state lawmakers that are Democrats, the county council members and mayors of all four counties, and the CRB Response partnership.

2024-02: Urging the Creation of a Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Mitigate Catastrophic Wildfires

Whereas, The threat of catastrophic wildfires is increasing due to warmer ocean temperatures, which in turn will cause longer and more severe droughts to hit areas of the State of Hawai'i (the state); and

Whereas, In August of 2023, a series of wildfires devastated the town of Lahaina on Maui, resulting in the loss of at least 101 lives, destroying 2,200 structures, and causing an estimated \$5.5 billion in damage; and

Whereas, Although the cause of the Lahaina wildfires have yet to be officially determined, contributing factors include poor or inadequate maintenance of brush surrounding utility poles, high dry winds (without accompanying rain showers), downed sparking power lines, a failure to use the existing Civil Defense siren system to alert residents of the fire, and the absence of key individuals at the Maui Emergency Management Center; and

Whereas, The state's economy is still reeling from the impact of the Lahaina wildfires; and

Whereas, One analysis of the wildfires and their causes concluded that, even if the management resources had been where they should have been, the emergency management system then in place would still have been overwhelmed by the size of the task confronting it; and that in order to properly respond to wildfires of the same or larger size, the emergency management centers need substantially more personnel and better coordination with all sectors of government; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i State Legislature, and the county governments to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the threat of catastrophic wildfires by instituting some or all of the following measures:

- Requiring that power lines in new subdivisions be buried or safely placed at ground-level rather than strung above ground on utility poles;
- Requiring that neighborhoods in high-risk areas move their existing power lines underground if they are not there already;
- Requiring that power companies establish a policy of turning off power during high wind events in neighborhoods with power lines on utility poles;
- Establishing a fully staffed emergency management agency;
- Funding such an augmented agency;
- Having the agency work with county and state law enforcement agencies to develop evacuation plans in order to better move people out of harm's way; and
- Coordinating with public and private property owners to properly maintain wilderness areas to reduce fire risk; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Director of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, the mayors of Kaua'i, Maui, Honolulu and Hawai'i counties, the directors of the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency, the Honolulu Department of Emergency Management, the Maui Emergency Management Agency, the Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency, the members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are Democrats, and the members of the four county councils who are Democrats.

2024-03: Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Increase Enforcement and Penalties Against Owners of Dangerous Dogs

Whereas, The American Veterinary Medical Association considers dog attacks to be a serious health risk to our society that is almost entirely preventable through public education and properly enforced measures by owners to keep dogs humanely restrained and secured; and

Whereas, Hawai'i residents and their pets have been subjected to an increasing number of vicious attacks by dogs, causing severe injuries and ultimately resulting in the deaths of persons and animals that were attacked; and

Whereas, Multiple counties have passed various legislation attempting to address these issues, yet dog attacks have continued to occur despite the enactment of said legislation, demonstrating the need for stronger laws, penalties, and enforcement relating to dangerous dogs; and

Whereas, According to the Hawai'i County Prosecuting Attorney the current inconsistencies in state and county laws regarding dangerous dogs have made it unclear which laws are enforceable to hold dog owners accountable; and

Whereas, The Hawai'i State Legislature considered a bill in 2024, House Bill 2058, that would have established requirements and penalties for dog owners that allow their dogs to injure or kill other animals or people; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to amend Chapter 711, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to set and increase fines, penalties, and other regulations, including providing that owners convicted under the law be found guilty of a class C felony for a dog attack that results in substantial bodily injury to a person, or a class B felony if the attack results in death; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports the intent of House Bill 2058 (2024) and urges the legislature to consider this bill and similar measures as potential vehicles to bring about much-needed changes to state law in an effort to prevent any more injury, damage, or death caused by dangerous dogs; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature that are Democrats, the Attorney General of Hawai'i, and to the mayors and prosecuting attorneys of all four counties in Hawai'i.

## 2024-04: Urging Democratic Hawai'i State Lawmakers to Create a Progressive Tax System Based on Ability to Pay

Whereas, The 2022 Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH) states: "We support policies that circulate currency through our economy, helping businesses to thrive, including tax policy that lessens the tax burden of low- and middle-income earners and increases the tax burden of high-income earners and the wealthy. We support government investments of tax revenue in community development, government anti-poverty programs, and the transition to a sustainable, green economy"; and

Whereas, Our support for a progressive tax system is not new, but rather is foundational to the DPH, as demonstrated in the 1954 DPH Platform, which pledges to revise Hawai'i's tax laws by "shifting the tax burden from those least able to pay top those who are most able to pay," and to "appropriate sufficient moneys to meet all needs considered by the people to by justified;" and again in the 1965 document "The New Hawaii: The Legislative Program of the Democratic Party," which advocates for "Modifying the State's tax structure so as to create a more progressive system based upon ability to pay"; and

Whereas, Traditional Democratic commitment to tax policy that grows the economy from the bottom up and middle out has long been opposed by the investor class, which calls for tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy, promising this will result in benefits that will "trickle-down" to working people; and

Whereas, Average annual growth in U.S. national income during a period of high taxation on corporations and the wealthy (1963–1979) was 1.7% compared to 1.3% during the subsequent period of low taxation on corporations and the wealthy (1980–2016) (Piketty et al., "Distributional National Accounts: Methods and Estimates for the United States," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 133(2), 2018); and

Whereas, In 2024, Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature introduced bills that would: more than double the amount that is exempt from the Hawai'i estate tax from \$5.5 million for singles and \$11 million for couples, up to \$13 million singles and \$27 million couples; extend the Hawai'i estate tax marital deduction to a "spouse, child, sibling, parent, grandparent, grandchild, stepparent, stepchild, stepsibling, or equivalent adoptive relationships"; and/or entirely exempt "family-owned businesses" valued over \$5.5 million from the estate tax; and

Whereas, These proposals epitomize "trickle-down" economic theory, with their tax benefits going exclusively to the top 0.2% wealthiest households in Hawai'i (Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice, Testimony on House Bill 2653, 2024); and

Whereas, These proposals would cost the state an estimated \$43 million in lost revenue each year (Hawai'i Department of Taxation, Testimony on House Bill 2652, 2024) that could otherwise fund programs to help struggling households, such as universal free school meals, a rent relief and eviction mediation fund, or a state-level Child Tax Credit, each of which costs less than \$43 million per year; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature to oppose policy proposals that cut taxes for corporations and the wealthy; and to instead advance policy proposals that lessen the tax burden of low- and middle-income earners, and increase the tax burden of high-income earners, the wealthy and corporations in order to fund programs that support struggling households in affording the high cost of living, in turn growing the economy from the bottom up and middle out in accordance with the DPH platform and its longstanding tax policy position; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be distributed to the members of the Hawai'i State Legislature that are Democrats.

2024-05: Urging Elected Officials at all Levels of Government to Protect and Preserve Access to Water Resources for the People of Hawai'i

Whereas, Water is our most precious resource; and

Whereas, Worldwide water resources are becoming scarcer and, therefore, our water more valuable; and

Whereas, In the Hawaiian language, wai translates to water, and waiwai translates to wealth; and

Whereas, Hawai'i is in the midst of changing how water and water resources are managed, for example through water authorities in Maui County; and

Whereas, Recent wildfires on Maui caused unsafe water advisories that lasted for months; and

Whereas, Fuel leakage into wells on O'ahu caused certain wells to be shut down; and

Whereas, Resource management principles are outlined in the Public Trust doctrine of the Hawai'i State Constitution; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges our elected officials at all levels of government to support:

- Policies that increase water supply through ecological restoration, community stewardship and planning, and care and monitoring that ensure safe and healthy water for all our residents;
- Government-run water authorities and community-driven water planning;
- Improved and more frequent water testing and monitoring of the ocean, streams, and groundwater, and in our schools, day care centers, assisted living centers and medical facilities;
- Ending practices such as dumping plastics and solid waste into our offshore oceans, landfills and aquifers; and
- Appointing only technically-qualified and culturally-aware people to local and state entities that regulate and steward water, with a rigorous advise and consent process to ensure that technically-qualified and/or culturally-qualified individuals serve as our primary trustees of the public trust in water; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature and of the four county councils who are Democrats, and the mayors of all four counties in Hawai'i.



2024-06: Urging Support to Continuously Monitor Stream Health Within the Waikōloa Hydrologic Unit

Whereas, The Waikōloa tributary system flows from the upper reaches of the Kohala Mountain watershed westward to Pelekane Bay through the urban core of Waimea, providing critical nutrients to endemic species and once supplying the vast field system of Lālāmilo; and

Whereas, The State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) administers the State Water Code and protects and manages the waters across the state by establishing standards and granting permitted uses; and

Whereas, Water is diverted from this system for agricultural and drinking purposes through state, county, and private agencies; and

Whereas, In the Waikōloa surface water hydrologic unit, instream flow gauges are limited or inactive along the Waikōloa, Kohākōhau, and Wai'ula'ula streams resulting in an incomplete picture of stream health; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the State of Hawai'i Legislative and Executive branches to adequately fund CWRM for the purpose of continuously monitoring state waters; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the State of Hawai'i Legislative and Executive branches and the County of Hawai'i Legislative and Executive branches to pursue initiatives collaboratively for the purpose of enabling continuous monitoring of stream health through the restoration of inactive stream flow gauges and installing additional stream flow gauges above and below diversion points within the Waikōloa, Kohākōhau, and Wai'ula'ula stream systems; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Hawai'i State Lawmakers from Hawai'i Island, the Hawai'i State Senate President and Speaker of the Hawai'i House of Representatives, the Mayor of Hawai'i County, and the Hawai'i County Council.

2024-07: Requesting the Governor to convene a Working Group to Plan for the Cleanup of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), Microplastics and Heavy Metals on State Lands and Waters to Protect Public Health and the Environment

Whereas, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are utilized in a broad range of products, including firefighting foam, scratch resistant products using Teflon and Scotchgard, clothing, textiles, food packaging, and cosmetic products such as lotions, nail polish, shaving cream and mascara; and

Whereas, PFAS break down very slowly over time, are commonly referred to as “forever chemicals,” and enter the environment from a host of sources, including wastewater treatment plants, landfills and incinerators; and

Whereas, PFAS are persistent, toxic substances that can contaminate drinking water, bioaccumulate in fish and wildlife, and have multiple adverse health effects on humans; and

Whereas, Water and sludge seepage from military landfills and municipal waste sites then pumped to wastewater treatment plants are not usually tested for PFAS, microplastics, or heavy metals; and

Whereas, Consuming produce contaminated with PFAS, microplastics, or heavy metals from reclaimed water and sludge poses a range of health risks, and regular testing and monitoring at wastewater treatment facilities is crucial to prevent exposure and to protect public health; and

Whereas, Reclaimed water and sludge used for irrigation directly impacts crops and soil by introducing PFAS, microplastics and heavy metals into the food chain, resulting in biomagnification affecting aquatic fauna, insects, invertebrates, amphibians, fish, and seafood, which adversely affects the environment, marine ecosystems, and human health; and

Whereas, The State of Maine has banned the land application of sewage sludge due to permanent contamination of farm land with PFAS, and there is a decades-long history of harm to health from infectious diseases and toxic chemicals when using sewage sludge as fertilizer or soil amendment; and

Whereas, According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, PFAS exposure is linked to increased risk of dyslipidemia (abnormally high cholesterol), suboptimal antibody response, reduced infant and fetal growth, and higher rates of kidney cancer; and public health studies have shown correlations between PFAS soil and water contamination, and human health impacts including cancer, thyroid disease, kidney dysfunction, birth defects, and other major medical conditions; and

Whereas, Requiring regular testing will protect the safety of consumers, farmers and the environment; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Governor of the State of Hawai'i to convene a PFAS Working Group to proactively plan for the remediation of PFAS contamination throughout the state by: (1) Identifying the presence, character, location of PFAS; (2) Proposing plans of action, including remediation, or elimination of PFAS; (3) Requiring wastewater treatment facilities to test reclaimed water and sewage sludge for the presence of PFAS, microplastics, and heavy metals to ensure the safety of the reclaimed water; (4) Prohibiting the land application of sewage sludge; (5) Affirmatively engaging in a public information campaign to advise the public of the dangers of PFAS; (6) Establishing a PFAS Testing Grant Program that would assist local communities, businesses, and residents of the state to obtain sampling and testing services for PFAS, microplastics, and heavy metal detection; and (7) Encouraging the business community to become more aware of the presence of PFAS in products and product packaging, making the community aware of the dangers of such chemicals, and encouraging members of the community to adopt practices to eliminate or reduce the presence of these chemicals in the products that they use and sell; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the office of the Governor of the State of Hawai'i and the Director of the Hawai'i State Department of Health.

2024-08: Urging Construction and Operation of a Public Environmental Toxins Laboratory in Hawai'i

Whereas, Environmental toxins caused by pollutants have notably increased in recent decades, particularly with the rapid expansion of the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances, a group of synthetic organofluorine chemical compounds that have been found to be highly toxic; and

Whereas, Hawai'i continues to lack a testing laboratory that is capable of identifying diseases and toxins present in Hawai'i's air, water, soil, and biological and other specimens, which obliges Hawai'i residents often to rely on data relating to environmental toxins that are provided by the very same entities that have caused the toxins to be present in the state's natural environment in the first place; and

Whereas, The present lack of an in-state environmental toxins laboratory undermines the state's ability to evaluate and, as appropriate, confirm or reject contentions relating to environmental toxic chemicals such as petroleum constituents, PFAS, PFAS-related substances, heavy metals, and many other toxins now found throughout the state's natural environment made by federal government departments and agencies such as the U.S. Department of Defense and Environmental Protection Agency, state agencies such as the Hawai'i State Department of Health, and private entities; and

Whereas, Hawai'i residents' ability to evaluate the presence of environmental toxins is often delayed because samples must be sent to laboratories located in the continental United States, and the results from sample analyses may be withheld by the agencies that control the supply of the samples to those laboratories, causing further harm to human health and the environment; and

Whereas, A publicly-owned laboratory certified by the Environmental Protection Agency that complies with the Clinical Laboratories Improvement Amendments of 1988, 42 U.S. Code, §263a, should be constructed in Hawai'i to address these issues and to facilitate the prompt and transparent disclosure of the results of testing samples taken from the state; and

Whereas, The cost of construction of the laboratory is currently beyond the state's means as Hawai'i endeavors to respond adequately to the catastrophe of the August 2023 Maui wildfires that destroyed Lahaina and damaged Upper Kula, Pūlehu, Kīhei, and Kā'anapali; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports construction of a publicly-owned laboratory certified by the Environmental Protection Agency that complies with the Clinical Laboratories Improvement Amendments of 1988, 42 U.S. Code, §263a, to be constructed in Hawai'i to address these issues and to facilitate the prompt and transparent disclosure of the results of testing samples taken from the state; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation to take all action necessary and proper to induce Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to construct and operate a public lab; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Governor of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i State Department of Health, and other relevant governmental agencies to support the construction and the operations of the laboratory, and to publish the results of its analyses to the public; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Hawai'i, and the Director of the Hawai'i State Department of Health.

2024-09: Urging State Agencies that Monitor Pollution Levels to Adopt More-Transparent Procedures

Whereas, There are currently no procedural requirements or standards that the Department of Health (DOH) must follow to establish Environmental Action Levels (EALS) for various toxins that it monitors, or to revise EALS up or down; and

Whereas, There is currently no requirement for public input or notice, even though the public has a right to know all relevant information about environmental toxins, and even though it is the responsibility of the state agencies charged with monitoring and remediating environmental toxins to ensure that the public receives all relevant information about the presence of environmental toxins in a timely manner; and

Whereas, DOH monitors the presence of environmentally toxic chemicals in water, soil, and air, and may ask polluters to take remedial action if pollution exceeds certain levels, often called environmental action levels or EALs, with a higher EAL being a more lenient standard; and

Whereas, For example, in April 2023, DOH raised EALs for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) by 100% over prior levels without advance public notice or public hearing and without advance publication of any scientific information that might justify the increase for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a type of PFAS, resulting in a relaxation of enforcement standards and a potential increase in pollution; and

Whereas, Increases in EALs by any Hawai'i state agencies that are without scientific justification and contrary to the EALs established and enforced by federal agencies and other states may pose unreasonable risks to the state's environment and the human population; and

Whereas, Under the environmental protection provisions of the Hawai'i State Constitution, Art. XI, §§ 1 and 7, any increase in EALs ought to be scientifically justifiable, based on the severity of risks to human health and the environment and the probability of adverse effects on health and the environment; and

Whereas, To protect vulnerable populations such as keiki, kūpuna, and those with existing health problems, it is standard to set a safety margin of one to two orders of magnitude (10 to 100 times) between the allowable limit on a chemical and the level at which health effects have been found; and

Whereas, Procedures must be established to provide the public with advance notice, scientific information, and a meaningful opportunity to be heard and to respond to any proposed modifications in EALS; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the DOH to follow procedural and substantive requirements for establishment and modification of environmental action levels as follows:

1. Every state agency that monitors environmental toxins and pollutants should establish environmental action levels or substantively similar triggering mechanisms that are consistent with health-based best practices, with a safety margin of at least an order of magnitude below where health effects have been found in studies, and most recent scientific evidence relating to preservation of human health and a safe environment and not less protective than United States Environmental Protection Agency standards;
2. No modification to weaken any environmental action level or similar triggering mechanism should be made except after adequate advance notice is given to the public, which should include all publication of relevant scientific justifications for the proposed modification; and
3. Any agency proposing a modification to any environmental action levels or similar triggering mechanism should comply with the requirements of Chapter 91, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and allow not less than 30 days for the public to comment on the proposed modification, conduct one or more public hearings at which comments relating to the proposed action may be received, and report annually to the Hawai'i State Legislature; and
4. Allow any resident of the state to petition with scientific documentation for modifications of one or more environmental action levels or similar triggering mechanisms and promptly respond to the petition in the manner provided by Chapter 91, Hawai'i Revised Statutes; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor of the State of Hawai'i and the Director of the Hawai'i State Department of Health.

## 2024-10: Supporting Continuous Monitoring of Toxic Chemicals Released by Landfills and Waste Incinerators

Whereas, Waste combustion facilities are among the largest sources of industrial air pollution; and

Whereas, At H-POWER, the only waste combustion facility in the state, only four air pollutants are monitored on a continuous basis, while 10 others are tested only once per year under optimal operating conditions, and while many others go entirely untested, including PFAS and various toxic metals; and

Whereas, Monitoring once a year is inadequate because it may severely underestimate pollution levels, as shown by the Covanta Delaware Valley waste incinerator in Chester, PA, where testing with continuous monitors as well as conducting annual stack tests has shown actual emissions of hydrochloric acid to be 62% higher as shown through continuous monitoring than what annual stack tests indicate; and

Whereas, Emissions of dioxins, the most toxic chemicals known to science—140,000 times more toxic than mercury according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—are released from waste incinerators; and

Whereas, Studies from Europe, where dioxins have been measured using continuous sampling, show that actual emissions from waste incinerators are 30 to 1,290 times higher than what is extrapolated from annual stack tests conducted during normal operating conditions in the U.S., in part due to the failure to capture data when emissions are highest during startup, shutdown, and during malfunction times; and

Whereas, Kona winds blow H-POWER's air pollution toward residents on O'ahu for nearly one full day out of every week, resulting in significant levels of exposure, and the emissions blown out to sea include highly toxic dioxins and mercury that bioaccumulate in animal fat such as the fish that people consume; and

Whereas, The EPA is making continuous monitoring of toxic pollutants at municipal waste incinerators optional in their new regulations, currently under development; and

Whereas, The costs to public health of asthma, cancer, and lives shortened by fine particulate matter and other pollutants released from waste incinerators are in the tens to hundreds of millions of dollars per year, far in excess of the modest cost to gather accurate information on these emissions; and

Whereas, Technology exists to continuously monitor or continuously sample over 20 major pollutants that are not monitored continuously or at all, and to transparently provide that data on a public website; and

Whereas, Covanta has been reporting their continuous emissions monitoring data for the few pollutants they monitor that way at many of their incinerators around the United States, but this transparency is not yet happening at H-POWER, the only trash incinerator in Hawai'i, which is operated by Covanta; and

Whereas, Landfills also have toxic air emissions that go unmonitored and are of concern to nearby communities, some of which have been shown to suffer reduced life expectancy; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Department of Health to conduct a feasibility study of continuous monitoring of emissions from incinerators and landfills in the state, including assessing the costs, identifying what technologies are commercially available for continuous monitoring or sampling for the chemical pollutants numbered 4 through 23 in Senate Bill 2101 (2024), and chemicals that have test methods or performance standards available for them, and to evaluate the difference in annual emissions calculated using continuous monitoring and sampling vs. annual stack tests where data exists on these chemical pollutants at other incinerators in the U.S. and Canada; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Director of the Hawai'i State Department of Health, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature and Honolulu City Council who are Democrats, and the Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu.

## 2024-11: Supporting Safe Management of Incinerator Ash

Whereas, Waste incineration facilities reduce every 100 tons of trash to about 30 tons of ash; and

Whereas, H-POWER—Hawai'i's only trash incinerator—operates in O'ahu's Campbell Industrial Park and burns up to 2,600 tons of waste per day, making it one of the nation's largest waste incinerators, with its ash currently dumped in the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill in Honokai Hale; and

Whereas, While fly ash from trash incinerators is regulated as hazardous waste in several other nations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) used to categorically define incinerator ash as non-hazardous, even though tests showed that fly ash qualified as hazardous over 90% of the time and even though bottom ash would test hazardous 36% of the time due to leaching of toxic lead or cadmium; and

Whereas, Since a 1994 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that incinerator ash must be handled as hazardous waste if it tests hazardous, the EPA changed the test, allowed mixing of fly and bottom ashes, and changed the test methods to enable incinerator ash to pass the test; and

Whereas, EPA staff admit that the ash testing regulations (which require testing only for what leaches out of incinerator ash at a certain pH in short-term lab tests) are based solely on whether people will be exposed by consuming water that has passed through ash and leached into groundwater and, ultimately, to drinking water supplies—and that ash testing regulations are not based on exposures from touching incinerator ash, or inhaling or ingesting ash particles; and

Whereas, Testing “non-hazardous” does not mean that ash is safe, “non-toxic” or biologically “inert”; and

Whereas, Incinerator ash is typically handled by workers with no respiratory protection, trucked to a landfill in trucks where some ash can blow or spill during transit, dumped from trucks where ash dust usually rises in a cloud that wind can carry, and is finally used as daily cover material for itself, instead of a tarp or clean soil to prevent wind from blowing ash into the community; and

Whereas, The City & County of Honolulu (the city) is currently working with Covanta to develop an ash “recycling” facility at Campbell Industrial Park, where incinerator ash would be exempted from being handled as waste, and would be used to build roads or for other purposes that can put workers, the public, and the environment in more contact with incinerator ash than would occur if it were properly contained and responsibly landfilled; and

Whereas, Roads and other construction materials do not last forever, and will erode and eventually be broken up, releasing more ash particles with no cautionary warnings about toxicity or special handling appropriate for material containing fine particles of highly toxic dioxins and furans, and toxic metals like arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead and mercury; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Department of Health and the city to: 1) Appropriately handle the incinerator ash (a type of “solid waste” as per HRS Section 342H-30) only through proper containment in a landfill, unless the ash is remediated to such a level that it does not pose a risk to public health and safety by first treating the ash to remove dioxins/furans, PFAS, mercury and other toxic contaminants to the point where the remaining ash has no detectable levels of the toxic chemicals, for which there is no known safe dose; 2) Ensure that trucking and landfilling uses secure tarps to prevent ash from being blown by wind into the community; and 3) Cease all activities in pursuit of any effort to “recycle” or “reuse” H-POWER incinerator ash unless it is properly remediated as described above; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Director of the Hawai'i State Department of Health, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature and Honolulu City Council who are Democrats, the Mayor of the City & County of Honolulu, and the Director of the Honolulu Department of Environmental Services.

2024-12: Supporting Safe Management of Ash and Debris Especially from the August 2023 Maui Wildfires

Whereas, Ash from the burning of county waste at H-POWER, and from the burning of vegetation, homes, vehicles and other property during the Lahaina Wildfires, contains dioxins/furans, cancer-causing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, PFAS/PFOA, and toxic metals; and

Whereas, This improperly-contained ash can expose people who touch it, while wind and rain can spread it, further exposing people and animals, and placing our land and ocean environments at risk; and

Whereas, Dumping of this ash and debris in a temporary landfill in Olowalu risks further contamination, as plastic-wrapped waste “burritos” easily break and tear when dumped, spreading dust into the air; and

Whereas, Continuing to use the Olowalu landfill to temporarily dump this waste, only to later excavate it for transportation to a permanent site, greatly increases costs of waste handling and likely requiring substantial state financial support; and

Whereas, According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Central Maui Landfill, recently designated by the County of Maui as the permanent disposal site, has enough space to last until 2039, while the roughly 600,000 tons of waste from the August 2023 Maui wildfires represents about two years-worth of waste disposal; and

Whereas, Properly executed Zero Waste programs could cut municipal waste and recyclable material disposals by more than half in just a handful of years, stretching out the life of the county’s landfill; and

Whereas, Toxic ash can blow off the top of a landfill if not properly contained, and using this ash as alternative daily cover material in place of soil or tarps to safely cover landfilled waste at night is discouraged; and

Whereas, Many thousands of truck trips will be necessary to transport waste from a temporary landfill, risking traffic problems, spillage and leaching of toxic ash, and increasing the state’s carbon footprint; and

Whereas, High-temperature processes such as pyrolysis or incineration create new toxic chemicals including dioxins, furans and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, chemical pollutants like nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, and acid gasses, and make existing toxic chemicals like PFAS and heavy metals more available to be inhaled or ingested, while using these technologies to manage material that has already burned simply compounds the problems caused by the initial burning of these materials; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai’i urges the Hawai’i State Department of Health to enforce HRS Section 342H-30 so that H-POWER ash and waste from the August 2023 Maui wildfires is not managed in any manner other than the safe containment in a landfill, that trucking of this ash is in leak-proof containers, that such waste may not be used as alternative daily cover material at a landfill, and that secure tarps are used to prevent toxic ash from blowing off the landfill; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai’i urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA to contain the remaining waste as soon as possible in trucking-ready containers at- or near-site until ready to be transported for final disposal; to discontinue the use of Olowalu as a temporary disposal site; to ensure that waste is transported in sealed containers to avoid spills and leaks; to decontaminate trucks before departing landfills to ensure that toxic chemicals are not tracking off-site; to transport waste to the landfill at night to minimize traffic concerns; and to abandon consideration of pyrolysis, gasification, or incineration as waste management methods unless protective of human health and the environment; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai’i, the Director of the Hawai’i State Department of Health, all members of the Hawai’i State Legislature who are Democrats, the Honolulu District Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Regional Administrator for Region 9 of FEMA, the Mayors of the City & County of Honolulu and Maui, and the Chairs of the Honolulu City and Maui County Councils.

## 2024-13: Supporting Zero Waste for Clean Air, Job Creation, and Conserving Landfill Space

Whereas, The principles of Zero Waste and the Zero Waste Hierarchy resonate with our values of mālama 'āina and aloha 'āina, caring for the land and the future generations; and this waste crisis impacts public health, with a disproportionate impact on Native Hawaiian communities, making our waste system a matter of environmental justice; and

Whereas, Zero Waste is defined as the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of all products, packaging, and materials without burning them and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health; and

Whereas, The Zero Waste Hierarchy starts with 1) rethinking and redesigning systems and products, and is followed by methods to 2) reduce, 3) reuse/repair, 4) recycle, and 5) compost materials, avoiding waste, then to 6) use material recovery methods to extract more recyclables from waste, and to 7) biologically stabilize any remaining organic material before 8) securely landfilling any residual; and

Whereas, Incineration and other “waste-to-energy” technologies, including pyrolysis and other waste-to-fuels schemes, are the most expensive and polluting ways to manage waste or to make energy—more harmful than landfilling or burning coal—and are thus deemed unacceptable in a Zero Waste system; and

Whereas, Zero Waste strategies include: Extended Producer Responsibility; bottle deposit laws such as the HI-5 program; unit-based pricing (paying per bag or per bin); curbside collection of recyclables and compostables; education and enforcement of mandatory recycling and composting in the residential, commercial/institutional, and industrial sectors; mandatory deconstruction; and a variety of other policies, programs and infrastructure which reduce waste and pollution, and create jobs and economic value; and

Whereas, Extended Producer Responsibility holds product manufacturers accountable by making them pay a fee for excessive packaging, encouraging redesign, and such a policy should be administered by the state to fund solutions within the Zero Waste Hierarchy, particularly in reuse systems; and

Whereas, A 2021 life cycle analysis conducted for the County of Hawai'i found that incineration of paper and plastics at the H-POWER incinerator on O'ahu is the most harmful option for health and environment, that landfilling is far less damaging, and that recycling those materials (even after barging them thousands of miles to market) is a huge health and environmental benefit; and

Whereas, No one has built a commercial-scale trash gasification or pyrolysis facility in the U.S., and despite hundreds of attempts, no trash incinerator has been built at a new site since 1995 due to high costs and community opposition, and continuing to pursue these ideas is a waste of time and money; and

Whereas, Zero Waste solutions create the most jobs and fill landfills most slowly without increasing toxicity of landfills by burying incinerator ash in them instead of unburned trash, while incineration merely turns every 100 tons of trash into 30 tons of toxic ash to be landfilled; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature and each city and county council to formally adopt the internationally peer-reviewed definition of Zero Waste and the Zero Waste Hierarchy as codified by the Zero Waste International Alliance, and to adopt only policies and programs that do not violate Zero Waste principles; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Director of the Hawai'i State Department of Health, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature and all city and county councils who are Democrats, and the mayors of each county in Hawai'i.



2024-14: Urging the Hawai'i State Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to Continue Efforts for Clean Energy Transformation Priorities, Natural Resource Management Policy Priorities, and Solid Waste Reduction Policy Priorities

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports strengthening the culture of energy conservation through diversified incentives and education at all levels; and

Whereas, We support environmentally-friendly management priorities for the protection of native species and biosecurity, and we need to increase funding for natural resource management as our community population increases; and

Whereas, We also need to prioritize water resource management with adequate, dedicated, private, county, state and federal funding, and both short- and long-term solutions to protect water resources and the environment; and

Whereas, We need to adopt and implement Zero Waste principles and establish a Hawai'i State Department of Waste Management separate from the Hawai'i State Department of Health for more advanced technological innovations to help expedite the maintenance, expansion, and restructuring of existing wastewater treatment facilities, and for the expansion and renovation of existing facilities; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges DBEDT to continue efforts for clean energy transformation priorities, natural resource management policy priorities, and solid waste reduction policy priorities; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Hawai'i, the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House and Hawai'i Senate President, the Director of DBEDT, and the mayors of all four counties in Hawai'i.

## 2024-15: Urging the Hawai'i State Energy Office to Study Non-Burn Alternatives to Combustible Fuels

Whereas, It is important to use Hawai'i state taxpayer funds wisely to create the most good without speculative investments, unnecessary subsidies, or promotion of energy technologies or fuels that conflict with the state's climate change goals, or the peoples' constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment under Article XI, Section 9 of the Hawai'i State Constitution; and

Whereas, Energy consumption sectors tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration are electricity, transportation, and industrial, commercial and residential heating; and

Whereas, Technology exists to meet the needs of the electricity sector using conservation, efficiency, solar, wind, and energy storage, which can be made as firm as needed with added storage capacity; and

Whereas, Residential and commercial cooking space and water heating needs are easily electrified with existing technology, including ground- and air-source heat pumps and hybrid electric water heaters; and

Whereas, Industrial heating needs are increasingly possible to meet through a combination of concentrated solar, electricity, and—if necessary—green hydrogen sources from wind and solar; and

Whereas, Land-based transportation, even heavy trucking, can now be fully electrified and powered on clean, non-burn, electricity sources; and

Whereas, Ocean-based transportation is now possible to fully electrify, including international cargo ships with batteries, and some with stationary wind masts; and

Whereas, Interisland air travel is possible with electric sea gliders, as Hawaiian Airlines is exploring, while intercontinental air travel is the one sector that is hardest to convert to clean energy, though Airbus aims to bring to market the world's first hydrogen-powered commercial aircraft by 2035; and

Whereas, Combustible carbon-based fuels release greenhouse gasses as well as other harmful air pollutants, and the production of burnable fuels has many other environmental implications, including the use of land for fuel instead of food, water and soil depletion, spread of genetically modified organisms, and—if using waste streams to make fuel—toxic chemical releases and solid waste byproducts; and

Whereas, Technologies to turn waste into fuels are highly speculative, controversial and polluting, and typically fail to operate at a commercial scale, usually falling apart technically, economically, or both; and

Whereas, Climate impacts of biomass and waste-based biofuels can be close to or greater than those from fossil fuels, especially where trees are cleared to grow bioenergy crops; and

Whereas, Investing in "transition" fuels only builds up an economic interest that makes it harder, politically and economically, to move to the next step where burnable fuels are ultimately replaced; and

Whereas, It is wise to spend public funding first on clean, combustion-free solutions that already exist, focusing on energy sectors where those solutions are not yet fully implemented; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Energy Office to conduct a study of the different energy consumption sectors to determine which can be most quickly and cost-effectively decarbonized through additional public investment in combustion-free alternatives; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Chief Energy Officer, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who Democrats.

## 2024-16: Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Eliminate Biomass from the Renewable Portfolio Standard

Whereas, Hawai'i's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) law requires electric utilities to have a minimum percentage of renewable electricity: 30% by 2020, 40% by 2030, 70% by 2040, and 100% by 2045; and

Whereas, KIUC (Kaua'i), in 2022, met the requirement with 60% of its electricity coming from "renewable" sources that year—far exceeding the state requirements through 2039—and HECO (serving the rest of the state), in 2023, had 41.2% of their electricity coming from "renewable" sources that year—satisfying the requirements through 2039; and

Whereas, The state law permits the incineration of trash and trees to qualify as biomass in the RPS law's definition of renewable energy, as well as other combustion sources like liquid biofuels and biogas; and

Whereas, Biomass and biofuels discharge dioxins, PFAS, mercury, and other toxics when combusted and are worse for the climate, and comparable on public health than the coal and oil they replace; and

Whereas, 11% of HECO's generation is from the burning of trash at the H-POWER trash incinerator on O'ahu and 10% of KIUC's electricity comes from the burning of trees at a biomass plant on Kaua'i, yet burning trees releases 50% more carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) per unit of energy compared to burning coal for electricity, while burning trash releases 65% more, according to data reported to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

Whereas, The purpose of the state RPS law is to reduce health, climate, and other environmental impacts associated with the burning of fossil fuels for energy by mandating a transition to renewable energy; and

Whereas, To make the same energy as a coal power plant, trash incineration releases three times as much nitrogen oxides, five times as much mercury, six times as much lead and 27 times as much hydrochloric acid, contributing to asthma attacks, learning disabilities, acid rain, and more; and

Whereas, While HECO and KIUC continue to install solar and energy storage, the state requirements allow these two electric utilities to take their time in adding renewable capacity since they currently meet the requirement through 2039 without having to increase their renewable energy percentages; and

Whereas, Removing biomass and biofuels from the state RPS law's definition of renewable energy will encourage HECO and KIUC to develop clean, non-combustion renewables sooner in order to meet the 2030 and 2040 targets, displacing oil-burning and helping the climate and environment; and

Whereas, Disqualifying these combustion sources will not prevent HECO and KIUC from complying with the state RPS law, and will not disrupt existing power purchase agreements with the currently-operating biomass incinerators on O'ahu and Kaua'i, but will discourage expansion of these climate and health-damaging fuels; and

Whereas, Biomass and biofuels are among the most expensive power sources, even compared to solar, wind and energy storage, which are becoming some of the cheapest power sources; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to support legislation to eliminate combusting biomass and biofuels as eligible sources under the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard law, and to amend the Renewable Portfolio Standard to ensure that utilities have greater incentive to develop renewables with existing structures and infrastructure rather than on agriculture zoned or undeveloped land; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Chief Energy Officer, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislators who are Democrats, and the county Departments of Environmental Services and Planning and Permitting.

2024-17: Urging the Hawai'i State Congressional Delegation, Relevant Federal Agencies, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Relevant State Agencies, State Senate and House Leadership, and County Governments to Diligently Pursue Funding of Subsurface Geological Surveys, and to Expedite Permitting and Development of Geothermal Power on all Hawaiian Islands

Whereas, Deep closed-loop geothermal is an abundant, ubiquitous energy resource available around the clock, year round, and below our feet; and

Whereas, Fossil fuel power generation has been demonstrated to be increasingly expensive, unreliable and unsustainable; and

Whereas, Current utility blackouts and curtailments exemplify the need to develop an uninterrupted supply of local geothermal energy: and

Whereas, The oil market shocks of the Ukraine invasion are a warning that we must become energy sovereign and resilient in Hawai'i; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Congressional Delegation, relevant federal agencies, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i State Energy Office, relevant state agencies, State Senate and House leadership, and county governments to diligently pursue funding of subsurface geological surveys, and to expedite permitting and development of geothermal power on all Hawaiian Islands; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Hawai'i State Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Director of the Hawai'i State Energy Office, the Directors Hawai'i State Departments of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Land and Natural Resources, and Hawaiian Home Lands, Hawai'i State Senate and State House leadership, and all the mayors and county council members of all four counties.

2024-18: Urging the Establishment of a Carbon Pricing and Dividend Program

Whereas, Climate change is a massive threat to our current way of life; and

Whereas, Carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions are responsible for the increasing temperatures of our planet; and

Whereas, Decreasing our carbon and greenhouse gas emissions can help keep our planet from experiencing the worst case scenarios of climate change; and

Whereas, Hawai'i has declared a climate emergency and has committed to a net zero goal by 2045; and

Whereas, Hawai'i's current projects show our carbon emissions well above net zero, requiring significant policy changes to meet our goal; and

Whereas, Carbon pricing has been identified by scientists and economists around the world as the most price effective and efficient way to reduce carbon emissions; and

Whereas, The carbon pricing study completed by UHERO in 2020 identified specific plans that would reduce our emissions by 40% compared to 2019 levels; and

Whereas, This study shows that when the revenue from the carbon pricing program is given back to residents in equal per capita shares, most households will be financially better off; and

Whereas, The concerns expressed in Resolution 2022-30 have not been fully addressed; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That Resolution 2022-30 be amended to read: "The Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to pass legislation in 2025 adopting a state revenue-neutral carbon pricing program, with all of the revenue (net of administrative expenses) returned to Hawai'i residents"; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all Hawai'i State Legislators, and the members of all four city and county councils in Hawai'i.

## 2024-19: Promoting and Upholding the Aloha Spirit in Our Democratic Campaigns

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i adopted Resolution No, 2022-15 "Urging our elected officials to study, reflect upon, speak up about, and be advocates for the Spirit of Aloha," at the 2022 Democratic Party of Hawai'i State Convention; and

Whereas, The Aloha Spirit is a cherished value in Hawai'i, embodying kindness, respect, and compassion toward others; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i seeks to uphold these principles in all aspects of governance and public life; and

Whereas, The Aloha Spirit Law, Hawai'i Revised Statute §5-7.5, explicitly recognizes the importance of the Aloha Spirit as a guiding force for our community; and

Whereas, Election campaigns play a crucial role in shaping our democracy and influencing public opinion; and

Whereas, We believe that political discourse should be conducted with civility, empathy, and a commitment to the well-being of our fellow citizens; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i calls upon all Democratic candidates running for office to adhere to the principles of the Aloha Spirit Law throughout their election campaigns; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i requests that all Democratic candidates engage in respectful dialogue, treat opponents and constituents with kindness, and actively promote unity and understanding; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i requests all Democratic candidates to prioritize community well-being, actively listen to constituents, and address their concern with empathy and compassion; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i encourages Democratic candidates to educate themselves and their campaign teams about the Aloha Spirit Law (HRS §5-7.5) and its significance; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution, along with the Aloha spirit law (HRS §5-7.5), shall be distributed to each Democratic candidate running in the 2024 elections and in every election period thereafter.

## 2024-20: Requesting Democratic Candidates to Pledge to Conduct Fair Campaign Practices

Whereas, The democratic process is the cornerstone of our society, and fair elections are essential for a thriving democracy; and

Whereas, Political campaigns play a crucial role in shaping public opinion and influencing voters; and

Whereas, It is imperative that candidates conduct their campaigns with integrity, honesty, and respect for their opponents and the electorate; and

Whereas, Every candidate for public office has an obligation to observe and uphold basic principles of decency, honesty and fair play; and

Whereas, A pledge of fair campaign practices fosters a healthy political environment and promotes trust in the electoral system; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i requests all Democratic candidates adopt the Fair Campaign Practices Pledge, which includes the following:

- I shall conduct my campaign openly and publicly, discussing the issues as I see them, presenting my record and policies with sincerity;
- I shall not use campaign material relating to any candidate's election which misrepresents, distorts, or otherwise falsifies the facts regarding the candidate;
- I shall refrain from the use of personal vilification, character defamation, or any other form of scurrilous personal attacks on any candidate or their family;
- I shall condemn any dishonest or unethical practice that tends to corrupt or undermine the American system of free elections or that hampers or prevents the full and free expression of the will of the voters;
- I shall condemn any appeal to prejudice based on race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, or age;
- I shall not originate or spread any malicious or unfounded accusations against any candidate which are aimed at creating or exploiting doubts on the part of the public as to the candidate's loyalty and patriotism;
- I shall immediately and publicly repudiate support deriving from any individual or group, acting on behalf of my candidacy, who resorts to the methods and tactics contrary to my pledge of conducting fair campaign practices;
- I shall disclose all my campaign funding sources, expenditures, and affiliations transparently, ensuring voters have access to relevant information; and
- I shall actively engage with diverse communities, listen to their concerns, and address their needs without discrimination; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall promote awareness of this pledge and encourage its use among its members and Democratic candidates; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall recognize and celebrate those candidates that adopt and uphold the Fair Campaign Practices Pledge; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be distributed to each Democratic candidate running in the 2024 elections and in every election period thereafter.

2024-21: Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Create a System of Fully Public Financing of Campaigns

Whereas, A healthy democracy requires a sufficient choice of candidates to be functional; and

Whereas, Competing for elected office requires significant sums of money to be raised; and

Whereas, This sum of money is a significant barrier that keeps many from becoming a candidate; and

Whereas, The current mechanism of public funding of campaigns does not sufficiently lower the barrier to entry; and

Whereas, A fully publicly-funded campaign structure similar to that in Connecticut, Maine and other areas can reduce that barrier, allowing more people to compete; and

Whereas, The cost of implementing a fully publicly-funded campaign structure in Hawai'i could cost the state less than \$10 million annually; and

Whereas, Any candidate participating in the fully publicly-financed campaign program shall not receive any additional private donations; and

Whereas, A candidate using only public funds through this program would have the opportunity to raise a similar amount of funds, or more, compared to those candidates who receive only private funds; and

Whereas, The concerns expressed in Resolution 2022-32 have not been fully addressed; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That Resolution 2022-32 is hereby amended to read: "The Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to pass legislation adopting a fully publicly-funded election campaign program for all state and county races, similar to the system in place in Connecticut, beginning with the 2028 election cycle, that allows candidates the opportunity to receive public campaign funds to compete with those raising private donations"; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the State Office of Elections, and the members of the Hawai'i State Legislature that are Democrats.



2024-22: Urging the Establishment of Ranked Choice Voting for all Hawai'i Elections

Whereas, Voters should have the opportunity to vote for their preferred candidate without risk of hurting another preferred candidate's chances; and

Whereas, An election that has more than two candidates can result in the least preferred candidate winning when the other two candidates split the votes from the majority; and

Whereas, Hawai'i's current primary and general election voting method only allows for one choice on a voter's ballot; and

Whereas, Recent elections have been won by candidates who have received less than a majority of votes; and

Whereas, Ranked choice voting allows voters to rank their choices so that if their number one choice loses, their vote can go to their second choice who still has a chance to win; and

Whereas, Ranked choice voting has shown to be effective in dozens of cities, states and countries around the world; and

Whereas, Ranked choice voting encourages multiple candidates to run, increasing the options for voters; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i's Presidential Preference Poll has been successfully conducted in the past using ranked choice voting; and

Whereas, The concerns expressed in Resolution 2022-31 have not been fully addressed; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That Resolution 2022-31 is amended to read: "The Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to pass legislation in 2025 adopting ranked choice voting for all state-run primary, general and special elections in the State of Hawai'i"; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all Hawai'i State Legislators, and all members of the city and county councils in Hawai'i.

2024-23: Urging a Constitutional Amendment to Eliminate the Electoral College and Instead Elect U.S. Presidents and Vice Presidents by Equal Vote Count Per Voter

Whereas, The Electoral College was created to appease the leadership of the Southern States to join the Union in the late 1700s by assuring that their minority votes in rural areas would have more power, per voter, than voters in urban areas (to preserve the slave trade); and

Whereas, These justifications for an Electoral College have long since proved to be unfair and completely antithetical to a system that should be democratic in nature; and

Whereas, Electoral College rules are determined by political parties in individual states, vary widely, and have proven to be ripe for manipulation and challenges; and

Whereas, Presidential candidates can find a myriad of ways in which the Electoral College system is inconsistent and vulnerable to attack and challenges that threaten to bring down our government; and

Whereas, Other actors, including foreign governments, are learning how to manipulate the outcome of our Electoral College system in “swing states” with small voting margins; and

Whereas, A significant and growing portion of the U.S. public is showing signs that it has lost faith in our Electoral College system for voting for U.S. President and Vice President and may not participate in future elections; and

Whereas, The greater public does not believe that the Electoral College system is fair, and this potentially can cause our nation instability, both domestically and internationally; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges Congress and the Hawai'i State Legislature to support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College, and to coordinate with other states to reach the threshold needed to amend the U.S. Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College so that all votes in future U.S. Presidential and Vice Presidential elections would be tallied from voters in all states and territories, with each vote having equal weight in counting the national total with transparency and accountability; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the offices of all members of Congress, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, and the four city and county councils in Hawai'i, and the President and Vice President of the United States of America.

2024-24: Urging the U.S. Senate to Eliminate its Filibuster Rule Requiring a Super Majority of Votes and Instead Insist on Democracy with Simple Majority Rule

Whereas, The United States Senate filibuster rule that triggers a 60-vote minimum requirement to pass legislation and elect nominees from the Senate has stymied democratic rule for decades, but particularly in the last two decades, and at such an obscene rate as to render Congress ineffective; and

Whereas, Voters have come to realize that the Senate filibuster rule prevents the majority of Senators from accomplishing what they were sent to Washington D.C. to achieve on behalf of the majority of U.S. voters; and

Whereas, The Senate filibuster rule gives greater power to the minority of Senate leaders rather than the majority, thereby sending the message to voters that the minority party can hold up legislative progress in the United States Senate that is deemed crucial by the majority party and supported by the majority of U.S. voters; and

Whereas, This truth leads voters to conclude that their votes do not matter; and

Whereas, The filibuster has resulted in sometimes deadly consequences and/or severe financial hardship for U.S. citizens and citizens of other nations when it prevents votes on topics such as guns, immigration, abortion, military aid, humanitarian aid, and voting rights; and

Whereas, The Senate filibuster rule has harmed the United States' standing in the world, making us look hypocritical, confused, impotent, and cruel to the victims of Congressional inaction and inconsistency; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the U.S. Senate to immediately move to eliminate the U.S. Senate filibuster rule and require only a simple majority of 51 votes to pass legislation and accept nominees for offices and Judicial posts, in order to enhance and preserve our democracy; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the offices of all members of Congress, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, and the President and Vice President of the United States of America.

2024-25: Urging the Expansion of SNAP Benefits to Households Earning at or Below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level

Whereas, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is vital in providing nutritional support to low-income families and individuals; and

Whereas, The current eligibility criteria for SNAP limits access to many households that face significant financial stress but do not qualify under the existing thresholds; and

Whereas, A family of four in Hawai'i needs approximately \$104,000 per year to cover living expenses, yet the current SNAP benefits cutoff at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level equates to roughly \$70,000, leaving many families without adequate support; and

Whereas, The current SNAP eligibility cutoff creates a "benefits cliff" at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, where families experience a sudden loss of all SNAP benefits upon slight increases in income; and

Whereas, The average family of 4 in Hawai'i who earns just above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level would lose out on \$10,000 or more per year in SNAP benefits; and

Whereas, This benefits cliff discourages workforce advancement and economic mobility by penalizing those who receive minor income improvements, trapping families in a cycle of poverty; and

Whereas, Expanding SNAP eligibility to households earning at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level would provide a more gradual phase-out of benefits, supporting families as they transition to financial stability without immediate and complete withdrawal of aid; and

Whereas, The cost of living, including housing, healthcare, and education, has risen substantially, affecting moderate-income families who are struggling to meet basic nutritional needs; and

Whereas, Demand at local Hawai'i food banks has risen substantially over the last year with more than 150,000 people per month depending on their services; and

Whereas, Food insecurity affects a wide range of populations including working families, seniors, and children, leading to negative health outcomes and decreased learning potential; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to expand the eligibility criteria for SNAP to include all households earning at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all Hawai'i State Legislators, and the members of the four city and county councils of Hawai'i.

2024-26: Urging the Establishment of Free School Meals for All Public School Students

Whereas, Adequate nutrition is essential for the cognitive and physical development of children; and

Whereas, Many families face financial hardships, making it difficult to provide nutritious meals for their children; and

Whereas, Many low-income families earn too much to qualify for free school meals but not enough to afford the cost of living; and

Whereas, Students who are hungry or malnourished are likely to face difficulties in concentration and academic performance; and

Whereas, One out of five children in Hawai'i are food insecure; and

Whereas, Food insecure students face significantly higher risks of depression, stress and lifelong chronic disease; and

Whereas, Schools who have adopted free school meals have seen 15% increases in test scores; and

Whereas, The availability of free school meals can reduce the stigma associated with receiving food assistance and promote an inclusive school environment; and

Whereas, Providing free school meals can help ensure that all students have equal opportunities to succeed academically regardless of their socioeconomic status; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to pass legislation to establish and fund a program that provides free school meals to all students in public schools; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all Hawai'i State Legislators, and the members of the four city and county councils of Hawai'i.

## 2024-27: Urging the Enactment of Stronger Consumer Protection Laws for Condominium Owners

Whereas, About one in four Hawai'i residents live in a condominium governed by the state's current condominium laws, including many kūpuna who live on fixed incomes; and

Whereas, Documents necessary for good governance should be availed to all owners in keeping with the theory that associations should be self-regulated as intended by Hawai'i Revised Statute (HRS) 514B; and

Whereas, There is no licensure requirement for community association managers—who are responsible for billions of dollars of real estate and compliance with laws, rules, and professional standards—to fulfill their fiduciary duties to condo owners; and

Whereas, The Real Estate Branch of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) is not providing the necessary assistance to help resolve disputes and concerns regarding violations of HRS 514B, and the Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO) has very limited jurisdiction to assist; and

Whereas, The Real Estate Branch of the DCCA has been required to use the condominium education trust fund (CETF) to support mediation and arbitration of condominium related disputes pursuant to HRS 514B; and

Whereas, Mediation and arbitration has proven to be costly to individual homeowners and condominium associations, while often profitable for attorneys; and

Whereas, Hawai'i can increase the effectiveness and accessibility of alternative dispute resolution at little to no additional cost to condominium owners and associations by the establishment of a condominium ombudsman; and

Whereas, Proxy voting unfairly benefits the incumbent association directors and has been confusing and ambiguous to owners who prefer to vote on their own, but are unable to attend their association elections; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature and Governor of the State of Hawai'i to pass bills and enact laws that include the following solutions:

- Extend owners free access to their association documents;
- Mandate licensure of association community managers;
- Mandate educational requirements for association directors and community managers;
- Create a State Ombudsman Office to efficiently resolve complaints; and
- Eliminate voting by proxy and allow only in-person, mail-in or online ballot voting; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

## 2024-28: Urging Support for Marriage Equality

Whereas, In 1993 the Hawai'i State Supreme Court ruled in *Baehr v. Miike* (originally *Baehr v. Lewin*) that the State of Hawai'i's refusal to grant same-sex couples marriage licenses was discriminatory, the first such ruling in the United States and the world, and in the plurality opinion, the court ruled that while the right to privacy in the Hawai'i Constitution does not include a fundamental right to same-sex marriage, denying marriage to same-sex couples constituted discrimination based on sex in violation of the right to equal protection guaranteed by the State Constitution; and

Whereas, Marriage Equality became the law of the land in the State of Hawai'i on December 2, 2013 when Senate Bill 1 passed the legislature and was signed into law on November 13, 2013 by then-Governor Neil Abercrombie after an historic special session that lasted from October 28–November 12, 2013; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH) reaffirms its status as a strong advocate for making Marriage Equality the law of the land in the Aloha State as seen through our advocacy to pass Senate Bill 1 during the Second Special Session of 2013, through adoption of resolution NAT 2012-02 "Support for Marriage Equality," and through the State Central Committee's adoption of the "Protecting Marriage Equality in the Aloha State" resolution on January 13, 2024; and be it

*Resolved*, That the DPH applauds President Joe Biden for signing the Respect for Marriage Act into law on December 13, 2022, which requires states to approve and acknowledge out-of-state marriage licenses; and be it

*Resolved*, That the DPH recognizes that the Respect for Marriage Act was passed to protect same-sex and interracial couples in the event that the Supreme Court should overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges* and/or *Loving v. Virginia*, as they were both decided under the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment which was used to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in June of 2022; and be it

*Resolved*, That the DPH continues to support full marriage equality for same-sex couples; and be it

*Resolved*, That the DPH supports all efforts to amend the Hawai'i State Constitution to remove Section 23 of Article I (Bill of Rights), the anti-marriage equality section that was added in 1998; and be it

*Resolved*, That the DPH calls upon all Hawai'i Democrats to support the effort, to the best of their ability, to pass the Constitutional Amendment established by House Bill 2802 (2024), which would remove Section 23 of Article I of the Hawai'i State Constitution if ratified by Hawai'i's voters; and be it

*Resolved*, That the DPH recognizes that the Constitutional Amendment established by House Bill 2802 (2024) is not only about protecting marriage equality, but also about removing the "right to discriminate" from the Hawai'i State Constitution's Bill of Rights; and be it

*Resolved*, That the DPH calls upon the 2024 Coordinated Campaign Committee to include in the 2024 Coordinated Campaign a call for a "Yes" vote on the Constitutional Amendment established by House Bill 2802 (2024); and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are Democrats.

## 2024-29: Affirming Transgender Rights by Protecting Gender Affirming Care

Whereas, Across the United States, there have been over 550 legislative measures introduced in 2023 and over 500 in 2024 that target transgender people and/or access to Gender Affirming Care, including bills introduced here in Hawai'i; and

Whereas, Gender Affirming Care is supported by every major medical association and leading world health authority as safe and life-saving, and is defined as medically-necessary healthcare that respects the gender identity of the patient; and

Whereas, These anti-transgender bills make it a crime for transgender individuals to use public restrooms that match their gender identity; make it a criminal offense for healthcare workers to provide medically-necessary gender affirming care; threaten to cause parents who provide access to gender affirming care to lose custody; prohibit gender marker updates to birth certificates, driver's licenses, and other state-issued forms of identification; reverse past gender marker updates on birth certificates and other state-issued forms of identification; make it a criminal offense for teachers and counselors to use the chosen pronouns and preferred names of transgender students; prohibit transgender students from participating in sports under the gender they identify as; and ban speaking about transgender topics, including books and educational material in public schools that inform about transgender identities and lived experiences; and

Whereas, The harm that is being done by the introduction and signing into law of these bills cannot be overstated, resulting in criminalizing Hawai'i's transgender community members simply for existing in public spaces when they visit states where this type of legislation has been passed; and

Whereas, Many transgender children are being shamed, bullied and physically assaulted by their peers because of who they are, diminishing their healthy mental development and growth, while also leading half of transgender youth in the past year to consider suicide; and

Whereas, These bills attack our most basic values, including the freedom to be ourselves, to make our own healthcare decisions, and the right to raise our own keiki; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i affirms its commitment to protecting transgender and māhū families from hateful and harmful anti-transgender legislation by urging elected Democrats to introduce and pass legislation to protect gender affirming care and protect patients and providers of gender affirming care from prosecution by out of state agencies, as was done for reproductive rights under Act 2 (2023); and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i acknowledges and thanks elected Democrats for not hearing anti-transgender bills in committee, and asks them to continue this practice, as the damage done by debating such bills further contributes to the stigmatization and marginalization of our transgender community and the ongoing mental health crisis resulting from this form of public debate; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i unequivocally supports transgender rights and equality in all aspects of our society by working to ensure that existing rights are not removed or restricted under any new state legislation, and by condemning hate speech, bigotry and legislation that aims to dehumanize or "other" transgender people and members of the LGBTQ+ community; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, absent current existing laws protecting gender affirming care from prosecution of out-of-state agencies, calls upon the Governor of Hawai'i to sign an Executive Order protecting gender affirming care from outside civil and criminal litigation, and to task the Attorney General with protecting defendants in cases of such litigation or suit, preventing execution of any subpoenas related to health records or child custody orders specifically related to gender affirming care; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the offices of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are Democrats.



2024-31: Urging President Biden to Take Specific Actions to Achieve Peace in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories of Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem

Whereas, All human life is precious and the targeting of non-combatants in a conflict zone is a violation of Rule 1 of customary International Humanitarian Law (ICRC Study on Customary International Humanitarian Law, Volume I, 2005, Cambridge University Press); and

Whereas, The October 7, 2023 Hamas-led attack on Israel caused the deaths of some 1,200 Israelis; and

Whereas, As of March 1, 2024, the official civilian casualty figures in Gaza have surpassed 30,000 deaths, with thousands of injuries reported and thousands of people missing under the rubble (Gaza Ministry of Health as quoted by *National Public Radio*, 2024); and

Whereas, One crime against humanity does not justify further crimes against humanity; and

Whereas, On March 25, 2024 the UN Security Council adopted a ceasefire resolution with the United States abstaining; and

Whereas, Peace requires justice and liberation for all peoples, universal respect for international law, and human rights for all; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges President Joe Biden to leverage the immense influence the U.S. has on Israel to establish a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian people through the following actions:

1. Require all parties to agree to a permanent end to hostilities;
2. Require the release of all hostages held by Hamas, as well as the release of all Palestinian prisoners held by Israel under "administrative detention" without other charge;
3. Condition all transfers of weapons and funding from the United States to Israel pending Department of Defense verification and publication of data to prove that Israel is taking actionable steps to prevent civilian casualties and to allow unhindered humanitarian aid to flow into Gaza;
4. Establish an UN peacekeeping presence throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories to protect all civilians from further harm (including within Israel);
5. Create a truth and reconciliation commission drawing on models from other post-conflict societies to investigate human rights abuses and provide a platform for victims on both sides to be heard;
6. Implement restorative justice initiatives to address the needs of victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and restore the social fabric of Palestine and Israel; and
7. Provide and protect unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid, support for refugees and displaced persons, and assistance in rebuilding Palestinian infrastructure and economy; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of President Joe Biden, the members of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, the U.S. House Minority Leader, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the President of the Hawai'i State Senate and the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are Democrats.

2024-32: Urging the United States Congress to Immediately Reinstate Funding for the UNRWA Pending the Creation of an Agency Plan to Prevent Involvement in Terrorist Activities

Whereas, The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has been providing critical humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees since its establishment in 1949; and

Whereas, Innocent men, women, and children in Palestine continue to face dire humanitarian conditions, including mass displacement, loss of livelihoods, and limited access to necessities such as food, clean water, and health care services; and

Whereas, Palestinian refugees are faced with escalating conflicts and crises in the region, resulting in more than 30,000 deaths and 1,900,000 people displaced from their homes; and

Whereas, Most of UNRWA's regular budget for Gaza pays for the salaries of 13,000 employees in the region, including teachers, health care specialists, engineers, and sanitation workers; and

Whereas, That extra money has paid for flour for 350,000 families, 14 million food items, mattress pads, blankets, and kitchen sets, and the distribution of 20 million liters of water; and

Whereas, Some of UNRWA's budget in Gaza also goes to distributing life-saving medications, including insulin and vaccines; and

Whereas, The United States usually gives between \$300,000,000 to \$400,000,000 to UNRWA on an annual basis, according to Matthew Miller, Spokesperson for the United States Department of State, which amounts to roughly one-third of the agency's annual budget; and

Whereas, In January 2024, the United States suspended funding to UNRWA amid claims that 12 of its 13,000 staff members in Gaza may have abetted extremist activities, and in response, the United Nations Secretary-General immediately announced the creation of an independent panel to investigate the allegations made against UNRWA employees, who were subsequently terminated; and

Whereas, Suspension of funding to UNRWA by the United States government has severely impacted UNRWA's ability to deliver life-saving assistance to Palestinian refugees, and reinstating funding to UNRWA is essential to ensure the delivery of critical services for Palestinian refugees, such as food, health care, and emergency relief assistance; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the United States Congress to promptly reinstate funding for the UNRWA to support its life-saving and critical humanitarian assistance programs for Palestinian refugees pending the creation of an agency plan to prevent employee involvement in terrorist activities; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of President Joe Biden, the United States Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the members of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, the President of the Hawai'i State Senate and the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are Democrats.

2024-33: Thanking Michael Golojuch, Jr. for His Many Years of Service to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and the State of Hawai'i

Whereas, Michael Golojuch, Jr. has been a civil rights activist for the past 24 years, focusing on LGBTQIA+, Women's and Labor issues during this time, serving as Chair of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH) from 2012 to 2024, as well as one of its representatives on the State Central Committee, and oversaw the Caucus' name change to its current name of the "Stonewall Caucus," in commemoration of the modern birthplace of the fight for justice & equality for the LGBTQIA+ community; and

Whereas, As Stonewall Caucus Chair, Michael Golojuch, Jr.'s dedication & advocacy skills greatly aided in the following LGBTQIA+ specific laws being signed into law: "Marriage Equality" (2013); "New Birth Certificate; Sex Designation" (2015); "Health Insurance; Insurers; Participation and Coverage; Non-discrimination; Gender Identity" (2016); "Our Care, Our Choice Act" (2018); Ban on conversion therapy for minors (2018); "Expanded Gender Markers for Driver's License; State Identification Cards" (2019); Ban on "gay & trans panic" as affirmative defenses (Act 149 of 2019 & Act 37 of 2020); "Prohibiting juror exclusion based on gender identity or expression" (2022); "Establishment of the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission" (LGBTQ+ Commission) (2022); "Certificates of Marriage; Changes; Gender and Sex Identifiers" (2023); and the Constitutional Amendment to remove Legislature's ability to discriminate against same-sex couples with regards to marriage that will appear on the general ballot in the fall of 2024; and

Whereas, Michael Golojuch, Jr. has served the DPH as Chair of the reconstituted Membership Committee from 2012–2014 and 2018–2020; Assistant Secretary of the DPH from 2016–2018; reconstituted Communications Committee from November 2023–May 2024, and Co-Chair of the DPH State Convention in 2022 (Lead) and 2024 (Admin), and in partnership with other DPH leaders assisted with the reorganization of the Party in 2022, giving the County Committees the kuleana over Precinct Clubs; and

Whereas, In 2016, Michael Golojuch, Jr. co-authored with member Martha Torney the resolution entitled "GOV 2016-03 Ensuring Full Participation by Democrats in the Presidential Preference Poll", which established the "Presidential Preference Poll Change Committee" to study and issue a report on how to change the Presidential Preference Poll to ensure all Democratic Party of Hawai'i members are able to participate, which was used as the framework for the 2020 Party-run Presidential Primary, which had the most participation of our members in DPH history; and

Whereas, During his time as Chair of the Stonewall Caucus, Michael Golojuch, Jr. has also volunteered as Labor Caucus of Democratic Party of Hawai'i – Communications Chair (2016–Present); Pride at Work - Hawai'i Chapter – President (2021–Present) and At-Large Board Member (2016–2021); Hawai'i State AFL-CIO – Vice President (2016–Present); Aloha United Way – Safety Net Committee Member (2013–2023); Blood Bank of Hawai'i – Blood Drive Coordinator (2010–2015); Friends of Kapolei Hale – Volunteer (2003–2019); Honolulu Pride – Chair (2008–2015); Kapolei City Lights Electrical Parade - Co-Chair (2009–2014); Ua Ao O' Kapolei – Volunteer (2005–2019); Women's March – Hawai'i Chapter (Statewide) – Production Manager (2016–2018) & Women's March on Washington – O'ahu (State Capitol) – Event Producer; and

Whereas, Michael Golojuch, Jr. was nominated by Governor Josh Green, and confirmed with a unanimous vote of the Hawai'i State Senate to serve as an inaugural Commissioner on the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission on April 19, 2024; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the DPH thanks, recognizes and honors Michael Golojuch, Jr. for his years of service to the party and our state, as well as congratulates him on his confirmation as an inaugural Commissioner on the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission, and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Michael Golojuch, Jr. and his family, the Director of Hawai'i State Department of Human Services, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Commissioners of the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission, the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO, Pride at Work National Office, and the next Chair of the Stonewall Caucus of the DPH.

2024-34: Celebrating the Life of Democratic Party of Hawai'i Legal Counsel Thomas Anthony "Tony" Gill

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH) and the people of our state mourn the loss of Thomas Anthony "Tony" Gill, a dedicated public servant, esteemed legal counsel, and a stalwart advocate for justice and democracy who devoted his life to the service of others, using his legal expertise to champion the causes of the DPH, tirelessly working to uphold the principles of fairness, equality, and social justice; and

Whereas, Tony's unwavering commitment to the DPH, his profound understanding of the law, and his ability to articulate and defend our party's positions with clarity and conviction were invaluable assets that greatly contributed to the success of the DPH, including during Tony's three terms as Chair of the DPH's O'ahu County Committee from 2008–2013; and

Whereas, Tony was born on Sept. 28, 1950 in Oakland, CA to future U.S. Congressman and Lieutenant Governor Thomas Gill and public advocate Lois Gill, and was raised in Washington, D.C. and in Honolulu, with his family's belief in public education leading Tony to attend Makiki's Lincoln Elementary, Stevenson Middle and Roosevelt High School, where he served as student body president; and

Whereas, Tony was an avid cyclist, winning Hawai'i's first Dick Evans Memorial Road Race in 1983, and his love of cycling was inseparable from love for the land, such that in 2008 Tony and his family became stewards of preservation land at Palehua, fulfilling a lifelong desire to restore part of Hawai'i's natural environment; and

Whereas, Tony was a champion of fairness and equity and a staunch advocate for labor unions, including the University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly (UHPA), for which he meticulously pored over legal documents and developed articulate and strategic responses to support UH faculty members, with no piece of information escaping his attention and his razor-sharp mind while always maintaining a sense of humor even in the most trying times; and

Whereas, Tony was a founding partner of the law firm Gill, Zukeran & Sgan, and was instrumental in guiding UHPA and its members through difficult collective bargaining negotiations, representing the union as well as individual faculty members in contentious Hawai'i Labor Relations Board hearings, in the state courts of Hawai'i, and before both the Federal District Court and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals where, in *Democratic Party of Hawai'i v. Nago*, Tony argued in defense of limiting primary elections to the enrolled members of the candidates' political parties; and

Whereas, Tony's law firm has represented UNITE HERE! Local 5; the Hawai'i Nurses Association; Hawai'i State Teachers Association; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1186, AFL-CIO; International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 3, AFL-CIO; Hawai'i Printing and Graphic Communications Union, Local 413N, AFL-CIO; and Mid-Pacific Teachers Association; and

Whereas, Tony's two-year battle with cancer ended on Feb. 6, 2023 at Palehua, and his passing now leaves a void within the DPH and in our hearts, but his legacy continues to inspire us and guide our actions; and

Whereas, Tony Gill is survived by his wife, Ashley E. Maynard; two sons, Thomas Anthony Gill (Liza) and Michael Zachary Gill (Caitlin), their mother Karin; two granddaughters and a grandson; sister Andrea T. Gill; and four brothers, Eric W. Gill, Ivan P. Gill (Jeanette Olson), Timothy M. Gill (May Lynne), and Gary L. Gill (Susan Essoyan); and he is predeceased by his parents, Tom and Lois Gill, and uncle Lorin T. Gill; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the DPH hereby expresses its deepest condolences to the family of Tony Gill, and honors his memory for his outstanding service to our party and to the State of Hawai'i; and be it

*Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the family of Thomas Anthony "Tony" Gill as an expression of our heartfelt sympathy and our enduring gratitude for his contributions to the DPH and to the people of Hawai'i.

2024-35: Honoring and Recognizing Ron Menor, Honolulu City Council Member and Hawai'i State Senator

Whereas, Ronnie "Ron" Christopher Menor was born in Hilo, Hawai'i, on September 29, 1955 to Hawai'i Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Menor and Lillian Menor and, after graduating from 'Iolani School, Ron earned a BA from the University of California at Los Angeles and a JD from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC., and later returned home to Central O'ahu to raise a family and pursue a political career, aiming to make a positive difference in his community; and

Whereas, Ron dedicated his life to public service, tirelessly advocating for the people of Hawai'i and championing transparency, accountability, and community well-being in his service at the Hawai'i State Legislature from 1982–2008, and in representing Honolulu City Council District 9 (Mililani, Waikele, Waipahu, Village Park, Royal Kunia, and 'Ewa Beach) from 2012–2020; and

Whereas, During his time in office Ron advocated for improved public programs and services, combating government corruption, and creating a more affordable community and livable environment for residents; emphasized the urgency of dealing with Hawai'i's \$1.75 billion cesspool problem by upgrading cesspools across the state; addressed the social, economic, and health impacts of the Red Hill fuel spill and the need to address PFAS contamination, wastewater treatment, and air quality monitoring; and championed policies to protect Hawai'i's natural resources and promote sustainable practices; and

Whereas, Ron worked to make housing more affordable for everyday residents, both as an attorney whose legal expertise in foreclosure defense and real estate matters was critical, and at the Honolulu City Council where Ron: started the Honolulu Affordable Housing Pilot Program in 2019 using city land and financial and other incentives for affordable housing development and developing and implementing rent-to-own housing options; tapped the city's Affordable Housing Fund to refurbish distressed properties for affordable housing; rehabilitated the city's inventory of affordable rentals; expanded the city's accessory dwelling unit (ADU) program; and enforced the short-term rental ordinance to reduce illegal vacation rentals that remove housing stock from communities; and

Whereas, Ron played a key role in strengthening the Honolulu City Ethics Commission's ability to enforce ethics laws through a charter amendment that was approved by voters in the 2020 general election; and

Whereas, Ron emphasized community engagement and transparency through robust public input in decision-making processes to ensure that community voices were heard, and believed in transparency and accountability, striving to create an open and accessible government; and

Whereas, Ron was involved with several organizations, including the Mililani Lions Club, the YMCA, the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, Mililani's Neighborhood Crime Watch Program, and School Community Councils; and

Whereas, Ron's passion for family history and genealogy inspired others to explore their roots and connect with their heritage, and his faith led him to serve as a leader in Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program for people struggling with life-controlling issues; and

Whereas, Ron was a devoted husband, father and public servant who passed away on January 16, 2023, survived by his wife Patricia; sons: Andrew, Anthony, and Benji Menor; and brother Rick Menor; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i: recognizes and honors the life and contributions of Ron Menor; expresses gratitude for his tireless efforts, his unwavering dedication to service, compassion, and unity, his positive impact on our community; and honors his legacy, which continues to inspire others as a guiding light for future leaders; and be it

*Ordered*, That this Resolution be transmitted to Ron Menor's family as a token of our deepest condolences and appreciation.