NA T 2012-01B Asking Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation to request that the Director of the Office of Global Change of the United States Department of State propose to the Conference of Parties for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that the United States host the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Whereas, the United Nations Climate Change Conference is hosted annually on a rotating basis among the five regional groups of the United Nations; and

Whereas, the African Group hosted the conference in Durban, South Africa, in 2011; the Asian Group is scheduled to host the conference in 2012; the Eastern European Group is scheduled to host the conference in 2013; and the Latin America and Caribbean Group is scheduled to host the conference in 2014; and

Whereas, the Western European and Other States Group, which includes the United States is scheduled to host the conference in 2015; and

Whereas, all climate change conferences to date have been attended by seventy to one hundred ministers and senior officials as well as their staff members; and

Whereas, Honolulu, Hawai‘i, has proven that is fully capable of handling a conference of this scope and scale, as demonstrated by successfully hosting the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in November 2011; and

Whereas, hosting the United Nations Climate Change Conference would further enhance and reinforce Hawai‘i image as a place to do business; and

Whereas, Hawai‘i would be a convenient central meeting place for delegates from Asia, the Pacific Basin, and the Americas; and

Whereas, the governments of prospective host nations must submit expressions of interest or invitations to host a conference to the Conference of Parties for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and

Whereas, such an expression of interest or invitation to host the United Nations Climate Change Conference must come from the United States Department of State; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i requests that Hawaii’s Congressional Delegation ask the Director of the Office of Global Change of the United States Department of State to propose to the Conference of Parties for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that the United States host the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Honolulu, Hawai‘i; and be it further

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to each member of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation; the Governor; Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority; and Director of the Office of Planning.
Whereas, the problem with money in politics is not so much the amount that is spent on campaigns as it is who pays for them, what they get in return, and how that affects public policy and spending priorities; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court ruling in "Citizens United" allowing unlimited Corporate donation to political campaigns is having a major impact our government and our elected officials; and

Whereas, the 2010 midterm election campaign was the most expensive in history, with hundreds of millions spent by anonymous, outside groups; and

Whereas, some of the nation's largest and richest companies, including Wal-Mart, Coca-Cola, Koch Industries and AT&T, have joined forces to invest millions of dollars each year to promote the careers of thousands of state legislators and secure passage of legislation that puts corporate interests ahead of the interests of ordinary Americans; and

Whereas, the DISCLOSE (Democracy is Strengthened by Casting Light on Spending in Elections) Act would be an important step on behalf of transparency in politics because it would expose to voters the identity of large contributors to the ads they see and hear; and

Whereas, the influence of anonymous, unlimited campaign contributions makes it probable that more environmentally damaging projects will be approved and environmental protections will be weakened; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Democratic Party of Hawaii support a citizen-funded federal fair elections system, wherein qualifying candidates, able to provide evidence of support through district signatures, may chose to have their campaigns be publicly funded rather than seek outside funding; and be it further

Resolved, that Democratic Party of Hawaii support national disclosure legislation, which will require all politically funded advertisements to disclose who paid for those advertisements; and be it further

Resolved, that Hawaii Democrats call for the national civics curriculum to ensure that that every high school student demonstrates competency, appropriate to their abilities, in finding campaign contribution data and identifying connections between the contribution and the potential interests of the contributor which may affect their lives; and be it further

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, State Representatives and Senators, all County Mayors, and the Governor of the State of Hawaii
NAT 2012-02 Support for Marriage Equality

Whereas, Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i mandates that: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the state on account of sex"; and

Whereas, The Hawai‘i Supreme Court found that the State “failed to establish or prove that the public interest in the well-being of children and families, or the optimal development of children will be adversely affected by same-sex marriage”; and

Whereas, The worldwide movement for marriage equality largely began through efforts in Hawaii beginning over 20 years ago and continues to spread elsewhere; and

Whereas, The State constitution was subsequently amended and the Legislature then enacted a law restricting marriage to opposite sex couples, effectively denying same-sex couples and their families equal protection under the law; and

Whereas, The State recently enacted legislation granting civil unions to both same-sex and opposite-sex couples, but only opposite-sex couples can marry under State law; and

Whereas, Governor Neil Abercrombie has stated that limiting same-sex couples to civil unions does not provide equality in Hawaii; and

Whereas, The federal government and many other jurisdictions do not recognize civil unions; and

Whereas, Civil marriage is a civil right that does not impinge on any religion, nor require that any denomination perform a same-sex marriage ceremony if it is inconsistent with their religious beliefs; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i has previously affirmed that the State should not interfere with couples who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities and commitment of civil marriage, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i finds the current state statute defining marriage as solely the union between one man and one woman to be unfair and inconsistent with our fundamental belief that all citizens are entitled to be treated equally under the law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party Hawai‘i calls upon our Hawai‘i legislators to pass legislation to ensure that all families are treated equally under the law as required by the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i; including but not limited to, equal access to marriage licenses; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, members of the Hawai‘i Senate and House of Representatives, Hawai‘i Congressional delegation, and all declared Democratic candidates for every Hawaii elective office.
Presenting the Congressional Progressive Caucus “Budget for All” as an Alternative to the Obama and Ryan Proposals

Whereas, when, in February 2012, President Obama released the White House 2013 fiscal year budget, it received some mainstream coverage in the mainstream press; and

Whereas, when, in March of 2012, Paul Ryan introduced the Republican “Path to Prosperity” budget for the 2013 fiscal year, it received considerable coverage in the mainstream press; and

Whereas, when in March 2012, the Congressional Progressive Caucus Budget for the 2012 fiscal year, it was completely overlooked by the mainstream press; and

Whereas, despite the lack of coverage by the mainstream press, the “Budget for All,” is a responsible approach to addressing the country’s ongoing economic troubles; and

Whereas, the “Budget for All” achieves the same $6.8 trillion in deficit reduction as the Republican budget, nearly $3 trillion more than Obama’s budget; and

Whereas, the “Budget for All” proposal makes these same reductions in our national deficit without devastating the social programs Americans want preserved and by addressing “unsustainable tax policies, the war overseas, and the policies that helped cause the recent recession;” and

Whereas, the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports policies that help improve the lives of the working poor and those in the middle class struggling to get by in these difficult economic times, by increasing taxes on the wealthiest 1 percent, closing tax loopholes and ending tax credits so the largest and most profitable corporations must pay taxes, and using those funds to restore the social service programs that have experienced budget cuts in the last several years; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, the Democratic Party of Hawaii recognizes the “Budget for All” as a responsible and reasonable alternative approach to the federal budget; and, be it further

Resolved, the Democratic Party of Hawaii encourages all Party members to compare President Obama’s budget to the Congressional Progressive Caucus budget and decide for themselves; and be it further

Resolved, the Democratic Party of Hawaii encourages the Hawaii Congressional Delegation to look at and consider, either parts of, or the entirety of the Congressional Progressive Caucus budget; and be it further

Resolved, the Democratic Party of Hawaii will post links on its website to the Congressional Progressive Caucus budget; and be it further

Resolved, the Democratic Party of Hawaii will transmit copies of this resolution to Senator Daniel Inouye, Senator Daniel Akaka, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, and Governor Neil Abercrombie.