

1 **BUS 2012-02 Improve Workers' Compensation in the State of Hawai'i independent medical**
2 **examination, Rescinding & Replacing OC Resolution 2010-5**
3

4 Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i has a long tradition for supporting injured workers' in the State
5 of Hawaii; and
6

7 Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i has continued to fight for injured workers' rights and
8 protection; and
9

10 Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i has always advocated that insurance companies and the
11 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations continue to improve rules, policies and laws concerning
12 Workers' Compensation for the betterment of all of Hawaii's injured workers; and
13

14 Whereas, Independent Medical Examinations (IME) in Workers' Compensation has become so
15 contentious that insurance companies continue to attack any change to make this policies fair for the
16 injured workers' and insurance companies; and
17

18 Whereas, Workers' compensation IMEs are supposed to be fair, impartial, and truly independent;
19

20 Whereas, Doctor's have been imported from the mainland to conduct IMEs, and some local Doctors have
21 closed their practices to do IMEs; and
22

23 Whereas, At least one doctor has made over a million dollars doing IMEs in one year; and
24

25 Whereas, Many doctors who conduct IMEs are not specialist in the field they are performing the
26 examination, and these Doctors cannot be sued for giving a wrong diagnosis; and
27

28 Whereas, Injured workers continue to wait for treatment as insurance companies put money ahead of
29 treatment and rehabilitation; now, therefore, be it
30

31 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democratic Party rescind OC Resolution 2010-5 and urge the
32 Democratic Party of Hawai'i to rescind Resolution BUS 2010-11, and replace it with the following: and be
33 it further
34

35 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawaii support legislation to require the Department of Labor and
36 Industrial Relations of State of Hawaii to protect injured workers from the abuses of Independent Medical
37 Examinations and Examiners who are paid by and accountable only to employers and their insurance
38 carriers in the State of Hawai'i; and finally be it
39

40 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution will be delivered to all Democratic members of the Legislature, the
41 Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and the Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations,
42 and the appropriate state pre convention resolutions committee.

1 **BUS 2012-03 Amending Resolution 2008-17 Supporting The Building Of Modular And Factory**
2 **Manufactured Homes In Hawaii**

3
4 Whereas, Housing in Hawaii is among the most expensive in the United States and infrastructure costs
5 for roads, electricity, water, and sewage are often too high for developers and landowners to build in rural
6 areas, and

7
8 Whereas, Water catchment and solar power can be built into modular homes, thus allowing home
9 construction in rural areas that have little infrastructure; and

10
11 Whereas, The use of steel framing in modular homes prevents problems with subterranean termites and
12 also makes these homes resistant to hurricanes and earthquake damage; and

13
14 Whereas, Homes that are built with factory construction can be moved, thus making them ideal for people
15 who live on leasehold land; and

16
17 Whereas, By setting aside rural and land banked area, modular homes can be moved to safe areas if the
18 property is in danger of a lava flow, hurricane, or flood, which would enable financial institutions and
19 insurance companies to approve mortgages and insurance on homes that are in lava, hurricane, or flood
20 inundation areas; and

21
22 Whereas, In 2002, a steel -framed housing factory on Oahu manufactured homes at \$60 per square foot,
23 or \$120 to \$180 per square foot for site built housing, demonstrating that a factory manufactured home
24 can have a cost savings of over 50% through the use of local materials and local labor; now therefore be
25 it further

26
27 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai`i amend Resolution 2008-17 to add the following: be it

28
29 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai`i supports building modular and factory manufactured
30 homes in Hawaii, not including trailer homes; and finally be it

31
32 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Mayors of the respective
33 counties of the State of Hawaii.

1 **BUS 2012-06 Big Island Smart Grid Renewable Energy Exporter**

2
3 WHEREAS, the Big Island of Hawai'i has abundant renewable energies, such as
4 geothermal, wind, solar, ocean, and hydro; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the Federal Government has many grant programs designed specifically for
7 enterprise zones, including renewable energy, specifically for the Big Island; and

8
9 WHEREAS, Hawai'i Island residents pay some of the highest electric rates in the world,
10 and we have one of the most abundant renewable energy resource sites in the world; and

11
12 WHEREAS, passing this resolution into the party platform will create high paying jobs
13 on the Hawai'i Island now and for future generations; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Hawai'i Island has some of the most capable, well educated, and motivate

16
17 WHEREAS, Hawai'i Island would also implement mentoring and educational programs
18 for, by and through the Smart Grid Technology Program; and

19
20 WHEREAS, Hawai'i Island would be the perfect global location for a living and
21 working prototype of smart grid renewable technologies; and

22
23 WHEREAS, it is perfectly reasonable to create a competitive utility entity to compete
24 with HELCO/HEI, and create cooperatives which are owned by the people of Hawai'i
25 Island; now, therefore,

26
27 BE IT RESOLVED that upon implementation of the Smart Grid Energy Program,
28 energy costs will decrease, Hawai'i Island will become a global incubator for Smart
29 Energy Technology and this program should become part of the party platform.

30
31 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to
32 the Hawai'i members of Congress, and Democratic members of the Hawai'i State
33 Legislature via the Hawai'i Democratic State Convention 2010

1 **BUS 2012-08 Encouraging Development of Public Ownership of Electric Utility Generation and**
2 **Distribution System**

3
4 WHEREAS, the service provided by privately owned electricity generating and distributing system
5 provides reliable, but expensive and heavily dependent on strategically unfavorable fossil fuel
6 energy; and

7
8 WHEREAS, at the current price level there is no incentive for private utilities providers to move
9 into renewable sources and smart grid; and

10
11 WHEREAS, long term interest of public will be better served through public ownership of smart
12 grid and power generating plants; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the current private utility system inhibits the utilization of Hawaiian natural energy
15 sources, and

16
17 WHEREAS, the operation and maintenance of publicly owned generating sources and the smart
18 grid can be subcontracted to private enterprise; now, therefore

19
20 BE IT RESOLVED, that Democratic Party shall encourage the development of a publicly owned
21 electric utility generation and distribution system.

22
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be made available to all the members of
24 State Legislature for consideration and securing financial means necessary (including but not
25 limited to bonds and federal grants).

1 **BUS 2012-10 Support Sustainable Agriculture and Food Self Sufficiency and Food Distribution**

2
3 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i is vulnerable to loss of supply lines through economic upheaval
4 and civil conflict; and

5
6 WHEREAS, locally grown agricultural products are generally healthier; and

7
8 WHEREAS, a vibrant agricultural system will promote the wellbeing of the citizens of the State;
9 And

10
11 WHEREAS, there is currently a lack of sufficient infrastructure to meet the needs of farmers and
12 the consumers they serve; and

13
14 WHEREAS, small farms and farmers lack adequate facilities to store and distribute their products;
15 now, therefore

16
17 BE IT RESOLVED, that the State must commit to supporting, protecting, expanding and
18 improving the agricultural sector in particular, and environmental sustainability in general.

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party should support the promotion of
21 sustainable agriculture, thereby lessening the percentage of foodstuffs imported into Hawai'i.

22
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party shall support the promotion of locally
24 grown agricultural items by strongly supporting the small farms and farmers.

25
26 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party shall support the development of local
27 food storage and distribution centers (county, private or non-profit).

1 **BUS 2012-14 Resolution Calling for Truthful Marketing of Kona Coffee**

2
3 Whereas, the unique climatic and soil conditions of the Kona region on the Island of Hawaii are ideal for
4 cultivation of coffee; and

5
6 Whereas, the care, skill and cultivation practices of Kona coffee farmers, most of whom operate small
7 family-owned farms, have resulted in recognition of Kona coffee as one of the world's premier specialty
8 coffees; and

9
10 Whereas, existing Hawaii statutes allow unfair and deceptive business practices which are used to
11 deceive consumers into believing that packages containing 90% foreign-grown coffee are "Kona
12 Coffee"—thereby damaging the reputation for quality which Kona coffee farmers have built over
13 generations of growing this heritage crop; and

14
15 Whereas, by way of example, HRS 486-120.6 permits the use of the "Kona" name on packaging of a
16 coffee blend having as little as 10% Kona-grown coffee and 90% from unidentified foreign countries; and

17
18 Whereas, by way of further example, the writers of Consumer Reports in their review of Kona coffees
19 confused "Kona Blends" with "Kona Coffee" and concluded that Kona coffee can be "second rate" on the
20 basis of this common mistaken belief that "Kona Blends" are "Kona Coffee"; and

21
22 Whereas, the State of Hawaii should provide the same type of protections to its specialty crop farmers as
23 the State of California provides to Napa Valley wine grape growers, as Idaho provides to Idaho potato
24 farmers, and as Georgia provides to Vidalia onion farmers; and

25
26 Whereas, the Hawaii Legislature made a factual finding in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 102 (2007)
27 that "existing labeling requirements for Kona coffee causes consumer fraud and confusion and degrades
28 the 'Kona coffee' name"; and

29
30 Whereas, Hawaii is the ONLY REGION ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD to permit the use of one of its
31 heritage crops with only 10% genuine content; now therefore, be it

32
33 *Resolved*, That the Hawaii County Democrats request the members of the Hawaii County Democratic
34 delegation in the State Legislature introduce and vigorously work for the adoption of legislation requiring a
35 minimum of 51% Kona-grown coffee in any coffee package labeled as a "Kona Blend" and requiring
36 prominent identification on the label of the country or region of origin of the non-Kona portion in such
37 blend; and be it

38
39 *Resolved*, That all members of the Democratic delegation in the State Legislature vigorously support the
40 adoption of this legislation; and be it

41
42 *Resolved*, That the secretary of the Hawaii Democratic Party mail to each Democratic Party member of
43 the State Legislature a copy of this Resolution on or before June 1, 2012

1 **BUS 2012-15 RELATING TO PROTECTION OF "ORIGIN" PRODUCTS AND THEIR SMALL FARM**
2 **ECONOMIES**

3
4 Whereas, "Origin" products such as Champagne from France, Napa Valley Wines from California,
5 Parmigiano-Reggiano (Parmesan) Cheese from Italy, Tequila from Mexico, Potatoes from Idaho, and
6 Vidalia Onions from Georgia are considered unique and valuable products because of the geographic
7 locations where they are grown, as well as the care, skill and processes used to produce them; and
8

9 Whereas, origin products are high quality products whose unique characteristics bring higher prices in the
10 market that are necessary to support small family farms and small farm economies; and
11

12 Whereas, national, state and international law protect origin products and their names from counterfeiting
13 and being marketed as common commodities of a similar type; and
14

15 Whereas, these laws are essential to maintaining small, family origin farms and their economies; and
16

17 Whereas, the unique climatic and soil conditions of the Kona and the Ka'u regions on the Island of Hawaii
18 are ideal for cultivation of coffee as are the conditions on Maui for the production of onions; and
19

20 Whereas, the care, skill and cultivation practices of Kona and Ka'u coffee farmers, most of whom operate
21 small family-owned farms, have resulted in recognition of Kona and Ka'u coffee as among the world's
22 premier specialty coffees; and
23

24 Whereas, other high value crops such as tea and cacao are beginning to be produced throughout the
25 state that also have high value qualities derived from the regions in which they are produced and the skill,
26 care and processes used to create them; and
27

28 Whereas, the Hawaiian legislature has enacted laws that allow for the diluted blending and misleading
29 labeling of origin coffee and this year considered a measure to permit the diluted blending of Hawaiian
30 teas; and
31

32 Whereas, Hawaii is THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WORLD that has adopted laws permitting the
33 debasement of an origin product and the weakening of an origin farming economy; now, therefore, be it
34

35 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i request the members of the Democratic
36 delegation in the State Legislature introduce and vigorously work for the adoption of legislation protecting
37 origin coffee, tea, cacao and all other origin products that might be grown in Hawaii; and be it
38

39 *Resolved*, That such legislation be patterned on and meet the standards of the best practices adopted
40 elsewhere in the United States and the world for the protection of origin products and the small farming
41 economies they support; and be it
42

43 *Resolved*, That all members of the Democratic delegation in the State Legislature vigorously support the
44 adoption of this legislation; and be it
45

46 *Resolved*, That the secretary of the Hawaii Democratic Party mail to each Democratic Party member of
47 the State Legislature a copy of this Resolution on or before June 1, 2012.

1 **BUS 2012-16 PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR STATE AND COUNTY SUPPORT INVESTIGATING**
2 **POTENTIAL OF COCONUT AND CASSAVA AS HAWAII CROPS FOR SELF-SUSTENANCE AS WELL AS**
3 **EXPORT**
4

5 Whereas, the Democratic Party of Hawaii's 2010 Platform lists preserving and strengthening the future of
6 agriculture in the state of Hawaii; and
7

8 Whereas, Hawaii's public and its governmental leaders express "support of energy independence,
9 selfsufficiency, affordability and reliability through the development of renewable alternative energy resources,"
10 and to lessen reliance on fossil fuels, therefore reducing Hawaii's carbon footprint; and
11

12 Whereas, state statistics show less than 15 percent of the food consumed in Hawaii is produced in state; and
13

14 Whereas, the 2010 Democratic Party platform also expressed the government's "vital role in nurturing and
15 regulating our economic system" as "essential for economic expansion, diversification, innovation and
16 entrepreneurship;" and
17

18 Whereas, science has now proven the nutritional, food, and environmental benefits of two plants – coconut
19 and cassava, also known as yucca, manioc and tapioca – which grow readily throughout the state of Hawaii;
20 and
21

22 Whereas, Hawaii is a tropical place where field research is possible on working production farms, according
23 to University of Hawaii researchers, biosystems engineer Loren D. Gautz, PhD, and Harry "Skip"
24 Bittenbinder, PhD; and
25

26 Whereas, cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) is the staple food of nearly one billion people in 105 countries,
27 according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization; and
28

29 Whereas, Asian Pacific nations are currently competing to corner the market on its use not only in bioplastic
30 production (as Sony is doing) but as a biofuel; cassava is used to make ethanol in countries not dominated by
31 the corn industry; and
32

33 Whereas, Hawaii consumers are paying a minimum of \$1 an ounce for healthful coconut oil, which must be
34 imported from Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Philippines; and
35

36 Whereas, coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) has many health benefits and uses beyond its nutritional content; and
37

38 Whereas, according to an official with the UH College of Tropical Agriculture, it has been "at least" two
39 decades since government-sponsored scientific study in the state has investigated coconut as a crop of any
40 value;
41

42 Whereas, a UH study stated, paraphrasing here, it is a challenge to obtain reliable information on
43 implementation of production, harvest and processing agricultural crops for market within the state and for
44 export; and
45

46 Whereas, those seeking an alternative to externally driven tourism and for sustainable crops that would help
47 fill the void left by the demise of Hawaii's sugar industry cannot afford the costs of research, development and
48 commercialization; now, therefore, be it
49

50 *Resolved*, that the Democratic Party of Hawaii urges the state departments of agriculture and business and
51 economic development as well as UH's College of Tropical Agriculture, citing the above-mentioned factors, to
52 give priority assignments for applied studies of the potential of coconut and cassava as crops for consumption
53 and production for local use and export; and finally, that the State Administrative and Legislative branches do
54 all within their power to advance these goals.

1 **BUS 2012-18 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RESPECT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND**
2 **THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS**
3

4 Whereas, the State Administrative and Legislative bodies express support for the ideals of increasing
5 student learning and the improvement of public education outcomes, a goal most teachers dedicate
6 themselves to daily and throughout their professional lives; and
7

8 Whereas, the current competitive nature mandated and implemented through Department of
9 Education policies on both the federal and state levels treats classroom teachers – a career field
10 primarily filled with women --in an adversarial manner; and
11

12 Whereas, reliable studies throughout the years prove parental involvement in their children’s education
13 is the primary indicator of student success K-12; and
14

15 Whereas, schools represent children’s entry level into the world beyond their homes which in practice
16 means public school teachers are charged not only with the responsibility of academic enlightenment
17 but making sure of the safety, physical and emotional health, and socialization of children from all
18 levels of society; and
19

20 Whereas, public school teachers, especially those in the elementary and middle school levels, are on
21 the front line of our country’s war on poverty, homelessness, lack of comprehensive health care,
22 violence and all other forms of abuse, with no control over any of these factors; and
23

24 Whereas, national statistics show the income gap in the United States to be widening at an ever-
25 increasing level, with the lower income profile beset with high unemployment and record-breaking
26 numbers of foreclosures and bankruptcies; and
27

28 Whereas, public school teachers have been held accountable for their individual work performances
29 for decades through PEP-T and other administrative assessments; and a growing number of Hawaii’s
30 public school teachers are National Board Certified Teachers; and
31

32 Whereas, “teachers are not opposed to an evaluation system that is fair, valid and reliable,” they also
33 feel such accountability needs to extend to the students, their parents or caregivers, and the
34 administrators of the Department of Education, on the school, state and federal levels; now, therefore,
35 be it
36

37 Resolved, That the members of the Democratic Party of Hawaii express their concern for teachers,
38 and demand a positive approach in the State Administration and Legislature to teachers’ collective
39 bargaining rights, assuring good-faith bargaining with teachers on all levels.

1 **BUS 2012-19 SUPPORT EARNED PAID SICK AND SAFE TIME STANDARDS**

2
3 Whereas, most workers at some time during the year, need temporary time off from work to take
4 care of personal health needs or the health needs of members of their families;

5
6 Whereas, more than 40 percent of private-sector workers nationally and 43 percent of private-
7 sector workers in Hawai'i (more than 174,000 workers) do not have paid sick time they can use to
8 recover from a common, short-term illness such as the flu;

9
10 Whereas, many workers who do earn personal sick time cannot use that time to care for an ill
11 child or close family member;

12
13 Whereas, nearly two hundred fifty thousand people in Hawai'i serve as unpaid family caregivers
14 for family members;

15
16 Whereas, one in six adults nationally report that they or a family member has been fired,
17 suspended, punished, or threatened by an employer because they needed to take sick time for
18 themselves or a family member;

19
20 Whereas, low-wage workers are particularly unlikely to earn paid sick time, are among the least
21 able to afford to take unpaid sick time, and are among the most at risk of long-term
22 unemployment after losing a job;

23
24 Whereas, workers' inability to access paid sick time contributes to a drain on business
25 productivity and increased risk of illnesses spreading throughout workplaces to customers and
26 co-workers;

27
28 Whereas, workers' inability to access paid sick time leads to unnecessary emergency room visits
29 and higher health care costs;

30
31 Whereas, parental care makes children's recovery faster and prevents future health problems;

32
33 Whereas, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking often cannot access needed
34 "safe" time to seek legal and relocation services;

35
36 Whereas, losing a job can be particularly devastating for survivors of domestic violence who often
37 need economic security to ensure their and their children's safety;

38
39 Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i affirms that all workers should have the right
40 to earn paid sick and safe time;

41
42 Be It Further Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i endorses the federal Healthy
43 Families Act (H.R. 1876/S. 984) and urges its passage; and

44
45 Be It Finally Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the legislature to pass
46 statewide legislation to ensure that Hawai'i's workers will have access to earned paid sick and
47 safe time.
48