The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Recognizes Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani Schoolgirl, as a Living Profile in Courage

Whereas, Malala Yousafzai, despite being nearly killed while trying to get a simple education, continues to forsake personal safety by speaking out publically insisting access to education and universal gender equality is fundamental to human dignity; and

Whereas, Societies in many parts of the world withhold education from girls and thus constrain their opportunities to pursue happiness; and

Whereas, Such restriction of education for girls keeps women subjugated, often in servitude, resulting in abuse, frequent poverty, poorer nutrition and health care, with higher birth rates and lower standards of living; and

Whereas, The widespread failure to provide girls access to education continues to cause pain, suffering, fear, inequality, insecurity, and a lack of job opportunities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Democratic Party of Hawai'i endorses Malala Yousafzai for her initiative and singular courage in insisting on women's access to quality education in her country under adverse traditions, and thereby summoning the world to recognize the rightness of fundamental gender equality world-wide; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i remains vigilant against economically based gender, racial and class discrimination while positively promoting women's rights worldwide, combating discriminatory practices and gender exploitation; and be it

Resolved, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports processes that requires embassies and diplomats abroad work with governments to model the democratic ideals of citizens living in a fair society, particularly with regard to female educational access; and be it

Resolved, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i calls on American corporations, particularly those in the garment and electronic sectors, to provide transparency in their management, hiring practices, safety conditions and work standards wherever they invest, with support for equal access to education, medical care, nutrition, and affordable and safe housing to prevent the exploitation of women and girls as a cheap and manipulable labor supply, and be it

Resolved, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i actively encourages the many nongovernmental, religious and governmental organizations that are working for gender equality through steadfast promotion of practical ways to meet girls' educational needs and rights anywhere in the world, taking encouragement from Malala Yousafzai, 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, U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Secretary of Labor, and the members of the Hawai'i Congressional delegation.
NAT 2014-02 Calling for an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States Clearly Stating that a “Person”, as defined in the Constitution, Must be a Human Being

Whereas, The U.S. Supreme Court did NOT decide that the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution applied to corporations in the 1886 decision Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad; and

Whereas, The U.S. Supreme Court relied on the mistaken interpretation of the Santa Clara County decision when it decided in Citizens United vs FEC that the first amendment applied to corporations; and

Whereas, The U.S. Supreme Court has now decided McCutcheon v. FEC which further eliminates restrictions on corporate spending in political campaigns; and

Whereas, A major argument in both FEC cases is that “money is equivalent to speech”; and

Whereas, No merchant, individual, corporation or any entity will accept spoken words in lieu of cash therefore the “money is equivalent to speech” argument is a logical absurdity; and

Whereas, The 2010 Hawai‘i Legislature adopted HCR281: Requesting Congress to Propose an Amendment to the Constitution of the United State to Regulate the Expenditure of Funds by Corporations Engaging in Political Speech; and

Whereas, In 2014 HCR142, Requesting the Establishment of Meaningful Campaign Finance Reform In the United States and the State of Hawaii, was signed into law, and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i adopted NAT 2010-05, Requesting the Establishment of Meaningful Campaign Finance Reform in the United States and the State of Hawai‘i ; and

Whereas, no action has been taken by Congress on these proposals; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i renews its request for limitations on corporate contributions to political candidates and parties; and be it

Resolved; That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i calls for even stronger limits on corporate financing of political parties and candidates to include an Amendment to the Constitution of the United Stated that clearly states a corporation cannot be a person as defined in the Constitution and cannot avail itself of any of the rights enumerated in the Constitution; and be it

Resolved, That ALL corporate spending on behalf of any political party and/or candidate be prohibited and outlawed; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i finds the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United and other related cases abhorrent, and supports an amendment to our United States Constitution to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights; and be it

Ordered, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature and the Democratic members of the Hawai‘i delegation to the United States Congress.
NAT 2014-03 Opposing the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

Whereas, The United States government has been engaged in secretive negotiations with 11 Pacific Rim nations—Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam—to fashion a new international agreement which will have a profound effect upon the US economy, including wages, working conditions, environmental protections, intellectual property, agricultural practices; and

Whereas, Over 600 US and other multinational corporations have been allowed to review drafts of the TPP as well as propose provisions affecting their industry, while regular citizens, community groups and even elected officials have not been allowed access to the draft documents but have had to rely upon “leaks” to learn the provisions being proposed, and

Whereas, The “trade” agreement threatens profoundly erode the ability of American county, state and federal governments to pass legislation on behalf of American citizens or to regulate corporate transactions on matters that affect the profitability of investments, transferring adjudication of disputes from U.S. courts to private transnational bodies not responsible to U.S. voters or the laws of the United States, and are controlled by large corporations rather than by American voters; and

Whereas, Major American trade unions have labeled the TPP, “NAFTA on Steroids,” for its negative effect on jobs and working conditions, and have passed statements opposing this agreement; and

Whereas, American environmental and consumer groups, among others have also mobilized to oppose the TPP; and

Whereas, the Obama administration has been calling for “Fast Track” consideration and approval of the draft agreement, a process which would minimize public debate and scrutiny of its provisions and force Congress to vote for it, up or down, in its entirety, with no chance of amending offensive provisions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i opposes any “Fast Track” consideration or approval of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and demands a full, transparent debate over its provisions, including opportunities for the public to be fully engaged in determining such profound changes to the international legal system which could interfere with or even curtail control of American laws at all levels of government; and be it

Resolved, The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges our members of Congress, as well as Democratic candidates for those offices, to fully explain their positions about the TPP and explain its significance to the people of Hawai‘i, and oppose any provisions likely to suppress wages, undermine Labor, environmental and consumer rights; 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, U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Secretary of Labor, and the members of the Hawai‘i Congressional delegation.