

1 **HHS 2012-01 ADVOCACY FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE**

2
3 Whereas, the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i embodies social justice, compassion,
4 and equality under the law; and

5
6 Whereas, the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i identifies access to health care as a basic
7 human need to be universally and equally available to each person; and

8
9 Whereas, there are current external forces working against the aforementioned rights in other facets of
10 society; and

11
12 Whereas, there exists in Hawai'i numerous persons whose health is in daily peril because they are
13 uninsured or underinsured or sociologically, economically, or geographically challenged; and

14
15 Whereas, our systems of health care are uncoordinated, inadequate, costly, overburdened, and
16 not universal or equal; and

17
18 Whereas, we have a shortage of physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals; and

19
20 Whereas, we have emerging issues such as an aging population, increased Hawai'i veteran's needs,
21 obesity, environmental impact disorders; and

22
23 Whereas, we must avail ourselves of state-of-the-art health care delivery opportunities for efficiency and
24 effectiveness; and

25
26 Whereas, appropriate health care dollars must follow each person's health care needs, including dental
27 and pharmaceutical; now, therefore, be it

28
29 Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i advocate for universal health care for each and every
30 person; and be it further

31
32 Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i seek out entities such as the Hawai'i Health Authority, the
33 three branches of State government, professional, labor, non-profit and private sector organizations that
34 are in a position to assist via services, research, technology, data collection, pilot projects, collaborations,
35 and related matters; and be it finally

36
37 Ordered, that copies of the resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai'i
38 State Legislature and the members of the Hawai'i Congressional delegation.

1 **HHS 2012-02 Support for Patient Choice and Quality of Life**

2 Whereas, Advances in science and technology have created many medical interventions that can prolong
3 the dying process and increase suffering; and
4

5 Whereas, Nearly 1.6 million Americans received hospice care in 2010, up from 25,000 in 1982; and
6

7 Whereas, Three decades after hospice emerged as the standard of care for terminally ill patients, many
8 physicians find themselves accused of murder, euthanasia and assisting suicide for providing patients
9 with ethically and legally accepted palliative care treatments to control pain and other symptoms; and
10

11 Whereas, 25% of physicians recently surveyed said they were formally investigated by their health care
12 institutions, state medical boards or prosecutors for using opiates to manage a dying patient's pain,
13 prescribing palliative and sedative medications when a patient was removed from mechanical ventilation;
14 or delivering palliative sedation to terminally ill patients with severe, refractory pain; and
15

16 Whereas, Although none of the physicians investigated was found at fault, most reported experiencing
17 anger, anxiety, isolation, depression, and difficulty working as a result of the ordeal; and
18

19 Whereas, Physicians' fear of criminal and civil liability and professional disciplinary actions can result in
20 the under-treated pain and other symptoms, and cause dying patients to suffer prolonged, agonized
21 deaths against their will; and
22

23 Whereas, Hawai'i has never criminalized the rational, end-of-life decisions of mentally competent,
24 terminally ill Hawai'i residents; and
25

26 Whereas, Hawai'i has never criminalized compassionate health care provided by Hawai'i physicians,
27 pursuant to an informed decisions by their dying patients, even when such decisions may be to advance
28 the time of death; and
29

30 Whereas, Hawai'i has long affirmed the right of individuals to make informed decisions regarding their
31 health-care options and provided support for patients at the end of life; and
32

33 Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i has, through duly-adopted prior platform planks established a
34 long-term history of support for and endorsement of Death With Dignity/Aid In Dying; now, therefore, be it
35

36 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i legislature take all measures to (a)
37 ensure that Hawai'i residents are not denied appropriate pain and symptom management; (b) protect
38 health-care providers and patient advocates who follow best practice standards in providing end-of-life
39 choice; and (c) affirm the right of dying patients to make informed decisions about their health care, even
40 if such decision may be to advance the time of death, and finally be it
41

42 *Ordered*, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai'i and the elected
43 or appointed Democratic Party members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

1 **HHS 2012-03 Promote Healthy Keiki**

2
3 Whereas, Childhood obesity rates in Hawai'i have increased by 38 percent from 1999 and 2009, and 1/3
4 of Hawai'i preschoolers classified overweight or obese; and

5
6 Whereas, Children and adolescents now consume 10 to 13 percent of their daily caloric intake from
7 sugar-sweetened beverages and these are calories that otherwise meet no nutritional need; and

8
9 Whereas, Obese children are on the fast track for diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer,
10 and other chronic diseases; and

11
12 Whereas, Obesity-related medical expenditures in Hawai'i were calculated to be over \$323M in 2009; and

13
14 Whereas, Sugar-sweetened beverages account for almost half the total added-sugar intake in the U.S.
15 population and displace healthier and more nutrient-dense beverages like milk, 100% fruit juice and
16 water; and

17
18 Whereas, Refined sugars are one of several important factors that promote tooth decay (dental caries),
19 and a recent study found that young children who drank carbonated sugar-sweetened beverages had
20 almost double the risk of dental caries; and

21
22 Whereas, The Division of Physical Activity, Nutrition and Obesity (DNPAO) at the Centers for Disease
23 Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends decreasing the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages
24 as one of six evidence-based strategies for preventing and reducing overweight and obesity; and

25
26 Whereas, The 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans also recommends reducing the intake of sugar-
27 sweetened beverages as a method to control calorie intake and managing body weight; and

28
29 Whereas, Economic incentives are among the most effective tools to change food purchasing behavior;
30 and

31
32 Whereas, Current funding for children's health and early learning has been drastically reduced; and

33
34 Whereas, It is vitally important that Hawai'i identify a dedicated funding stream to support the health and
35 well-being of Hawai'i's keiki; now, therefore, be it

36
37 *Resolved*, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recommend to the Executive and Legislative branches of
38 Government to commit to investing in the health and well-being of our *keiki* especially children under the
39 age of eight; and be it further

40
41 *Resolved*, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recommend that the Governor and the members of the
42 Hawai'i State Senate and House of Representatives develop progressive and innovative legislation such
43 as a sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) tax to limit the intake of sugar sweetened beverages and support
44 the expansion of healthier nutritional drink options; and be it further

45
46 *Resolved*, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recommend that revenues from SSB tax be directed to
47 fund early childhood obesity and dental caries prevention programs, and early childhood health
48 promotion, development and learning programs; and be it finally

49
50 *Ordered*, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor and all Democratic members of the
51 Hawai'i State Legislature.

1 **HHS 2012-04 Support Using Adjunct Electronic Format to Allow Participation via the Internet**
2 **When Holding Democratic Party Meetings**
3

4 Whereas, there is often a very poor turnout at precinct club meetings on years when there is not a
5 presidential caucus, and the turnout at the precinct club meetings in 2010 was particularly poor in light of
6 the tremendous turn out two years earlier when Barak Obama won the caucus vote; and
7

8 Whereas, many precincts did not have a single member in attendance and many more had only one or
9 two members who attended, and the lack of attendance caused many precincts to fall into the category of
10 “unorganized precincts;” and
11

12 Whereas, it is a tremendous waste of resources including gasoline in those far flung precincts where
13 members drove/flew long distances to attend Democratic Party meetings including, SCC, HCC, District
14 and Precinct meetings; and
15

16 Whereas, in order to attract younger members and high tech members (who use the Internet technology
17 in their personal and business lives every day) to our aging party membership; and
18

19 Whereas, there was a failure to capitalize on the tremendous party growth resulting from the previous
20 Obama caucus; and
21

22 Whereas, some individuals with health and physical disabilities are unable to travel and participate in
23 Democratic Party meetings; and
24

25 Whereas, due to travel cost from neighbor islands many of our parties members are not able to
26 participate in the decision making process when meeting and hearings, etc. are held on Oahu; and
27

28 Whereas, the Hawai'i Senate is now live broadcasting many key sessions and committee meetings and
29 both houses are now State and County government are accepting testimony electronically via the
30 Internet; and
31

32 Whereas, most U.S. corporations now do the bulk of their shareholder voting with adjunct electronic
33 voting; now, therefore, be it
34

35 *Resolved*, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i make it possible via rule changes and technology
36 assistance for our members to participate and vote in all elections and important meetings including
37 pre-convention resolution drafting meetings, County and State conventions, future precinct club, and
38 district meetings using the Internet (e.g. Go To Meeting) and/or conference calls.
39

40 *Resolved*, these meetings can be conducted with some form of adjunct electronic format to conserve
41 energy, save travel time, and increase participation by all members, and this will also result in greatly
42 increased participation and precinct viability while keeping in place the existing methods for those who
43 prefer them.
44

45 *Resolved*, that upon passage of this resolution a committee be formed to explore the best methodology
46 available to provide adjunct electronic meetings in an efficient manner; that these electronic adjunct
47 services should be made available to all party meetings as soon as possible but no later than prior to the
48 2012 round of Democratic Party Precinct Club elections and, it shall be the responsibility of the appointed
49 committee and those wishing to use such adjunct services to assure that the services are available when
50 needed and determine eligibility; and be it finally
51

52 *Ordered*, that copies of the resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i,
53 Executive Director of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and the State Central Committee of the Democratic
54 Party of Hawai'i.

1 **HHS 2012-05 Statewide Medical Marijuana Initiative Rescinding and Replacing Resolution 14**

2
3 Whereas, cannabis has been statutorily recognized by 16 States and Washington D.C. for medical use
4 and individuals in Hawai'i can be certified for medical marijuana use; and

5
6 Whereas, in 2011 the Hawai'i Medical Association passed a resolution recommending that medical
7 marijuana be reclassified to Schedule III so as to, "reduce barriers to needed research and to humanely
8 increase availability of cannabinoid-based medications;" and

9
10 Whereas, certified patients (or their caregiver) in Hawai'i are allowed to cultivate seven plants; and

11
12 Whereas, many patients are in fact unable to grow or have their medical marijuana grown for them; and

13
14 Whereas, there currently exists no legal means for certified patients to obtain seeds, clones, dried
15 processed marijuana, tinctures, concentrates or infused products; and

16
17 Whereas, in 2008, the citizens of Hawai'i County voted to make possession of up to 24 cannabis plants
18 the police department's lowest enforcement priority; and

19
20 Whereas, it is greatly beneficial to have a legally controlled system in place that taxes and regulates
21 medical marijuana rather than an unregulated distribution that supplies anyone including school children;
22 and

23
24 Whereas, the medical marijuana program has remain unchanged since its inception in 2000; now
25 therefore be it

26
27 Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i will support legislation that will increase the allowable
28 number of plants, amount of medical marijuana and number of patients per caregiver, clarifying the
29 wording of the current law specifically allowing the transportation of medical marijuana (inter- and intra
30 island), expanding the qualifying conditions and moving administration of the program to the Department
31 of Health; and be it further

32
33 Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Legislature of the State of Hawai'i to provide
34 national leadership on this issue by enacting legislation to allow persons holding a medical marijuana
35 certificate to purchase seeds, clones, dried processed marijuana, tinctures, concentrates or infused
36 products through licensed compassion centers and other patients or caregivers; and be it finally

37
38 Ordered, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i and the
39 Hawai'i State Legislature.

1 **HHS 2012-06 Resolution Encouraging People with Disabilities to Register and Vote**

2
3 Whereas, Exercising the right to vote is crucial to membership in a democratic society and many people
4 with disabilities do not register and vote; and

5
6 Whereas, People with disabilities constitute at least 20% of the population over 18 and are a significant
7 portion of Hawaii's population; and

8
9 Whereas, The disability community is diverse consisting of people with sensory, physical and cognitive
10 challenges; and

11
12 Whereas, Many of these individuals, especially those in institutions or group homes, do not exercise their
13 right to vote in both the primary and general election; now, therefore, be it

14
15 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats make a concerted effort to register voters with disabilities
16 throughout the state; and be further

17
18 *Resolved*, That voter registration forms be available in alternate formats such as large type and Braille;
19 and be it further

20
21 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i make concerted efforts to assist people with disabilities
22 with transportation to a polling place; and be it further

23
24 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i insist the Office of Elections make certain that alternate
25 formats for ballots be available at all polling places, including large type, Braille, and private screen
26 readers for Blind individuals; and be it further

27
28 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i encourage absentee balloting be also available in these
29 formats postage paid to be available with regular absentee ballots; and be it further

30
31 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i collect data on how many individuals with disabilities
32 were assisted by the Party by which method and produce organized data for researchers to utilize; and
33 be it further

34
35 *Resolved*, That research conclusions based on this data be included in a monograph, which will serve the
36 *Party* in future elections and serve as a model for disability outreach in primary and general elections; and
37 be it further

38
39 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai'i State
40 Legislature, the members of the Hawai'i Congressional delegation, and the appropriate State pre-
41 convention resolutions committee.

1 **HHS 2012-07 Compassionate Care for Female Sexual Assault Victims**
2

3 Whereas, when a victim of violent crime that results in physical injury seeks medical attention, the health
4 care system should do everything possible to respond and administer medically necessary care; and
5

6 Whereas, sexual assault, or rape, is a crime that is violent, traumatic, and the ultimate, intimate violation
7 in which a woman loses all sense of personal control, decision making, and dignity, and in which she is
8 physically and psychologically ripped apart; and
9

10 Whereas, healers are responsible for providing victims with information regarding procedures being
11 followed to ease pain, information critical to decisions regarding injuries; and
12

13 Whereas, information regarding the risks of sexually transmitted disease, and honest information about
14 the risks of pregnancy and emergency contraception; and
15

16 Whereas, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical
17 Association, and the American College of Emergency Physicians, the accepted standard of care for
18 victims of sexual assault includes the provision of emergency contraception, if desired; and
19

20 Whereas, rape victims and victims of sexual assault deserve the fullest and best care available according
21 to the standards set by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other professional
22 medical groups; now, therefore, be it
23

24 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, in order to assure that victims of rape and sexual assault
25 receive the fullest and best care available, urge all hospital emergency rooms in the State to adhere to
26 the accepted standard of care for victims of rape and sexual assault, including the administration of
27 emergency contraception without delay and without adding insult to injury by requiring patient transfer to
28 another institution; and be it further
29

30 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge all hospitals in the State to ensure that all hospital
31 emergency personnel are properly trained in handling the special needs of rape victims including the
32 education and provision of emergency contraceptive service; and be it further
33

34 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to each Democratic Legislator in the State
35 Legislature and the Honolulu City Council, to the Hawai'i Governor and the Mayor of the City & County of
36 Honolulu, to the State Office of Planning, the Public Utilities Commission, and appropriate divisions of the
37 Department of Land and Natural Resources.