Whereas, Preservation of the environment is essential for the economic security of the present and future citizens of the island of O‘ahu and the State of Hawai‘i; and

Whereas, The natural environment, ecosystem services, and aesthetics of our islands can be irreparably damaged by development projects, endangering Hawai‘i’s economic and cultural future; and

Whereas, The confidence of the citizens in the integrity of regulators, government, and law enforcement requires even-handed enforcement of, and compliance with, laws and regulations; and

Whereas, Both public and private developments have similar potential for environmental impacts; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i oppose government exemptions from environmental protections, regulations, and reviews, including environmental assessments and environmental impact statements; and finally be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i.
ENV 2012-03 Mitigation of Hoofed Animals Damage to Farms, Gardens, and Native Forest, Rescinding and Replace OC 2011-07

Whereas, Hoofed animals are invasive species in Hawai‘i, and invasive species can be controlled only with focused, intense, and sustained effort; and

Whereas, The Environmental Caucus of the Hawai‘i Democratic Party believes elimination of hoofed animals from prime native forest is essential to preserving the native forests of Hawai‘i; and

Whereas, Hunting in Hawai‘i is a complex issue; where many people, both hunters and non-hunters, have different agendas; where hunting is a sport, a method of animal control, a way to put food on the table, and/or a cruel abuse of animals depending on your point of view; and

Whereas, All hoofed animals in Hawai‘i are introduced animals that are recognized by natural resource experts as a significant threat to Hawai‘i’s vital watersheds; and

Whereas, Hunters are an important part of controlling pigs and other hoofed animals in areas where hunters have access; and

Whereas, Hunter organizations working in partnerships with private landowners can help manage hoofed animal populations on private land; and

Whereas, Subsistence hunting should be encouraged on both public and private property; and

Whereas, Public testimony for years has pointed out the damage caused by hoofed animals; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i rescind Resolution 2010-07 and replace it with the following: be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i support Gov. Abercrombie’s Watershed Initiative, but not at the expense of existing conservation programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party support permanently eliminating hoofed animals from native ecosystems and important watersheds; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party supports game management programs on both public and private property not composed of prime native ecosystems and important watersheds; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party supports ahupua‘a and moku management where local stake holders and natural resource managers are brought together to identify and resolve local hoofed animal control problems; and finally be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Hawai‘i State legislator in the State Legislature and to the Hawai‘i Governor.
ENV 2012-04 Establish an Objective Evaluation of Sustainable Energy to Prioritize the Alternative
Energy Systems and Technologies that Will Most Benefit All of the Citizens of the State of Hawai‘i

Whereas, The state of Hawai‘i depends on imported fossil fuels sources to power its commercial,
industrial, residential and transportation needs, importing over 50 Million barrels of oil per year at a cost
upwards of four Billion dollars per year paid to out-of-state interests, severely impacting the costs of living
and doing business in Hawai‘i; and

Whereas, Choosing the most beneficial course for a sustainable energy future for Hawai‘i requires
knowing the actual costs and benefits of the various energy systems, including (but not limited to) energy
cost and productivity, energy storage, environmental impact, energy security, community ownership of
means of production, growth of small business, employment in well-paying jobs, and expansion of
Hawai‘i exports; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party urges the Hawai‘i State Legislature and Executive branch to create
an independent committee to conduct an objective evaluation of sustainable energy to evaluate
alternative and sustainable energy production, storage, and transmission systems; and be it further

Resolved, That energy combinations are prioritized to determine which are likely to give the most benefit
to each of the counties of Hawai‘i; and be it further

Resolved, That the evaluation committee include impartial persons who are competent to evaluate
technical, environmental, economic, and social considerations; and finally be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State
Legislature, and the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i.
WHEREAS, "preserve and strengthen the future of agriculture in Hawai‘i is a major plank in the platform of the Hawai‘i Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i Island accounts for 820,000 acres of the state’s 1.3 million acres of agricultural land; and,

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i Island is home to all but two of the world’s 13 main climatic regions, making it an agricultural paradise; and,

WHEREAS, less than 15% of the food consumed in the State of Hawai‘i is produced locally; and,

WHEREAS, one of the reasons cited for the lack of interest for 737 acres of agricultural land put up for sale in Hāmākua by the Hawai‘i County government administration was the lack of water resources to sustain large scale farming; and,

WHEREAS, water availability for agriculture purposes is limited and subject to the Hawai‘i Water Code (HRS Chapter 174C); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i County encourages all Hawai‘i County officials to seek actively partnerships with developers and other solutions to increase the water resources for agricultural purposes.
WHEREAS, now it has been confirmed that in the 1960s the U.S. Army used the Pohakuloa Training Area for firing spotting rounds containing Depleted Uranium (DU) for the Davy Crockett nuclear weapon system; and

WHEREAS, the Army has acknowledged past use of Depleted Uranium in Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS, the DU spotting rounds have created the presence of radiation contamination at Pohakuloa; and

WHEREAS, due to inaccurate military record keeping, there may be more DU contamination at Pohakuloa than just Davy Crockett spotting rounds; and

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2008 the Hawai‘i County Council passed Resolution 639-08 by a vote of 8-1; and

WHEREAS, resolution 639-08 called for "a complete halt to B-2 bombing missions and to all live firing exercises and other activities at the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) that creates dust until there is an assessment and clean up of the depleted uranium already present;"; and

WHEREAS, live-fire continues at PTA and the DU has not been cleaned up; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hawai‘i Democratic Party request that the State BLNR require clean up of depleted uranium (DU) radiation contamination at Pohakuloa.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the State BLNR, and the U.S. Army Garrison Commander, Pohakuloa Training Area.
ENV 2012-08 Resolution to Prohibit Plastics and Styrofoam at ALL Official Democratic Party Meetings

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawaii has a long history of caring for the environment; and
Whereas, Non-biodegradable plastics and Styrofoam continue to pollute our Islands and ocean; and
Whereas, It is always good to practice what you preach, now therefore be it

Resolved, That Hawaii State Democrats declare Styrofoam and non-biodegradable plastics KAPU at all official party meetings and events; and be it further

Resolved, That failure to comply with this KAPU will result in one warning, followed by a $20 fine for each subsequently reported offence; and be it further

Resolved; that all such fines shall be paid to the Democratic Party of Hawaii by the person or persons providing the items; and be it further

Resolved, That Hawaii State Democrats will endeavor to provide separate recycling bins for recyclable plastics at all official party meetings and events; and be it further

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be sent to all party officials and officers.
ENV 2012-10 Land Stewardship - Alternative Energy Projects

Whereas, The State of Hawai'i has made a commitment to reduce dependence on the use of fossil fuels; and

Whereas, Hawai'i has a growing need to keep up with clean energy demands; and

Whereas, Many alternative energy projects will therefore be put on the table in the coming year and many new and emerging technologies may be utilized now and far into the future; and

Whereas, Some past projects have not thoughtfully incorporated responsible stewardship of the lands that put to this important use and have in some cases such as, at Big Island's, South Point Ka Lae some windmills still spin but most stand broken and rusted; and

Whereas, Technologies are in a constant state of change; and

Whereas, Our state motto is, Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka 'Āina I Ka Pono, "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge that every new alternative energy utility project must incorporate a plan to fund implementation of best management practices during project construction, restoration of the impacted land environment, following construction, to its condition at acquisition, and restoration of land following decommissioning, demobilizing, or demolition, to its condition at acquisition; and therefore let it be further

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Democratic legislators in the State Legislature to the Hawai'i Governor and to the State Office of Planning, the Public Utilities Commission, and appropriate divisions of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.
ENV 2012-11 Full Funding of Invasive Species Inspections

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai`i recognize that the introduction of alien species continues to be a serious threat to our public health, our native ecosystems, and our State's economy; and

Whereas, Inadequate facilities and cuts in staff have severely limited our State's ability to intercept dangerous alien species at the locations where they are most likely to enter our State, namely our seaports and airports; and

Whereas, The cost of eradicating an invasive species once it has been introduced and taken hold in the State is far more expensive than paying for a front line offence led by well trained inspectors; and

Whereas, The Department of Agriculture's current Invasive Species Inspection staff continues to work diligently, protecting Hawai`i from this threat even thought they are being asked to accomplish their goals with less than one fourth of their pre-20010 budget, and after having lost over one-third of their inspectors and nearly all of their administrative staff to layoffs and early retirement; and

Whereas, Once established in Hawai`i, dangerous alien species are often impossible to control since they have no natural predators; and

Whereas, Preventing the introduction of dangerous species is vital and takes continuous around the clock effort; and

Whereas, Preventing the introduction of dangerous species requires that our State provide adequate facilities for inspection on all Islands; and

Whereas, We must keep our guard up to prevent establishment of dangerous alien species in Hawai`i; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai`i recognize the serious nature of the alien species threat; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai`i support full State refunding of our current Invasive Species Prevention and Inspection programs; and be it further

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to each Hawai`i Democratic legislators in the State Legislature and to the Hawaii Governor.
Whereas, geothermal electrical generation can be abundant, non-polluting, and capable of supplying 100% of Hawaii Island’s electric grid AND producing hydrogen or NH3 ammonia for fuel cell vehicles and fertilizer; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That no polluting bio-mass generation stations are needed. The County should NOT facilitate bio-mass burners in anyway; and be it

Resolved, That all Democratic elected officials should take every means to encourage the phase out of fossil fuel electric generation as soon as geothermal or other clean renewable power is available.
ENV 2012-15 Requesting the 2013 Legislature to Mandate PUC to Require HELCO to Develop A
Timely Action Plan To Retire All Depreciated Oil-Fired Power Plants on Hawai‘i Island And
Transition to Geothermally Generated Electricity As the Island’s Primary Baseload Power Source

Whereas, the Hawai‘i County Democratic Party adopted a resolution at it’s 2010 County Convention
supporting the use of indigenous, renewable geothermal energy to generate baseload electrical power to
(1) reduce dependency of imported fossil fuels, (2) reduce our carbon footprint and other environmental
risks, and (3) hold the line or reduce electrical energy costs to consumers; and

Whereas, Puna Geothermal Venture has proven the safety and reliability of geothermally generated
electrical power for Hawai‘i Island consumers for about 18 years; and

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(1) reduce dependency of imported fossil fuels, (2) reduce our carbon footprint and other environmental
risks, and (3) hold the line or reduce electrical energy costs to consumers; and

WHEREAS, PUNA GESOTHERMAL VENTURE HAS PROVEN THE SAFETY AND RELIABILITY OF
GEOTHERMALLY GENERATED ELECTRICITY FOR HAWAI‘I ISLAND CONSUMERS FOR ABOUT 18 YEARS; AND

WHEREAS, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION HAS IN THE PAST YEAR INITIATED NEW CONTRACTUAL
PROCEDURES BETWEEN HELCO AND PGV WHICH ARE SUCCESSFULLY REDUCING THE KILOWATT HOUR
COST OF GEOTHERMALLY GENERATED POWER TO CONSUMERS; AND

WHEREAS, ALL BUT ONE OF HELCO’S EXISTING FOSSIL FUEL-DEPENDENT POWER GENERATION FACILITIES ON
HAWAI‘I ISLAND ARE FULLY DEPRECIATED BUT CONTINUE TO BE OPERATED, WHICH HAS DESTRUCTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND
ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES, INCLUDING FORCING HAWAI‘I ISLAND CONSUMERS TO PAY THE HIGHEST KILOWATT HOUR
CHARGE IN THE STATE – A COST THAT WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE AS THE GLOBAL PEAK OIL SITUATION FURTHER DRIVES UP
THE COST OF FOSSIL FUEL;

WHEREAS, THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAS RECENTLY DIRECTED ALL HEI COMPANIES INCLUDING
HELCO TO RETROFIT EXISTING OIL FIRED PLANTS TO COMPLY WITH EPA EMISSION STANDARDS. THIS EXPENSIVE
UNDERTAKING WILL FORCE CONTINUED USAGE OF THESE PLANTS AND PERPETUATE A LEVEL OF EMISSIONS AND KILOWATT
HOUR COSTS THAT EXCEED THAT OF GEOTHERMAL. ALSO, THIS INVESTMENT -- WHICH WILL INEVITABLY BE BORNE BY
CONSUMERS -- SHOULD, INSTEAD, BE DEDICATED TO THE TRANSITION TO ENVIRONMENTALLY AND ECONOMICALLY
PREFERRED GEOTHERMAL POWER PRODUCTION AND/OR DISTRIBUTION; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE HAWAI‘I COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI‘I HEREBY FORMAL
REQUESTS THE 2013 HAWAI‘I STATE LEGISLATURE TO DIRECT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO REQUIRE HELCO TO
DEVELOP A TIMELY PLAN TO RETIRE ITS FULLY DEPRECIATED FOSSIL FUEL POWER GENERATION FACILITIES AND ACCEPT
GEOTHERMALLY GENERATED ELECTRICAL POWER AS THE PRIMARY BASELOAD SOURCE. HELCO SHOULD CONTINUE TO
INCLUDE OTHER ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES – SUCH AS WIND, SOLAR AND HYDRO – IN ITS MIX OF SOURCES, BUT
GEOTHERMALLY GENERATED ELECTRICITY MUST BECOME THE PRIMARY BASELOAD SOURCE FOR HAWAI‘I ISLAND WITHIN THE
NEXT FIVE YEARS; AND BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE PUC SHOULD CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT CONTRACTUAL PROCEDURES BETWEEN HELCO AND
GEOTHERMAL POWER PRODUCERS THAT REPRESENT AN EQUITABLE RETURN ON INVESTMENT BUT, AS IMPORTANT, REDUCE
THE KILOWATT HOUR COST TO CONSUMERS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.
ENV 2012-18 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MORE EFFICIENT RECYCLING

WHEREAS our current “throwaway economy” is not only disrupting our environment, it is also wasting valuable energy and resources;

WHEREAS increased recycling efficiency will keep our environment cleaner while reducing carbon emissions;

WHEREAS many products are manufactured with little regard for reuse or recycling;

WHEREAS the island communities of Hawaii have limited waste disposal sites;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Hawai’i encourages elected officials at national, state and local levels to find ways to encourage manufacturers to produce goods and packaging that can be recycled at the time of disposal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Hawai’i supports prohibiting the sale of “throwaway” products that end up over-burdening our municipal land fill sites, and

ORDERED, that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, members of the State Legislature, and Hawai’i members of the United States Congress.
Whereas, when polled in the US there is consistently near 95% public demand for the labeling of GMO foods.

Whereas, nearly 50 countries have mandatory labeling of GMO foods leaving the USA as one of the few industrialized countries without mandatory GMO labeling.

Whereas, on March 12, 2012 a letter was submitted to FDA commissioner Margaret Hamburg pertaining to the request for mandatory labeling of GMO foods. This bicameral letter was signed by 55 Republican and Democratic members of the US house and Senate.

Whereas, Hawaii could follow the example of the state of California which will have on their November ballot the right to know proposition. At issue is the fundamental right consumers have to make informed decisions about the food they consume.

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawaii propose that GMO food labeling becomes available to the residents of Hawaii.

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be presented to the Democratic members of the Hawaii State Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawaii, Mayors and City Council members, and to the heads of the state and county regulatory bodies.
ENV 2012-20 Resolution in Support of a Statewide Electricity Grid

Whereas, Hawaii residents pay the highest rates for electricity in the nation, largely due to dependence on imported oil, which is costly, environmentally unfriendly, and often unreliable due to its origin; and

Whereas, Hawaii set a clean energy goal that, by 2030, 70% of the state’s energy needs would be met through energy efficiency measures (30%) and locally generated renewable resources (40%); and

Whereas, Hawaii has an abundance of renewable energy resources to generate electricity; solar, geothermal, wave, biofuels, and wind are all available for development; and

Whereas, Development of these resources in the private sector is an opportunity for diversification of our economy and creation of new jobs; and

Whereas, Availability of renewable resources is uneven across the state; one island may have good potential for alternative energy while another may have limited potential; although the islands are separated by water, Hawaii is one state; the needs of all residents should be addressed equally and equitably; and

Whereas, The Legislature recently passed a bill to establish a regulatory structure for installation and implementation of an interisland electric transmission cable system; the bill neither appropriated funds nor directed the construction of the undersea cable but does provide a framework for regulatory oversight to allow private industry to develop a cable system to connect the islands with a statewide electricity grid to allow resources to be shared among the islands and help to bring down the cost of electricity for all; and

Whereas, Tax credits currently available to individual homeowners and businesses provide incentives for solar systems, but many taxpayers are unable to benefit from these tax incentives because they do not own their homes or because the cost to install solar systems is unaffordable; and

Whereas, A statewide electricity grid will enable all Hawaii residents to benefit from renewable energy resources, bring down the cost of electricity, and reinforce that Hawaii is one state; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the development of a statewide electricity grid through installation and implementation of an interisland electric transmission cable system; and

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the development of renewable energy resources on all islands as an economic driver; and

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawaii reaffirms support for Hawaii’s Clean Energy Initiative.

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all Mayors and City and County Councils, to Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, and to the heads of the county and state regulatory bodies.