

1 ENV 2014-01 **Promoting Soil Health**

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3 Whereas, The State of Hawai'i depends on agriculture as a major industry and was once self-sufficient
4 in production of its own food and fiber; and

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6 Whereas, Soil health is essential to establish and maintain a healthy agricultural system capable of
7 producing, fiber and nutrient-dense, high quality food on a sustained basis; and

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9 Whereas, Humus is any organic matter that has been broken down to become stable soil that is also
10 rich in organic matter, which is essential to good soil structure because it increases soil aggregates and
11 porosity; and

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13 Whereas, Increased humus and good soil structure enables beneficial cultures of bacteria, nematodes,
14 protozoa and fungi to thrive in the soil that enable plant roots to uptake soil minerals essential for their
15 growth and health; and

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17 Whereas, Good soil structure also facilitates seedling emergence, reduces erosion, improves water
18 retention, plant root penetration and uptake of water and minerals; and

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20 Whereas, Humus in the soil also stores large amounts of carbon from the air and reduces the carbon
21 dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere that is primarily responsible for global warming and acidification of the
22 oceans; and

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24 Whereas, Enabling Hawaii's farmers to have easy access to affordable compost and green waste that
25 could be used to add humus back to Hawai'i 's soils would significantly improve Hawai'i 's soil health;
26 and

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28 Whereas, Improved soil health will reduce Hawai'i 's dependency on imports of costly chemical
29 agricultural amendments by improving the productivity of Hawaii's soils using local resources; and

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31 Whereas, A state policy to improve soil health will promote research and education and support farming
32 practices that will improve soil health; now, therefore, be it

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34 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports development of localized compost and green
35 waste facilities that are easily accessible and affordable to farmers for use on their land to produce humus
36 and improve soil health; and be it

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38 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports a state policy to promote soil health as a priority
39 in agricultural education and for all agencies responsible for promoting and implementing Hawai'i 's
40 agricultural policies and practices; and be it

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42 *Resolved*, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Democratic members of the Hawai'i State
43 legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and the heads of the county and state regulatory bodies
44 to enact legislation and regulation that provide incentives for farmers to improve soil health; and be it

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46 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution will be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai'i, all Democratic Party
47 members of the Hawai'i State Legislature and Hawai'i 's Congressional Delegation.

1 ENV 2014-02 **Concerning Liquefied Natural Gas in Hawai'i**

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3 WHEREAS, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i is an organization that seeks sustainable solutions for our
4 `aina, culture, and people; and

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6 WHEREAS, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes the important role that indigenous natural
7 resources and renewable energy play in the social and economic well being of all Hawaiian communities;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i is made up of individual community members and is
11 supported by partner organizations that have roles and responsibilities in ensuring the State of Hawai'i
12 meets energy goals in an environmentally sound and economically advantageous manner; and

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14 WHEREAS, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i acknowledges that Hawai'i does not have locally available
15 fossil fuels; and

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17 WHEREAS, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i acknowledges that when Hawai'i imports fossil fuels, we are
18 exporting the environmental footprint of our energy infrastructure and energy culture; and

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20 WHEREAS, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is a nonrenewable fossil fuel composed primarily of methane;
21 and

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23 WHEREAS, Relying on LNG as a primary source to meet Hawai'i 's energy needs will likely require
24 substantial long-term commitments to pay for the infrastructure necessary to import and burn the fuel; and

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26 WHEREAS, Imported LNG is not a sustainable long-term solution for meeting Hawai'i 's renewable
27 energy goals, it is environmentally harmful to the global atmosphere, harmful to the local communities
28 from which it is extracted, harmful to water resources in those communities, and harmful to animals and
29 the humans that live within those communities; and

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31 WHEREAS, Imported fossil fuels like LNG impose price volatility and energy insecurity on Hawai'i 's
32 people, and extend the existing energy price disparities between Hawai'i 's islands; and

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34 WHEREAS, All people of Hawai'i have a right to energy decision-making and leadership that is thorough,
35 open, and transparent, with meaningful consultation with Hawai'i 's citizens and particularly with Native
36 Hawaiian communities; now, therefore, be it

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38 *Resolved*, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i calls upon our elected officials and appointed regulators to
39 ensure that no decisions are made, with respect to LNG, that will inhibit energy independence for Hawai'i
40 ; and be it

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42 *Resolved*, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i requests the Legislature ensure that if LNG is imported to
43 Hawai'i it is for the sole specific purpose of serving as a short-term path to our sustainable clean energy
44 future; and be it

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46 *Resolved*, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i asks that government agencies perform meaningful
47 community consultation in Hawai'i , including with Native Hawaiian citizens, before endorsing, investing
48 in, or approving any LNG infrastructure for any of our islands; and be it

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50 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution will be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai'i, all Democratic Party
51 members of the Hawai'i State Legislature and Hawai'i 's Congressional Delegation.