

1 **ENV 2012-02 Environmental Review of Public and Private Development Projects**

2

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

5

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

8

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

11

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

14

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

18

19 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State
20 Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i.

1 **ENV 2012-03 Mitigation of Hoofed Animals Damage to Farms, Gardens, and Native Forest,**
2 **Rescinding and Replace OC 2011-07**
3

4 Whereas, Hoofed animals are invasive species in Hawai'i, and invasive species can be controlled only with
5 focused, intense, and sustained effort; and
6

7 Whereas, The Environmental Caucus of the Hawai'i Democratic Party believes elimination of hoofed animals from
8 prime native forest is essential to preserving the native forests of Hawai'i; and
9

10 Whereas, Hunting in Hawai'i is a complex issue; where many people, both hunters and non-hunters, have
11 different agendas; where hunting is a sport, a method of animal control, a way to put food on the table, and/or a
12 cruel abuse of animals depending on your point of view; and
13

14 Whereas, All hoofed animals in Hawai'i are introduced animals that are recognized by natural resource experts
15 as a significant threat to Hawai'i's vital watersheds; and
16

17 Whereas, Hunters are an important part of controlling pigs and other hoofed animals in areas where hunters
18 have access; and
19

20 Whereas, Hunter organizations working in partnerships with private landowners can help manage hoofed animal
21 populations on private land; and
22

23 Whereas, Subsistence hunting should be encouraged on both public and private property; and
24

25 Whereas, Public testimony for years has pointed out the damage caused by hoofed animals; now, therefore,
26 be it
27

28 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i rescind Resolution 2010-07 and replace it with the following: be
29 it
30

31 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i support Gov. Abercrombie's Watershed Initiative, but not at the
32 expense of existing conservation programs; and be it further
33

34 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party support permanently eliminating hoofed animals from native
35 ecosystems and important watersheds; and be it further
36

37 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party supports game management programs on both public and private property
38 not composed of prime native ecosystems and important watersheds; and be it further
39

40 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party supports *ahupua'a* and *moku* management where local stake holders and
41 natural resource managers are brought together to identify and resolve local hoofed animal control problems; and
42 finally be it
43

44 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Hawai'i State legislator in the State Legislature and to the
45 Hawai'i Governor.
46

1 **ENV 2012-04 Establish an Objective Evaluation of Sustainable Energy to Prioritize the Alternative**
2 **Energy Systems and Technologies that Will Most Benefit All of the Citizens of the State of Hawai`i**
3

4 Whereas, The state of Hawai`i depends on imported fossil fuels sources to power its commercial,
5 industrial, residential and transportation needs, importing over 50 Million barrels of oil per year at a cost
6 upwards of *four Billion dollars* per year paid to out-of-state interests, severely impacting the costs of living
7 and doing business in Hawai`i; and
8

9 Whereas, Choosing the most beneficial course for a sustainable energy future for Hawai`i requires
10 knowing the actual costs and benefits of the various energy systems, including (but not limited to) energy
11 cost and productivity, energy storage, environmental impact, energy security, community ownership of
12 means of production, growth of small business, employment in well-paying jobs, and expansion of
13 Hawai`i exports; now, therefore, be it
14

15 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party urges the Hawai`i State Legislature and Executive branch to create
16 an independent committee to conduct an objective evaluation of sustainable energy to evaluate
17 alternative and sustainable energy production, storage, and transmission systems; and be it further
18

19 *Resolved*, That energy combinations are prioritized to determine which are likely to give the most benefit
20 to each of the counties of Hawai`i; and be it further
21

22 *Resolved*, That the evaluation committee include impartial persons who are competent to evaluate
23 technical, environmental, economic, and social considerations; and finally be it
24

25 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Democratic members of the Hawai`i State
26 Legislature, and the Governor of the State of Hawai`i.
27

1 **ENV 2012-06 Increase Agricultural Water Resources in Hawai'i County**

2
3 WHEREAS, "preserve and strengthen the future of agriculture in Hawai'i is a major
4 plank in the platform of the Hawai'i Democratic Party; and

5
6 WHEREAS, Hawai'i Island accounts for 820,000 acres of the state's 1.3 million acres of
7 agricultural land; and,

8
9 WHEREAS, Hawai'i Island is home to all but two of the world's 13 main climatic
10 regions, making it an agricultural paradise; and,

11
12 WHEREAS, less than 15% of the food consumed in the State of Hawai'i is produced
13 locally; and,

14
15 WHEREAS, one of the reasons cited for the lack of interest for 737 acres of agricultural
16 land put up for sale in Hāmākua by the Hawai'i County government administration was
17 the lack of water resources to sustain large scale farming; and,

18
19 WHEREAS, water availability for agriculture purposes is limited and subject to the
20 Hawai'i Water Code (HRS Chapter 174C); now, therefore,

21
22 BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i County encourages all
23 Hawai'i County officials to seek actively partnerships with developers and other
24 solutions to increase the water resources for agricultural purposes.

1 **ENV 2012-07 Urging the State BLNR Require Clean Up of Depleted Uranium (Du) Radiation**
2 **Contamination at PoHakuloa Training Area**
3

4 WHEREAS, now it has been confirmed that in the 1960s the U.S. Army used the Pohakuloa
5 Training Area for firing spotting rounds containing Depleted Uranium (DU) for the Davy
6 Crockett nuclear weapon system; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Army has acknowledged past use of Depleted Uranium in Hawai'i; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the DU spotting rounds have created the presence of radiation contamination at
11 Pohakuloa; and
12

13 WHEREAS, due to inaccurate military record keeping, there may be more DU contamination at
14 Pohakuloa than just Davy Crockett spotting rounds; and
15

16 WHEREAS, on July 2, 2008 the Hawai'i County Council passed Resolution 639-08 by a vote of
17 8-1; and
18

19 WHEREAS, resolution 639-08 called for "a complete halt to B-2 bombing missions and to all
20 live firing exercises and other activities at the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) that creates dust
21 until there is an assessment and clean up of the depleted uranium already present"; and
22

23 WHEREAS, live-fire continues at PTA and the DU has not been cleaned up; now, therefore,
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hawai'i Democratic Party request that the State BLNR require
26 clean up of depleted uranium (DU) radiation contamination at Pohakuloa.
27

28 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State
29 of Hawai'i, the State BLNR, and the U.S. Army Garrison Commander,
30 Pohakuloa Training Area.

1 **ENV 2012-08 Resolution to Prohibit Plastics and Styrofoam at ALL Official Democratic Party**
2 **Meetings**

3
4 Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawaii has a long history of caring for the environment; and

5
6 Whereas, Non-biodegradable plastics and Styrofoam continue to pollute our Islands and ocean; and

7
8 Whereas, It is always good to practice what you preach, now therefore be it

9
10 *Resolved*, That Hawaii State Democrats declare Styrofoam and non-biodegradable plastics KAPU at all
11 official party meetings and events; and be it further

12
13 *Resolved*, That failure to comply with this KAPU will result in one warning, followed by a \$20 fine for each
14 subsequently reported offence; and be it further

15
16 *Resolved*; that all such fines shall be paid to the Democratic Party of Hawaii by the person or persons
17 providing the items; and be it further

18
19 *Resolved*, That Hawaii State Democrats will endeavor to provide separate recycling bins for recyclable
20 plastics at all official party meetings and events; and be it further

21
22 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be sent to all party officials and officers.

1 **ENV 2012-10 Land Stewardship - Alternative Energy Projects**

2
3 Whereas, The State of Hawai'i has made a commitment to reduce dependence on the use of fossil fuels;
4 and

5
6 Whereas, Hawai'i has a growing need to keep up with clean energy demands; and

7
8 Whereas, Many alternative energy projects will therefore be put on the table in the coming year and many
9 new and emerging technologies may be utilized now and far into the future; and

10
11 Whereas, Some past projects have not thoughtfully incorporated responsible stewardship of the lands
12 that put to this important use and have in some cases such as, at Big Island's, South Point Ka Lae some
13 windmills still spin but most stand broken and rusted; and

14
15 Whereas, Technologies are in a constant state of change; and

16
17 Whereas, Our state motto is, Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka 'Āina I Ka Pono, "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated
18 in Righteousness"; now, therefore, be it

19
20 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge that every new alternative energy utility project must
21 incorporate a plan to fund implementation of best management practices during project construction,
22 restoration of the impacted land environment, following construction, to its condition at acquisition, and
23 restoration of land following decommissioning, demobilizing, or demolition, to its condition at acquisition;
24 and therefore let it be further

25
26 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Democratic legislators in the State Legislature to
27 the Hawai'i Governor and to the State Office of Planning, the Public Utilities Commission, and appropriate
28 divisions of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

1 **ENV 2012-11 Full Funding of Invasive Species Inspections**

2
3 Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognize that the introduction of alien species continues to
4 be a serious threat to our public health, our native ecosystems, and our State's economy; and

5
6 Whereas, Inadequate facilities and cuts in staff have severely limited our State's ability to intercept
7 dangerous alien species at the locations where they are most likely to enter our State, namely our
8 seaports and airports; and

9
10 Whereas, The cost of eradicating an invasive species once it has been introduced and taken hold in the
11 State is far more expensive than paying for a front line offence led by well trained inspectors; and

12
13 Whereas, The Department of Agriculture's current Invasive Species Inspection staff continues to work
14 diligently, protecting Hawai'i from this threat even though they are being asked to accomplish their goals
15 with less than one fourth of their pre-20010 budget, and after having lost over one-third of their inspectors
16 and nearly all of their administrative staff to layoffs and early retirement; and

17
18 Whereas, Once established in Hawai'i, dangerous alien species are often impossible to control since they
19 have no natural predators; and

20
21 Whereas, Preventing the introduction of dangerous species is vital and takes continuous around the clock
22 effort; and

23
24 Whereas, Preventing the introduction of dangerous species requires that our State provide adequate
25 facilities for inspection on all Islands; and

26
27 Whereas, We must keep our guard up to prevent establishment of dangerous alien species in Hawai'i;
28 now, therefore, be it

29
30 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognize the serious nature of the alien species threat;
31 and be it further

32
33 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i support full State refunding of our current Invasive
34 Species Prevention and Inspection programs; and be it further

35
36 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to each Hawai'i Democratic legislators in the State
37 Legislature and to the Hawaii Governor.
38

1 **ENV 2012-12 RESOLUTION ON GEOTHERMAL ENERGY**

2
3 Whereas, geothermal electrical generation can be abundant, non-polluting, and capable of supplying
4 100% of Hawaii Island's electric grid AND producing hydrogen or NH3 ammonia for fuel cell vehicles and
5 fertilizer; now, therefore, be it

6
7 *Resolved*, That no polluting bio-mass generation stations are needed. The County should NOT facilitate
8 bio-mass burners in anyway; and be it

9
10 *Resolved*, That all Democratic elected officials should take every means to encourage the phase out of
11 fossil fuel electric generation as soon as geothermal or other clean renewable power is available.

1 **ENV 2012-15 Requesting the 2013 Legislature to Mandate PUC to Require HELCO to Develop A**
2 **Timely Action Plan To Retire All Depreciated Oil-Fired Power Plants on Hawai'i Island And**
3 **Transition to Geothermally Generated Electricity As the Island's Primary Baseload Power Source**
4

5 Whereas, the Hawai'i County Democratic Party adopted a resolution at it's 2010 County Convention
6 supporting the use of indigenous, renewable geothermal energy to generate baseload electrical power to
7 (1) reduce dependency of imported fossil fuels, (2) reduce our carbon footprint and other environmental
8 risks, and (3) hold the line or reduce electrical energy costs to consumers; and
9

10 Whereas, Puna Geothermal Venture has proven the safety and reliability of geothermally generated
11 electrical power for Hawai'i Island consumers for about 18 years; and
12

13 Whereas, this geothermal power has also generated royalty payments to the State and County of Hawai'i
14 and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs running in the millions of dollars over the past 18 years; and
15

16 Whereas, the Public Utilities Commission has in the past year initiated new contractual procedures
17 between HELCO and PGV which are successfully reducing the kilowatt hour cost of geothermally
18 generated power to consumers; and
19

20 Whereas, all but one of HELCO's existing fossil fuel-dependent power generation facilities on Hawai'i
21 Island are fully depreciated but continue to be operated, which has destructive environmental and
22 economic consequences, including forcing Hawai'i Island consumers to pay the highest kilowatt hour
23 charge in the state – a cost that will continue to increase as the global peak oil situation further drives up
24 the cost of fossil fuel;
25

26 Whereas, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has recently directed all HEI companies including
27 HELCO to retrofit existing oil fired plants to comply with EPA emission standards. This expensive
28 undertaking will force continued usage of these plants and perpetuate a level of emissions and kilowatt
29 hour costs that exceed that of geothermal. Also, this investment -- which will inevitably be borne by
30 consumers -- should, instead, be dedicated to the transition to environmentally and economically
31 preferred geothermal power production and/or distribution; now therefore be it
32

33 *Resolved*, That the Hawai'i County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i hereby formally
34 requests the 2013 Hawai'i State Legislature to direct the Public Utilities Commission to require HELCO to
35 develop a timely plan to retire its fully depreciated fossil fuel power generation facilities and accept
36 geothermally generated electrical power as the primary baseload source. HELCO should continue to
37 include other alternative energy sources – such as wind, solar and hydro – in its mix of sources, but
38 geothermally generated electricity must become the primary baseload source for Hawai'i Island within the
39 next five years; and be it
40

41 *Resolved*, That the PUC should continue to implement contractual procedures between HELCO and
42 geothermal power producers that represent an equitable return on investment but, as important, reduce
43 the kilowatt hour cost to consumers whenever possible.

1 **ENV 2012-18 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MORE EFFICIENT RECYCLING**

2
3 WHEREAS our current “throwaway economy” is not only disrupting our environment, it is also wasting
4 valuable energy and resources;

5
6 WHEREAS increased recycling efficiency will keep our environment cleaner while reducing carbon
7 emissions;

8
9 WHEREAS many products are manufactured with little regard for reuse or recycling;

10
11 WHEREAS the island communities of Hawaii have limited waste disposal sites;

12
13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i encourages elected
14 officials at national, state and local levels to find ways to encourage manufacturers to produce goods and
15 packaging that can be recycled at the time of disposal;

16
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports prohibiting the sale of
18 “throwaway” products that end up over-burdening our municipal land fill sites, and

19
20 ORDERED, that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor,
21 members of the State Legislature, and Hawai‘i members of the United States Congress.

1 **ENV 2012-19 Resolution - Labeling of GMO food products**

2
3 Whereas, when polled in the US there is consistently near 95% public demand for the labeling of GMO
4 foods.

5
6 Whereas, nearly 50 countries have mandatory labeling of GMO foods leaving the USA as one of the few
7 industrialized countries without mandatory GMO labeling.

8
9 Whereas, on March 12, 2012 a letter was submitted to FDA commissioner Margaret Hamburg pertaining
10 to the request for mandatory labeling of GMO foods. This bicameral letter was signed by 55 Republican
11 and Democratic members of the US house and Senate.

12
13 Whereas, Hawaii could follow the example of the state of California which will have on their November
14 ballot the right to know proposition. At issue is the fundament right consumers have to make informed
15 decisions about the food they consume.

16
17 Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawaii propose that GMO food labeling becomes available to the
18 residents of Hawaii.

19
20 Ordered, That copies of this resolution be presented to the Democratic members of the Hawaii State
21 Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawaii, Mayors and City Council members, and to the heads of
22 the state and county regulatory bodies.

1 **ENV 2012-20 Resolution in Support of a Statewide Electricity Grid**

2
3 Whereas, Hawaii residents pay the highest rates for electricity in the nation, largely due to dependence
4 on imported oil, which is costly, environmentally unfriendly, and often unreliable due to its origin; and
5

6 Whereas, Hawaii set a clean energy goal that, by 2030, 70% of the state's energy needs would be met
7 through energy efficiency measures (30%) and locally generated renewable resources (40%); and
8

9 Whereas, Hawaii has an abundance of renewable energy resources to generate electricity; solar,
10 geothermal, wave, biofuels, and wind are all available for development; and
11

12 Whereas, Development of these resources in the private sector is an opportunity for diversification of our
13 economy and creation of new jobs; and
14

15 Whereas, Availability of renewable resources is uneven across the state; one island may have good
16 potential for alternative energy while another may have limited potential; although the islands are
17 separated by water, Hawaii is one state; the needs of all residents should be addressed equally and
18 equitably; and
19

20 Whereas, The Legislature recently passed a bill to establish a regulatory structure for installation and
21 implementation of an interisland electric transmission cable system; the bill neither appropriated funds nor
22 directed the construction of the undersea cable but does provide a framework for regulatory oversight to
23 allow private industry to develop a cable system to connect the islands with a statewide electricity grid to
24 allow resources to be shared among the islands and help to bring down the cost of electricity for all; and
25

26 Whereas, Tax credits currently available to individual homeowners and businesses provide incentives for
27 solar systems, but many taxpayers are unable to benefit from these tax incentives because they do not
28 own their homes or because the cost to install solar systems is unaffordable; and
29

30 Whereas, A statewide electricity grid will enable all Hawaii residents to benefit from renewable energy
31 resources, bring down the cost of electricity, and reinforce that Hawaii is one state; now therefore be it
32

33 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the development of a statewide electricity grid
34 through installation and implementation of an interisland electric transmission cable system; and
35

36 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the development of renewable energy resources
37 on all islands as an economic driver; and
38

39 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawaii reaffirms support for Hawaii's Clean Energy Initiative.
40

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