PLATFORM OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI’I
APPROVED AT THE 2016 STATE CONVENTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI’I

PREAMBLE
The abiding values of the Democratic Party are liberty, social justice, economic justice, and protection of the environment, and compassion and respect for the dignity and worth of the individual. At the heart of our party lies a fundamental conviction that Americans must not only be free, but they must live in a fair society. These values compel us to integrate democratic ideals in all aspects of economic, social, educational, and cultural life in our communities, our state and our nation. These principles must always be protected. As the party of the people, we Democrats commit ourselves to these values. We are facing increased global challenges economically, ecologically, and socio-culturally. We therefore adopt a worldview that is sensitive to and addresses these challenges that is not based on short-term economic gains. This platform outlines guiding principles for all members of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i.

The Democratic Party of Hawai’i holds that our party and our government shall strive for the following ideas and values:

1. Support and provide for a strong economy
2. Preserve and strengthen the future of agriculture in Hawai’i
3. Support strong labor practices, good jobs and a living wage
4. Support measures to drastically reduce income and wealth inequality
5. Protect and restore the civil and human rights of each person
6. Support the rights of native Hawaiians and the preservation of native Hawaiian culture
7. Support the eradication of discrimination
8. Reform our government, supporting transparency in government and free, fair, and democratic elections
9. Provide an excellent, free public education for students at every level
10. Support a comprehensive approach to ending poverty
11. Provide high quality and free healthcare for every human being
12. Protect and preserve Hawai’i’s environment
13. Achieve energy sustainability
14. Adopt transportation policies that improve our quality of life
15. Support military relations that honor and provide for all military personnel and veterans while protecting our ʻaina
16. Support fair and just foreign policy that promotes peace

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/REFORM
A diversified and healthy economy in Hawai’i requires a well-educated and healthy citizenry. To encourage existing and new enterprise, we need to develop a combination of tax policies and credits, lending programs, and financial incentives that will attract the business community. The creation of intellectual property and new start-ups should be a part of the curriculum of our business schools. Business training should stress ethical company management that is responsive to customer needs.

State and county governments have a key role to play in setting reasonable standards for industry and trade. As market conditions change, government agencies must adapt and revise regulations to promote “green” sustainable industries that are compatible with preserving the natural and scenic beauty of Hawai’i. In this regard, we must find ways to stimulate recycling and biodegradable packaging to minimize landfill needs. We must move from carbon-based power to electric power.

Improvements to infrastructure are critical to providing a healthy base to the Hawaiian economy. Upgrading publicly-owned water works, preserving agricultural water sources, improving public transportation, redesigning mass transit, and supporting universal basic education for all children are key elements in maintaining a strong, sustainable economy in Hawai’i. In addition, we must abandon the “throwaway” economy to avoid wasting our valuable resources.
We believe that government plays a vital role in nurturing and regulating our economic system. We believe that private and public employers, as responsible members of community, by providing good jobs and fair pay and benefits, are essential for economic expansion, diversification, innovation, and entrepreneurship. We re-affirm our commitment to a progressive tax structure and will work to re-establish a system based upon "ability to pay."

Availability of financial support and a capable educated people are critical to our economic expansion and diversification. The management of businesses should be ethical and responsive to the community with transparency for investors and shareholders guaranteeing sound, healthy management. Innovation through the generation of intellectual property should be the goal of our economic diversification. We support the continuing protection of intellectual property developed in the state of Hawai'i.

We need to give priority to the development of "green" sustainable industries and business. We need financial literacy and asset building programs to strengthen our ‘ohana. Green commerce includes biodegradable or recycling packaging. We need to pursue relationships with the information technology industry. We need to invest in world-class higher education to stimulate our economic resources. We need to reduce our dependence on tourism, real estate development, and military. A diversified economy will help to create diversified jobs.

AGRICULTURE
Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources in order to achieve sustainability of our marine resources, and ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua’a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times.

We will promote ethical and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry and eggs. Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life-sustaining resource, we must protect its ecological balance while promoting the cultivation of ocean resources as a step toward greater self-sufficiency.

To ensure wise use and equitable distribution of our precious water, we must stress water conservation and alternative patterns of water treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation, water storage reservoirs, and the use of catchment systems by the public.

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and “Buy Local” strategies to assure greater food security and food safety.

We recognize the essential link between the availability of adequate and affordable water and low-cost electrical power as essential components of viable agricultural businesses.

We support land use planning and infrastructure development to support sustainable diversified agriculture, including low-cost inter-island transportation of agricultural products. We likewise support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification and value-added products.

We support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step towards preserving high-grade productive lands for current and future needs.
We support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at point of entry.

We promote solid waste policies that divert green waste and food scraps for making invasive species free compost and enhanced mulch available to our farmers, landscapers, and residents.

LABOR
We believe in efforts to build and retain a qualified workforce in Hawai‘i. We believe that workers are entitled to organize and to bargain through their unions.

As the party of working men and women in Hawai‘i, we work to protect labor rights and social security; to ensure fair labor practices, a living wage for all workers, equal pay for equal work and fair taxation; we encourage legislation to raise the minimum wage and paid family and sick leave; to protect employees’ rights to organize and bargain collectively with their employers; to oppose the outsourcing of Hawai‘i’s jobs; to promote employment opportunities and sustainable growth; to assist the economically disadvantaged and advocate for sound trade and economic policies; and build our workforce for jobs in emerging technologies, in green industries, in renovation, and in green construction, so that their jobs are not dependent on ever-expanding real estate development.

We believe that workers need to be safe and free from any form of discrimination, harassment or abuse in the workplace. We seek legislation that will achieve these goals.

We support strict enforcement of union contracts and worker rights to unionize, to strike without job loss, to have a safe workplace, to mediate and arbitrate disputes, and the repeal of the anti-labor Taft-Hartley Act.

We support automatic dues payment to unions, repeal of all “right to work” laws and strict laws against employers requiring credit checks or social media passwords for employment purposes. We seek protection of undocumented workers from prosecution, deportation or job loss for reporting employer labor law violations. We support the Jones Act.

We support programs that prepare people with disabilities for independent and productive lives. We are committed to the elimination of glass ceilings that prevent women and minorities from advancing to the highest levels of government, education and business. In order to rapidly move returning veterans, students, and the unemployed into jobs, we urge the creation of paid internship programs.

TECHNOLOGY
We recognize that the responsible use and development of technology in all its manifestations offers immense potential for our community, government, including institutions of higher education and business sectors. We encourage synergistic research, development, commercialization and educational programs to promote technological proficiency and innovation. In particular we support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives in our public, private and charter schools as these prepare the next generation to address the needs of our state. We also support programs that facilitate incubator, i.e. start-up, opportunities for new and promising technologies, and encourage the local retention of our intellectual resources.

HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS
The inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the foundations of freedom, justice, and peace. We support affirmative action, the full implementation of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

We believe that the concept of “Family” includes people regardless of sexual orientation, blood relation, marital status, gender, gender identity or gender expression, who choose to join together to offer one another moral, spiritual and economic support.
We support full equality and nondiscrimination with respect to duties, benefits and responsibilities regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

We believe in women's equality and right to privacy, including but not limited to equal access to reproductive services and care, shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence, and the right of rape victims to emergency contraception in the emergency room.

We support the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex community to full equality before the law, including but not limited to, Marriage Equality both at the State and Federal level. We oppose discriminatory federal and state constitutional amendments and other attempts to deny equal protection of the laws to committed same-sex couples who seek the same respect and responsibilities as other married couples. We celebrate the overturning of the Defense of Marriage Act and support the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act with its current language as of May 2016.

We support the full implementation of a law that allows members of the transgender community to amend their birth certificates to accurately reflect their self-identified genders.

We believe that all families should have an equal opportunity to build their assets and become self-sufficient; and we support a strong safety net of programs that will afford them the opportunity to do so.

We must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with a safe and healthy environment in which to grow and thrive.

We support initiatives that enhance access and equity in education, employment, and business opportunities intended to lift families and individuals out of poverty and remove existing barriers to equal opportunity in our communities.

We support legislation and best practice policies that prioritize the safety, security and well-being of our foster children, who are our most vulnerable keiki in our community. This is the paramount consideration when making decisions regarding the time frame, criteria and justification for reunification and family placement. We will always respect family and familial bonds, but reunification with every biological family is not always the safest, most secure or in the best interests of every child. This is especially true in aggravated circumstances cases involving drug use history, physical abuse, sexual abuse and unstable housing. We strongly support the efforts of parents and all people to recover and reorganize their lives for the better, but our ultimate concern must also be for the short and long term safety and wellbeing of our foster children.

**NATIVE HAWAIIANS**

Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai‘i and deserve a just relationship with the state and federal governments. We support Native Hawaiian rights to self-determination in the formation of their chosen governmental entity. We support recognition of Native Hawaiians as indigenous people as provided by the U.S. Constitution; such recognition will add to the process of Native Hawaiian self-determination. We also support the international rights of the Native Hawaiian people.

We support the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in decisions related to county and state affairs.

We support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing practices. We value and wish to foster the preservation of our host culture.

We support Hawaiian language immersion schools that contribute to the revitalization and continuation of the Hawaiian language and appropriate assessments that accurately reflect Hawaiian language immersion students' progress and support the Hawaiian language immersion program. We support Hawaiian-focused schools and courses that provide culturally-based education in order to maximize choices in life and work. We support educational programming and efforts that embody Hawaiian values, language, culture and history as a foundation to prepare students for success in college, career and communities.
IMMIGRATION

We believe that our nation should have a fair immigration policy that recognizes the diversity of our country and the contribution that immigrants make and have made in the sciences, arts, and culture. We support an immigration policy that provides a reasonable and timely path to citizenship for immigrants who follow the rule of law. We support a path to US citizenship for Dreamers (children of undocumented citizens.)

We oppose immigration laws that discriminate based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

We oppose racial profiling, and encourage policies that avoid the militarization of our borders, and deplore policies that would deny education and health and human services to immigrant children. We need to ensure that immigrant children, whether their parents are documented or undocumented, are treated with fairness and respect in our schools and in our healthcare system.

We recognize that most undocumented residents are simply looking for a better life for their families. We support a national immigration policy that holds employers that violate immigration law accountable and provides penalties proportionate to their responsibility.

We support the United States embracing and welcoming refugees to our shores.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM

We believe in a government that will adequately, efficiently, courteously, openly, ethically and fairly administer to the needs of the people. We support the integrity of Hawaii's voting process with a fair, voter-verifiable, fully transparent and auditable voting system. We must ensure the security of our electoral process with regard to electronic infiltration and manipulation.

We strongly oppose discrimination in the provision of services either by the Government or by a business to prospective customers and we find the practice abhorrent, whatever the source of the prejudice, which motivates discrimination. We strongly support the efforts of our candidates and elected officials to also vehemently oppose any legislation that would permit and/or endorse discrimination.

We support enforcement of sunshine laws and transparency in legislative and administrative sessions and meetings that discuss and make policy. This includes the protection of funding for the televising of public hearings at the State and County levels, as well as the funding of the public access room at the legislature.

We support limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations, corporations, and individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all elections, to ensure that the power to bring positive change to our county and state lies in the hands of individual voters. We do not believe that money equals speech or that corporations are people for purposes of First Amendment protections. We support and encourage overturning The Citizens United Decision. We also support a fully funded elections office.

We support the separation of State and Church as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of America in the First Amendment as well as Article VI, and believe this right is meant to support equality and not erode it. We also oppose any legislation that weakens that wall. Separation of State and Church is meant to insure that no single religion can impose its particular beliefs on members of the general population.

We support restorative justice that repairs the harm caused by criminal behaviors and reintegrates the offenders as contributing members of society. Likewise we support opportunities for those who have been incarcerated to effect a smooth transition back into the community and make available health, educational, and other assistance programs needed to allow them to become productive and respected members of the community. We want the practice of private for-profit detention centers and prisons prohibited.
We expect all elected and appointed officials, government employees, and members of boards, commissions and other bodies to maintain the highest ethical standards, as required by Article XIV of the Hawaii State Constitution. We oppose revolving door policies and exemptions from the State Ethics Code that undermine the integrity of government.

We believe in the constant renewal of both the Democratic Party and electoral reform in Hawai’i state government; and we encourage the legislature to re-examine the restoration of multi-member legislative districts.

As we are a nation of laws and notwithstanding claims of national security, we call upon the President and Congress of the United States, in order to uphold due process and its application to any place “subject to [United States’] jurisdiction”, to remove all prisoners at Guantanamo to the United States, provide them with a fair civilian trial, and forthwith close the facilities at Guantanamo that have offered unconstitutionally cruel and unusual incarceration.

**EDUCATION**

We believe that the future of our state as well as our country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning. Educational facilities must be maintained, renovated and built to 21st century innovations so that our students learn in well-designed, safe environments.

Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in education shall be compensated with a competitive wage based on national standards while taking into consideration the state’s cost of living. We support hiring the most qualified individuals to be teachers and administrators for our educational system. We also support and value the universities and colleges that prepare educators and provide advanced degrees.

We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects, cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations. We view standardized tests as just one way of evaluating learning and support multiple measures, including performance assessments such as portfolios and observations.

Consistent with these goals we seek to make public college, public university, trade, mentorship and apprenticeship programs available to all seeking further education tuition free.

We need to ensure that our students are safe in our schools, free from bullying and discrimination, to include but not limited to, disability, gender bias, weight, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and/or religion. We support policies in all our schools that protect, honor and address the needs of transgender and gender nonconforming students.

We believe children’s early years are particularly important and support increased funding for birth to grade 3 education and early childhood teacher education.

We support a dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education.

We cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the federal government.

We support adequate funding for mandatory public education K through 12. We do not support the use of tax monies in a voucher program or tuition tax credits for private education K-12. Use of tax monies for
vouchers or tuition tax credits may have the effect of reducing support for public education and weakening church and state separation. We support the constitutional separation of church and state in education, which has been a cornerstone of democracy.

HOUSING
Housing is a basic human need and we believe that adequate, accessible, affordable, and safe housing should be available to all residents of Hawai‘i. Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to individual income is the basis of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy. Recent and past real estate bubbles have fueled disproportionate rent increases, a key contributor to homelessness. Therefore, we support efforts to promote truly affordable housing for all citizens who rent.

We also need economically affordable home ownership. To this end we support policies which re-think the current formula to determine “affordability” as this formula puts both rentals and sales out of the reach of most working families in Hawai‘i.

We support circuit breaker or other relief to ensure that senior citizens are not taxed out of their homes.

We believe in the concept of “Housing First” to develop affordable, stable housing and support services to break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options.

We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawai’i’s homeless population, to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society, with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups including but not limited to the Hawaiian community, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans, the aged, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender homeless.

HEALTH CARE
Access to health care is a basic human need. Our citizens and visitors have an inherent right to high quality, high standard health care. The state legislature and the federal government should take all appropriate steps to create and support a health care system of public, for-profit, and nonprofit hospitals and other medical facilities that follow best practices to enhance and protect and preserve life.

We support the development of long-term care financing solutions, better pay and working conditions for all health care providers, parity of mental and physical health coverage, and appropriate regulation of health care delivery systems. We also support the development of empirically validated prevention programs targeted at major public health issues.

We support national healthcare reform via single payer universal healthcare. We also encourage the inclusion of a public option in the current national health care plan.

We cannot support the provisions that continue the practice of denying women coverage for abortion services. Access to these services should not continue to be denied to women who most need these services.

We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition.

We also support the establishment of adequate mental health and statewide drug rehabilitation programs set up in conjunction with policing policies aimed at enabling all that seek assistance to obtain whatever support assistance is needed to allow them to remain free of drug dependence.

We support fair and equitable access to medical marijuana to be administered by the State of Hawaii’s Department of Health.

We support the passage and enforcement of laws banning both medical and therapeutic treatments for the purpose of forcing sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression conversions, such
as conversion therapy (aka reparative therapy), for minors and adults at the State and Federal level. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to live a true and authentic self.

**DRUG POLICY REFORM**

We support legalization and regulation of marijuana and other cannabis derivatives.

**ARTS AND CULTURE**

Our community is enriched by the encouragement of visual, musical, dramatic and cinematic arts and diverse cultural activities that communicate both a regional and universal vision. Through multi-cultural and multi-generational participation in the arts, we strengthen our ʻohana, promote tolerance, and add vitality to the economy through cultural tourism. To this end, we support sufficient public funding for the arts, individual artists, arts and cultural organizations, and educational enterprises. Such activities provide a definite public good for all of our citizens and for our community as a whole that is not available through private efforts alone.

**ENVIRONMENT**

The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai‘i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawaii’s natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our ʻaina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai‘i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of coastal resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.

**ENERGY**

We seek to achieve energy sustainability based on renewable energy sources. We must encourage the use of clean alternative fuel sources to include our public transportation systems. We must increase the use of public transit, telecommuting, car and vanpooling, ridesharing, biking, walking, and other forms of transportation thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. We must also urgently develop the
use of a variety of cost-effective energy providing systems, encourage transit-oriented development, and support tax incentives that encourage renewable energy initiatives.

We oppose any tax breaks to fossil fuel industries.

We support energy independence, self-sufficiency, affordability and reliability for Hawai‘i through the development of renewable alternative energy sources. Specifically, we need to support policies that foster the development of energy production methods that de-emphasize carbon based fuels and promote renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC).

Electricity rates in Hawaii are among the highest in the nation despite the fact that we enjoy an abundance of sunshine year round. Electric utility companies and cooperatives must open the grid to alternative power sources including solar panels and geothermal energy. We support the effort of our government officials to require utilities to provide for the maximum, comprehensive, integrated use of renewable energy and associated technologies such as storage and smart grid technologies.

TRANSPORTATION

We recognize the necessity of providing a safe, efficient transportation infrastructure. We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on imported fossil fuel and to support energy-efficient methods of transportation. Therefore, we support county, state, and federal efforts to provide more efficient and punctual methods of public transportation, to include but not limited to: sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, bicycle paths and lanes, mass transit, highways, airports, and ferry systems. We support the allocation of resources including public funds to address all necessary transportation issues, including increased funding for mass transit.

We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on the automobile by employing private and public use of alternative modes of travel. We encourage efforts to provide better vehicle and pedestrian safety. In particular, we support initiatives that will provide our state with more fuel-efficient vehicles, affordable mass transit and well-identified bike lanes. In order to be best served by mass transit, we must recognize the importance of the integration in an urban setting of any new modes of mass transportation with existing and future public streets and highways, bike lanes, retail establishments and services, and truly-affordable housing – while maintaining a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all future high-density developments.

We support the development of alternative emergency options for potential evacuation, with special attention to rural areas that only have one access point.

NATIONAL ISSUES

Many issues can only be addressed at the national level. As American citizens and Hawai‘i Democrats we have the right and the duty to express our views on these issues to our Congressional delegation, as well as to the representatives we send to the Democratic National Convention and the Democratic National Committee.

We consider it imperative that our national government re-establish regulations and guidelines, such as the Glass-Steagall Act, assuring that financial institutions operate fairly and transparently, and that they do not jeopardize the larger public interest in pursuit of their private gain. We endorse the principle that if such institutions are “too big to fail,” then they are too big. We support the enactment and vigorous enforcement of laws that penalize those corporations (and their executives and directors) who have defrauded the public.

We believe that private ventures that may potentially endanger the environmental security of the planet should be closely and firmly regulated and monitored in their activities by the Federal Government. The Federal agencies responsible for such oversight must be adequately funded and staffed and must also receive appropriate and expert public oversight. The Gulf oil spill is the most compelling case in point.
We support Federal initiatives, both from Congress and from the future administrations that would mitigate the catastrophic cultural, economic, and environmental damage created by federal policies on globalization.

We condemn the deeply flawed process by which our Government has decided to use our military forces in acts of preventive war.

Companies that shut down their operations and move to another place should be forced to make their abandoned employees and communities whole and to pay their fair share of taxes. Companies, which move their headquarters to foreign countries to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, should be sanctioned and fined.

We ask that federal policies that violate the U. S. Constitution and/or international law, many of which were initiated by the previous Republican administration, be reexamined. Where they are found to be detrimental to our civil rights, and to human rights in general, and unless they are clearly essential to prevent clear and present danger to our national security, we call for their abolition.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We support a foreign policy that respects Constitutional process and rights, honors human dignity, promotes adherence to international agreements, and integrates diplomatic, economic, military, educational and cultural policies. We support a fully funded, prompt, orderly and complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops and military contractors from Iraq. We oppose measures that compromise full withdrawal and endorse diplomatic efforts with all parties in the region. We believe that war should be a last resort but, when deemed necessary, should occur only within the confines of international law and international cooperation. We recognize that regime change can be more harmful and is not always the best policy.

U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Armed Forces in Hawai‘i and their families sacrifice to serve and defend our country and to help us in time of need. Hawai‘i should honor their service by strongly supporting the best possible care of wounded and disabled veterans. We therefore support efforts to keep our Veteran’s Hospitals fully funded.

We honor the service of all of our military members.

We support the efforts of our Congressional Delegation to extend benefits for our Reservists and National Guard who have suffered brain injury and/or PTSD. We support efforts to protect our troops from sexual predators who commit sexual assault and command rape within their service branches and support specialized treatment for victims of such crimes.

We oppose war profiteering and the privatization of combat through employment of paramilitary contractors, especially the award of no-bid or sole source contracts. We support the protection of our aina against destruction by military use.

We support the best training for our military, we urge protection of our ‘aina from long-term degradation and prevention of harm to our cultural and community assets.