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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ordered, that copies of the resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature and the members of the Hawai'i Congressional delegation.
HHS 2012-02 Support for Patient Choice and Quality of Life

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ordered, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai‘i and the elected or appointed Democratic Party members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature.
HHS 2012-03 Promote Healthy Keiki

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ordered, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor and all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.
HHS 2012-04 Support Using Adjunct Electronic Format to Allow Participation via the Internet
When Holding Democratic Party Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ordered, that copies of the resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i,
Executive Director of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and the State Central Committee of the Democratic
Party of Hawai‘i.
Whereas, cannabis has been statutorily recognized by 16 States and Washington D.C. for medical use and individuals in Hawai'i can be certified for medical marijuana use; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ordered, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i State Legislature.
HHS 2012-06 Resolution Encouraging People with Disabilities to Register and Vote

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, the members of the Hawai'i Congressional delegation, and the appropriate State pre-convention resolutions committee.
Whereas, when a victim of violent crime that results in physical injury seeks medical attention, the health care system should do everything possible to respond and administer medically necessary care; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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