HHS 2014-01 Urging Community Support for Our Kupuna

Whereas, the first wave of baby boomers hit age 65 in 2011; and

Whereas, Hawai‘i’s 60+ population will increase by over 60% by 2030; and

Whereas, approximately 270,000 kupuna and 170,000 family caregivers comprise over 440,000 consumers or nearly 30% of Hawaii’s total population and continues to grow; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Executive Office on Aging, County Area Agencies on Aging, private sector organizations, community volunteers and older adults to work together to help prepare for Hawaii’s aging society by:

1. Forging strategic partnerships and alliances that will give impetus to meeting Hawai‘i’s greatest challenges for the aging population; and

2. Supporting long-term services and supports system for each county’s older adults and caregivers; and

3. Developing a statewide Aging and Disability Resource Center system for kupuna and their ‘ohana to access and receive long-term services and supports information and resources within their respective counties; and

4. Developing long-term services and supports social financing options that would stave off impoverishment due to costly health and nursing home care; and

5. Maximizing opportunities for older adults to age well, remain active and enjoy quality lives while engaging in their communities; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, and the Mayors and County Councils of each County in the State of Hawai‘i.
Whereas, The safety of the children of Hawai‘i is of paramount importance; and
Whereas, Certain people in their professional or volunteer activities may be in a unique position to notice signs of abuse and neglect; and
Whereas, A person who has knowledge of or suspicion of abuse or neglect should have a legal as well as a moral obligation to report such abuse to the proper authorities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i that the list of persons who shall be considered to be mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect shall be expanded to include:

- Coaches, camp/youth camp or residential camp personnel or owners, or recreational/sports program or facility personnel or administrators, whether they are employees or volunteers,
- Members of the clergy and lay members of churches serving in a capacity in which they supervise or teach children, and
- Commercial film or photograph processors and producers; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports appropriate training of all mandatory reporters; and be it

Resolved, By the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i that coaches, camp/youth camp or residential camp personnel or owners, or recreational/sports program or facility personnel or administrators shall be subject to background checks; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, to the heads of the counties and state regulatory bodies, and the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional delegation.
HHS 2014-03 Justice Reinvestment Initiative For Prisoners in Hawai‘i

Whereas, The Department of Public Safety issued a Request for Information (RFI) “to assist the State of Hawai‘i in learning more about potential approaches to designing, building, maintaining and financing for the new or expanded facilities”; and

Whereas, In 2010, Hawai‘i’s Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches committed to working with the Council of State Governments Justice Center’s (herein “Justice Center”) nationally recognized criminal justice policy experts to advance Justice Reinvestment in Hawai‘i; and

Whereas, These analysts provided fiscally-sound, data-driven criminal justice policy recommendations to reduce the overall incarcerated population in order to break the cycle of recidivism and make our communities safer; and

Whereas, The analysts from the Council of State Governments who conducted the research on Hawai‘i’s criminal justice system never recommended building more correctional facilities, with public funding, or through public-private partnerships; and

Whereas, According to the Justice Center, the actual and projected prison population is projected to decrease upon enactment of JR policies from 2012-2018 from 6,060 to 5,277 prisoners; and

Whereas, Hawai‘i’s incarcerated population has been driven by nonviolent drug lawbreakers; and

Whereas, Some correctional facilities are in need of repair and renovation due to lack of maintenance; and

Whereas, We do not tear down public schools simply because some renovations are needed, or the design is antiquated by “modern” standards, and

Whereas, It is unconscionable to build more prisons when more cost-effective and evidence-based strategies exist that will reduce the incarcerated population, decrease recidivism, and increase public safety; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Hawai‘i State Legislature, Governor, and Chief Justice to fully implement and fund the Justice Reinvestment Initiative before planning to expand bed space for Hawai‘i’s incarcerated individuals, and be it

Hawai‘i Hawai‘i Resolved, That the State of Hawai‘i be discouraged from continuing to contract with private prison corporations; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, State of Hawai‘i’s Director of Department of Health, Director of the U.S. Department of Health and the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional delegation, and the County Councils.
HHS 2014-04 Resolution Calling for Neighborhood Specific Birth Defects Data Collection

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i being concerned with promoting the health and well being of the general public and with providing information to the public to enable people to be educated and able to make informed choices concerning their own and their children’s health; and

Whereas, Studies that track birth defect clusters based on identifiable causes such as cumulative exposure to toxins associated with residential and workplace locations help to locate unhealthy conditions and prevent future birth defects; and

Whereas, The more location precise the birth defect cluster data is documented within communities and neighborhood locations, the more helpful in locating specific toxic sites and applying the appropriate remedies thereby improving the environment for parents to conceive healthy babies; and

Whereas, Such data must be state funded and managed by impartial parties to be free of corporate influence, to provide true and accurate information without any agenda other than protecting the public; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the State Legislature to seek state funding to fully implement the Hawai‘i State Department of Health’s surveys to collect precise neighborhood specific birth defect cluster data to be maintained and made available in a map format that is easy to comprehend by the public and made readily available to all; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, State of Hawai‘i’s Director of Department of Health, Director of the U.S. Department of Health and the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional delegation.
Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i being concerned with the health and well being of the general public and with providing information to the public to enable people to be better educated and able to make more informed choices concerning their own health; and

Whereas, Keeping an up to date, comprehensive, easily accessible, location precise data base map on cancer cases is a vital public health service; and

Whereas, Studies that research cancer patient history based on cumulative exposure to toxins associated with residential and workplace locations can locate unhealthy conditions and thus help to prevent future and ongoing exposure to the public; and

Whereas, The more location precise the cancer cluster data is within communities and specific areas, the more helpful in locating toxic sites and applying appropriate remedies, thereby improving the environment for healthy living; and

Whereas, Such data collection and analysis must be government funded to be more likely free of corporate influence and managed by impartial parties to protect the public health; and now, therefore, be it

**Resolved,** That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the State Legislature to provide state funding to fully implement the Hawai‘i State Department of Health’s surveys to collect neighborhood specific cancer cluster data collection program, that it remains free from unwarranted corporate influence, provide location specific cancer maps, kept current and made easily accessible to the public; and be it

**Ordered,** That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, State of Hawai‘i’s Director of Department of Health, Director of the U.S. Department of Health and the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional delegation.
HHS 2014-06 Celebrating the Passage of Marriage Equality

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i has strongly supported Marriage Equality for over two decades by including it in our Platform and the passage of resolutions supporting its passage into law; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i commends and thanks the Honorable Neil Abercrombie, Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, for the leadership he showed on September 9, 2013 when he called a Special Session to convene on October 28, 2013 to decide the destiny of Marriage Equality in the Aloha State; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i commends and thanks those Democrats in the Hawai‘i State Legislature who served during the Second Special Session of 2013 and strongly supported the Party Platform by voting for the passage of Marriage Equality; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i calls upon its members to celebrate, as they each see fit, on December 2, 2014, which is the historic first anniversary of Marriage Equality finally being legally recognized in the Aloha State; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to each Democrat who is a member of the Hawai‘i State Legislature, as well as to the Honorable Neil Abercrombie, Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, and to the Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai‘i.