

1 **BUS/AG 2014-01 Photovoltaic Resolution**

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3 Whereas, Most climate scientists agree that climate change is being created by burning fossil fuels,
4 and the concomitant release of large quantities of carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere,
5 it is incumbent on the State of Hawai'i to reduce consumption of these fuels in our state; and

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7 Whereas, The State of Hawai'i is well positioned to take advantage of alternative, renewable
8 resources such as photovoltaic capture of solar energy; and

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10 Whereas, The demands on the economy of the State of Hawai'i are great, in part due to the import of
11 oil and gas from other countries and the United States mainland; and

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13 Whereas, It is the duty of the Hawai'i State Public Utilities Committee (PUC) to act in the best interest
14 of the State and its people; and

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16 Whereas, The Power Utilities, regulated by the PUC, have tried to restrict and control the increase in
17 photovoltaic power in this State, because they limited their own investment in solar power; and

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19 Whereas, These Power Utilities have delayed and applied unreasonable charges and fees to parties
20 wishing to provide photovoltaic power; and

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22 Whereas, These Power Utilities argue that they do not have the storage capacity to carry units of
23 power generated in the daytime, to be available for use at night, and they prefer to rely on their existing
24 infrastructure of fossil fuel burning electrical generators; and

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26 Whereas, The Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) has actively pursued and resolved these
27 problems by supporting residential and commercial PV on Kauai, and

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29 Whereas, Other solar companies, individual homeowners and small businesses have worked to
30 maximize the solar photovoltaic systems, in the face of opposition from the Power Utilities; now,
31 therefore, be it

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33 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges its elected Officials in the State Government to
34 fully support the conversion of the State's electrical grids to accept input from photo-voltaic providers
35 through the provision of requiring the existing Power Utilities to either expand their electrical power
36 storage capacity or relinquish their favored status with the Hawai'i State Public Utilities Committee
37 (PUC) to other utilities that may more efficiently incorporate alternative renewable energy sources in
38 their power supply; and be it

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40 *Resolved*, That the State Legislature require the PUC to allow transfer of photovoltaic generated
41 energy between adjacent parcels of land as noted in their Tax-Map Keys (TMKs); and be it

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43 *Resolved*, That this assistance from the State of Hawai'i will not be exclusively for the benefit of
44 individual businesses in Hawai'i, but will pressure the PUC to assure that the Utilities comply with
45 efforts to optimize the grid for renewable sources of energy provided by all companies and individuals
46 which may reliably supply power to the grid; and be it

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48 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai'i
49 State Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i,
50 Director of the State of Hawaii's Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the
51 chairperson of the PUC and the members of the Hawai'i Congressional delegation.

1 BUS/AG 2014-02 **Relating to the Protection of “Origin” Products and Their Small Farm**
2 **Economies**

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4 Whereas, “Origin” products such as Champagne from France, Napa Valley wines from California,
5 Reggiano (Parmesan) cheese from Italy, tequila from Mexico, potatoes from Idaho, and Vidalia onions
6 from Georgia are considered unique and valuable products because of the geographic locations where
7 they are grown, as well as the care, skill and processes used to produce them; and
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9 Whereas, Origin products are high quality products whose unique characteristics bring higher prices in
10 the market that are necessary to support small family farms and small farm economies; and
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12 Whereas, National, state and international law protect origin products and their names from
13 counterfeiting and being marketed as common commodities of a similar type; and
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15 Whereas, These laws are essential to maintaining small, family origin farms and their economies; and
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17 Whereas, The unique climatic and soil conditions of the Kona and the Ka’u regions on the Island of
18 Hawai’i are ideal for cultivation of coffee, as are the conditions on Maui for the production of onions;
19 and
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21 Whereas, The care, skill and cultivation practices of Kona and Ka’u coffee farmers have resulted in
22 recognition of Kona and Ka’u coffee as among the world’s premier specialty coffees; and
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24 Whereas, Volcano vintners, most of whom operate small, family-owned farms, have been recognized for
25 Volcano’s unique wine; and
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27 Whereas, Other high value crops such as tea and cacao are beginning to be produced throughout the
28 State, which also have qualities derived from the regions in which they are produced and the skill,
29 care and processes used to create them;
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31 now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai’i request the Governor of Hawai’i and the members of
33 the Hawai’i Democratic delegation in the State Legislature introduce and vigorously work for the
34 adoption of legislation protecting origin coffee, tea, cacao and all other origin products that might
35 grow in Hawai’i; and be it
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37 *Resolved*, That such legislation be patterned on and meet the standards of the best practices adopted
38 elsewhere in the United States and the world for the protection of origin products and the small farming
39 economies they support; and be it
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41 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai’i State
42 Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawai’i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai’i and to the
43 heads of the counties and state regulatory bodies, and to the members of the Hawai’i Congressional
44 delegation.

1 **BUS/AG 2014-04 Resolution to Protect and Support Hawai'i's Smallholder Farmers**

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3 Whereas, The international community recognizes that smallholder farmers provide over 80% of the food
4 consumed in the world (International Fund for Agricultural Development, 2013); and

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6 Whereas, The State of Hawai'i faces a crisis of food supply in which approximately 85% of its food
7 supply is imported, while 85% of our agriculture does not produce food for human consumption; and

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9 Whereas, The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has declared after extensive
10 research that smallholder farmers are by far the most resourceful, sustainable, and efficient agricultural
11 producers in terms of delivering fresh, nutritious product to market as much as in delivering environmental
12 and economic benefits where they are most needed; and

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14 Whereas, "Smallholders should be included as important custodians of natural resources and as
15 entrepreneurs with the capacity to invest in natural assets and contribute to national and global
16 production systems." (IFAD, 2013); and

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18 Whereas, "Poverty and the need to satisfy immediate needs can drive smallholders to adopt damaging
19 agricultural practices, resulting in soil erosion, nutrient depletion, water scarcity, and pollution"
20 (IFAD,2013); and

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22 Whereas, "Increasing fragmentation of land, reduced investment support, and the marginalization of small
23 farms in economic and development policy have left many smallholders vulnerable." – United Nations
24 Environment Programme (UNEP, 2013); and

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26 Whereas, simple infrastructure additions such as mobile slaughter houses, access to affordable compost,
27 green and other organic waste, certified kitchens and food-hub marketing cooperatives would support and
28 promote the economic success of smallholder farmers; now, therefore, be it

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30 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i hereby urges the legislature to pass legislation that
31 creates a favorable operating environment that facilitates the small producer's workload by simplifying the
32 food safety inspection and approval process while lowering its cost, minimizes small producers' exposure
33 to risk in every phase of production and marketing of their product, supports them in their efforts to market
34 the maximum amount of their product directly and garner the maximum economic benefit from their
35 labors, and that values the nutritional and social impact of a close knit local supply chain for food, fuel,
36 and fiber; and be it

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38 *Resolved* That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i call upon FDA and the State of Hawai'i to engage in
39 meaningful consultation with Hawaiian Homestead farmers, Hawai'i small scale producers, and other
40 affected parties in order to provide the necessary infrastructure and other forms of financial relief to offset
41 the costs associated with the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act, to reduce the cost of
42 soil amendments, and to process and market their farm products as fresh, value added products that will
43 enable Hawai'i's smallholder farmers to develop and maintain productive and economically viable farms;
44 and be it

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46 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted the Democratic members of the Hawai'i State
47 Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, to the heads of the
48 counties and state regulatory bodies, and the members of the Hawai'i Congressional delegation.

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