HAW 2012-01 Declare the Merrie Monarch Festival a Hawai‘i Island Treasure

WHEREAS, the preservation of native Hawaiian culture is a major plank in the Hawai‘i Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, the Merrie Monarch Festival is a non-profit organization that honors the legacy left by King David Kalākaua, who inspired the perpetuation of Hawaiian traditions, native language and the arts; and

WHEREAS, the Merrie Monarch Festival was founded and coordinated in 1964 by “Uncle” George Na‘ope, a Hilo native and kumu hula; and

WHEREAS, in 1968 the private Merrie Monarch Festival community organization was formed by Hilo native Dorothy “Auntie Dottie” Thompson who added the Hilo competition in 1971; and

WHEREAS, the Merrie Monarch Festival has maintained strict standards of authenticity, the true history and culture of the ancient Hawaiian people is being perpetuated; and

WHEREAS, without such educational and cultural organizations as the Merrie Monarch Festival, the history and unique traditions of the hula would be lost forever; and

WHEREAS, the venue of Hawai‘i Island is the natural setting for the Merrie Monarch Festival because of the island’s adherence to the Hawaiian culture and lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, relocation of the Merrie Monarch Festival to an urban metropolis will lead to its commercialization akin to the cultural transformation of fabled Waikiki; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i declares the Merrie Monarch Festival to be a Hawai‘i Island treasure; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i strongly urges elected officials of Hawai‘i to abide by this declaration
WHEREAS, the support of native Hawaiian rights is a major plank in the platform of the Hawai‘i Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Home Commission Act (HHCA) was enacted by Congress in 1920 to assist the native Hawaiian people by providing government land to re-establish native Hawaiian communities; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of statehood, responsibility for the administration of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was transferred to the state of Hawai‘i; and,

WHEREAS, DHHL was established as the executive agency to administer the Hawaiian Home Lands program in order to develop affordable housing opportunities for native Hawaiian families; and,

WHEREAS, native Hawaiians on Hawaiian Home Lands experience difficulty in securing home loans due to the lease arrangement between DHHL and native Hawaiian tenants; and,

WHEREAS, Congress authorized financial assistance to native Hawaiians through the Federal Housing Administration’s (FHA) section 247 program and HUD’s section 184(a) program, Title VIII, known as the “Hawaiian Home Ownership Opportunity Act”; and,

WHEREAS, efforts in Congress were introduced to enhance HUD’s section 184(a) guaranteed loans for refinancing in addition to construction; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Housing Administration’s (FHA) section 247 program and HUD’s section 184(a) program, Title VIII is successful in assisting low-income Hawaiian families with their housing needs; and,

WHEREAS, Republicans in Congress have opposed legislative efforts directed towards assistance to native Hawaiians in general, and the Hawaiian Home Ownership Act in particular; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports the Hawaiian Home Ownership Act and encourages the Hawai‘i congressional delegation to continue efforts to reauthorize the Act and resist Republican efforts to repeal it.
HAW 2012-03 Recognize the Efforts and Achievements of George Yokoyama to Fight Poverty and Inequality of Underprivileged and Disadvantaged Residents of Hawai‘i County

WHEREAS, George Yokoyama is a lifetime resident of Hawai‘i County; and

WHEREAS, George Yokoyama is a lifelong and tireless advocate of the Democratic Party beliefs and ideology; and

WHEREAS, George Yokoyama is a tireless advocate on behalf of economically and socially disadvantaged individuals and groups; and

WHEREAS, George Yokoyama has been a champion in the fight against poverty by providing, supporting and implementing programs to help the underprivileged; and

WHEREAS, George Yokoyama has fought to address the education of disadvantaged high school students through the Drop Out Prevention Program (DOPP); and

WHEREAS, George Yokoyama has provided low income immigrant families with students in the 3rd and 4th grade additional educational and cultural skills through the Language Arts multi-Cultural Program (“LAMP”); and

WHEREAS, George Yokoyama has assisted underprivileged families meet their energy needs by implementing projects in solar energy, solar water heating, energy bill assistance and bio-energy; and

WHEREAS, George Yokoyama has assisted underprivileged students and senior citizens in meeting transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, George Yokoyama has developed numerous job training programs to assist low income and other disadvantaged residents; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party support the recognition of George Yokoyama as a champion in the fight against poverty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party will support programs that fight poverty and the causes of poverty.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to state and county legislators.
HAW 2012-04 RESOLUTION TO ENFORCE COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS
WRITTEN CONTRACTS AND LEASE AGREEMENTS IN KEAUKAHA AND ALL DEPARTMENT OF
HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS

WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii and the Dept. of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) have a “right of entry”
agreement (#103 signed by both parties and dated October 9, 1991) to connect sewage lines to the
county sewage system at no cost to the Hawaiian Homesteaders on the Big Island in exchange for a
sewer line easement on beneficiaries lands; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii does not currently have agreements with the First Nations peoples
(Hawaiians) which carry the force of law to guarantee payment, or payment in kind, for use of Hawaiian
Home Lands used for civil engineering projects, and to enforce existing agreements with those living on
“Homelands” for property used for the benefit of the general public; and

WHEREAS, people have felt that force and intimidation was used to extract payment of hookup and
sewer fees contrary to prior written agreement; and

WHEREAS, agreements entered into by the State of Hawaii, Hawaiian Home Lands and County of
Hawaii must be honored by all parties for the benefit of the general public; and

WHEREAS, a specific agreement between the State of Hawaii, County of Hawaii and the Department of
Hawaiian Home Lands, Keaukaha lease beneficiaries, in exchange for the installation of a “Sewer Main”
within the homestead leases located along the route of the waste water pipeline area were guaranteed an
exemption from hook-up and payment of service fees until all of the other residences in the critical areas
of Hilo have been required to be hooked up; and

WHEREAS, all of the critical areas of Hilo have not been hooked up to the sewer line, the affected
Keaukaha lease beneficiaries are not required to pay any sewer assessment fees for the wastewater
pipelines, as identified by the Right of Entry No. 103 agreement; and

WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii has attempted to levy assessments and threatened to levy liens, for
nonpayment of service fees in violation of the agreement, and engaged in acts of reprisal such as cutting
off drinking water supplies in violation of the Hawaii State Constitution guaranteeing water free of cost;
and

WHEREAS, there is a controversy regarding providing water, free of cost, to Native Hawaiians; now,
therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party of Hawaii demands the State of Hawaii use its power to
enforce and honor, in full, their commitments, promises and contractual agreements to the Hawaiian
people holding leases in Keaukaha and elsewhere in the state, and the law of the land (to) protect all
equally; and be it

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, the Chair and Commissioners
of the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, all members of the Hawaii State Legislature, and to
the Hawaii County Mayor and Council; and be it

RESOLVED, That the state Attorney General be tasked to research federal Hawaiian Homes Commission
Act re: the proviso that water shall be provided free of all charge to all Hawaiian Homes beneficiaries, and
report findings back to the Hawaii State Legislature no less than 20 days prior to the start of the 2013
session.
HAW 2012-05 Support for Pu‘uhonua, Re-establishing the Practice of Rehabilitation and Healing in a Pu‘uhonua Setting

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian culture had a system of protecting all levels of life, including human beings, animals, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, today, the rate of high risk behaviors, such as substance abuse, and rates of crime, incarceration, and recidivism are high and increasing; and

WHEREAS, a return to Pu‘uhonua is due, to provide offenders with places of refuge, where the problems that bind them will be confronted at the source, the core, the why, with forgiveness, healing, and learning, and where they will get the preparation they need to move forward, building productive relationships with family, friends, the community, and society; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that at the 2012 Hawaii State Democratic Party Convention, the Hawaiian Affairs Committee of the Hawaii State Democratic Party (Hawaiian Affairs Committee) take up the issue of reestablishing the practice of rehabilitation and healing with a Pu‘uhonua setting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Affairs Committee plan and develop a rehabilitation and healing program with a Pu‘uhonua setting, working with the State Task Force established for this purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Affairs Committee submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Democratic Party prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Hawaii State Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors and Hawaiian Affairs Committee of the Hawaii State Democratic Party, after reviewing the foregoing findings and recommendations, submit their recommendations to the Hawaii State Democratic Party for its support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Democratic Party work to implement these recommendations by communicating to the appropriate legislators and legislative committees, by letters of support and other means, and by encouraging its members to present written or oral testimony thereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the State Central Committee of the Hawaii State Democratic Party, all delegates and their alternates at the Hawaii State Democratic Party Convention and all members of the Hawaii State Democratic Party.
HAW 2012-06 RESOLUTION TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY IN HAWAII LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Whereas, it is the people of the State of Hawaii from whom the State government derives its constitutional powers; and

Whereas, the people of the State of Hawaii are must participate in the process of legislative development and deliberation in order for our representative democracy to function as intended; and

Whereas, a significant amount of the State’s population lives on the neighbor islands and is faced with the barrier of geography in participating in person at legislative hearings and deliberative processes; and

Whereas, the only means of travel to O‘ahu for the purpose of providing testimony to the State Legislature by citizens residing on the neighbor is via airplane; and

Whereas, the cost of air travel to and from O‘ahu represents a significant financial barrier to many of the State’s residents; and

Whereas, the residents of neighbor islands have attempted to participate in the legislative process by providing online written testimony; and

Whereas, a uniform method of ensuring that the voices of the residents of the neighbor islands is heard would be of benefit to all and ensure that our representative democracy functions as intended; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports the use of State of Hawaii funds, personnel and capital resources to ensure that video conferencing capabilities are deployed to the neighbor islands such that the many barriers to participation in the legislative process mentioned above and experienced by the residents of the neighbor islands are reduced or eliminated; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i strongly urges elected officials of Hawai‘i County to partner with the State of Hawaii as consultants in providing technical assistance in emulating the model of remote video conferencing already adopted by the County of Hawaii to provide convenient access to the residents of Hawaii County in the County’s legislative process, regardless to the geographic area of the island in which they reside.
HAW 2012-07- REQUESTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TO CONVENE A SPECIAL TASK FORCE ON HAWAIIAN HISTORICAL SITES PRESERVATION.

Whereas, certain places in Hawaii are of paramount importance for their historical and cultural significance, such as the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Hulihe’e Palace in Kailua-Kona, Washington Place, ‘Iolani Palace, and Mauna Ala; and

Whereas, to perpetuate and preserve the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Hulihe’e Palace, Washington Place, ‘Iolani Palace, and Mauna Ala, these sites need a perpetual funding mechanism; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that by the Hawaii State Democratic Party, State Convention of 2012, that the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Economic Development and Technology are requested to convene a Special Task Force on Hawaiian Historical Sites Preservation; and be it

Resolved, that the Special Task Force on Hawaiian Historical Sites Preservation develop a plan to provide fiscal stability and a source of continuous funding for each of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Hulihe’e Palace, Washington Place, ‘Iolani Palace, and Mauna Ala; and be it

Resolved, that the members of the Special Task Force on Hawaiian Historical Sites Preservation include the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Comptroller; two Senators representing the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs; two Senators representing the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology; two Representatives representing the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs; two representatives from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; two Representatives representing the House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business; and one representative from each of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Hulihe’e Palace, Washington Place, ‘Iolani Palace, and Mauna Ala, to be selected by the co-chairs of the special task force; and be it

Resolved, that one Senator representing the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and one Senator representing the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology serve as co-chairs of the Special Task Force on Hawaiian Historical Sites Preservation; and be it

Resolved, that the Special Task Force on Hawaiian Historical Sites Preservation report to the Legislature its findings and recommendations no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and be it

Resolved, that the Special Task Force on Hawaiian Historical Sites Preservation be dissolved upon the filing of its report to the Legislature; and be it

Resolved, that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Hawaii State Legislature Chairpersons of the Senate and House of Representatives’ of the committees of Hawaiian Affairs and Economic Development, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Comptroller, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology, Chairperson of the House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chairperson of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business, and the heads or curators of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Hulihe’e Palace, Washington Place, ‘Iolani Palace, and Mauna Ala.
HAW 2012-08 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN ROLL COMMISSION

Whereas, the Hawai‘i State Democratic Party, at its Biennium Convention of 2010, adopted the following in its Platform: “Native Hawaiians are indigenous peoples of Hawai‘i and deserve a just relationship with the state and federal governments. We support recognition by Congress of native Hawaiians as indigenous people as provided by the U.S. Constitution... We especially value our host culture that has allowed diversity to thrive”; and

Whereas, in 2011 the Hawai‘i State legislature passed SB1520, SD2, HD3, CD1, Relating to Government; and

Whereas, on July 6, 2011, Governor Neil Abercrombie signed SB1520, SD2, HD3, CD1 making it Act 195, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2011; and

Whereas, by enactment of Act 195, the State of Hawai‘i did “explicitly” acknowledge “that Native Hawaiians are the only indigenous, aboriginal, maoli population of Hawai‘i”; and

Whereas, Act 195 also called for the creation of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission, whose five members shall be appointed by the Governor; and

Whereas, Governor Abercrombie appointed Na‘alehu Anthony, Robin Danner, Lei Kihoi and Mahealani Wendt, Commissioners of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission; and

Whereas, Governor Abercrombie appointed former Governor, John Waihee the Chairman of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission; and

Whereas, the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission is charged with the responsibility of developing and overseeing the process of enrolling Native Hawaiians for the purpose of organizing a sovereign entity that will benefit all of Hawai‘i; and

Whereas, the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission is committed to establishing a Roll which brings together Hawaiians and Non-Hawaiians in an effort to unite all of Hawai‘i and make Hawaii a better place to live; and

Whereas, the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission should designate Hawai‘ians who are residents of Hawai‘i to be the actual developers of the Hawaiian Nation, after consultation with Hawai‘ians worldwide and the myriad of our supporters in Hawai‘i and globally, a true reflection of Aloha Spirit, and

Whereas, the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission, has designated this effort as “Kana’iolowalu”, “the great sound that arises and moves forward when many people come together”; now, therefore, be it

Whereas, The Native Hawaiian Roll Commission should designate Hawaiians who are residents of Hawai‘i to be the actual developers of the Hawaiian Nation, after consultation with Hawaiians worldwide and the myriad of our supporters globally, a true reflection of the Aloha Spirit; and

Resolved, that the Hawai‘i State Democratic Party hereby acknowledges Native Hawaiians as the only indigenous, aboriginal, maoli population of Hawaii and fully supports Kana’iolowalu; and be it

Resolved, that certified copies of this Resolution to Governor, Neil Abercrombie, U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka, U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, U.S. Representative Colleen Hanabusa, U.S. Representative Mazie K. Hirono, the Speaker of the Hawai‘i State House, the Hawai‘i State Senate President, Mayor Billy Kenoi, County Council Chairman Dominic Yagong, Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Trustee Colette Y. Machado and Chairman John Waihee of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission.