

HHS 2016-01 **Financial Assistance for Cancer Patients and Their Families**

Whereas, Advances in medical technology have helped people beat cancer and prolong their lives; and

Whereas, Cancer continues to afflict thousands of Hawai'i families each day; and

Whereas, 6,730 of the population of Hawai'i continues to suffer from cancer in its various forms; and

Whereas, The costs of treating cancer continue to escalate; and

Whereas, Individuals diagnosed with cancer have to pay exorbitant medical costs in addition to the physical and mental toll of living with cancer; and,

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i has supported access to quality healthcare for all, by means such laws as the Prepaid Health-Care Act; now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports public assistance for individuals and families who have difficulty paying for cancer-related healthcare costs, and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges members of the Hawai'i State Legislature to support the establishment of a financial assistance program for cancer patients and their families; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai'i and all members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i serving in the Hawaii State Legislature.

HHS 2016-02 **On Death With Dignity**

Whereas, Hawai'i has long affirmed the rights of individuals to make informed decisions regarding their health care at the end of life;

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i has, through duly-adopted prior platform planks and resolution in 2010, "Supporting Death with Dignity," established a long history of support for and the endorsement of Death with Dignity for terminally ill patients at the end of life; and

Whereas, the 2010 resolution will not be replaced with this; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Legislature to take all measures to affirm the right of dying patients to make informed decisions about their health care, ensure that Hawai'i residents are provided with a full range of end of life options, including a decision to advance the time of death, and provide safeguards to ensure patients are in control if they choose Death with Dignity; and finally be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, and the members of the Hawai'i Congressional delegation.

HHS 2016-03 **Hearing Aid Assistance for Retirees**

Whereas, The latest numbers from the State of Hawaii's Employees' Retirement System (ERS) show that ERS has 44,283 benefitted retirees and of this number 9,783 are age 80 or over, including 43 who are 100 years old or older; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes people over age 50 begin to lose their hearing, some to the extent that social, political, and/or all personal relations are greatly reduced with profound psychological consequences; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes that hearing aids of the best sort cost about \$6,000 a pair and the cheap ones do not work well; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i advocates that state and county government retirees, as part of their retirement benefits, be made eligible for hearing aid assistances up to 80% of the cost of the best quality hearing instruments; and finally be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislatures who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Executive of Directors' of Employers-Union Trust Fund and of ERS, Board of Directors' of Employers-Union Trust Fund and of ERS, and the mayors of each county who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

HHS 2016-04 Requesting The Convening of a Statewide Rare Disease Task Force

Whereas, a rare disease is defined as a disease that affects fewer than 200,000 people in the United States; and
Whereas, there are 7,000 different known rare diseases affecting approximately 30,000,000 men, women, and children in the United States; and

Whereas, out of a population of 1,431,000 persons in the State of Hawai'i, more than 143,000 persons are affected by a rare disease, with more than half of these rare disease being specific to the Pacific region; and

Whereas, while the exact cause for many rare diseases remains unknown, eighty percent of rare diseases are genetic in origin and can be linked to a mutation in a single gene or in multiple genes and these genetic diseases may be passed from generation to generation; and

Whereas, it is sound public policy that an advisory body of qualified persons be convened, including persons living with rare diseases, to encourage and fund research in the development of new treatments for rare disease; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the creation of a Task Force to report to the Department of Health and the Legislature biennially on its activities, including findings and recommendations on issues relating to quality, cost effectiveness, and accessibility of treatments and services to persons with rare diseases in the State; and be it further

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, and the members of the Hawai'i congressional delegation.

HHS 2016-05 **Drop-in Centers for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth**

Whereas, The unaccompanied homeless youth, age range 10 to 18 need the protection of a 24-hour, seven days a week drop-in center; and

Whereas, Under the current State statutes they require that youth must be accompanied by an adult to be admitted to any shelters, and/or transitional housing; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes unaccompanied homeless youth are an especially vulnerable section of our ever growing homeless population as the National Conference of State Legislature reports that 46 percent of runaway and homeless youth reported being physically abused, 38 percent reported being emotionally abused , and 17 percent reported being forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the counties of Kaua 'i, Maui and Hawai'i, and the City and County of Honolulu each to work in collaboration with the State of Hawai'i to open a 24/7 drop-in center within 12 months of July 1, 2016; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i advocates for the opening of a second 24/7 drop-in center within 18 months from July 1, 2016 in the County of Hawai'i and the City and County of Honolulu; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all Maui County Democrats that are members of the Hawai'i State Legislatures who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Mayors of Kaua'i, Maui and Hawai'i Counties and the City and County of Honolulu, and members of all County Councils in the state of Hawai'i that are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

HHS 2016-06 **Supporting a Ban of Conversion Therapy**

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports banning conversion therapy for minors and adults as stated in the Health Care plank of our Party's Platform passed by unanimous vote at the Democratic Party of Hawai'i 2014 State Convention and conversion therapy is currently being practiced in Hawai'i; and

Whereas, the American Counseling Association's Standard A.1.a. ("Primary Responsibility"), states that "the primary responsibility of counselors is to respect the dignity and to promote the welfare of clients." Referring a client to a counselor who engages in a treatment modality not endorsed by the profession and that may, in fact, cause harm does not promote the welfare of clients as supported by Standard A.4.a ("Avoiding Harm"); and

Whereas, President Barack Obama, along with every recognized medical professional organization from the World Psychiatric Association American Psychological Association, American Counseling Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American School Counselor Association, to the National Association of Social Workers have all come out against conversion therapy as a form of torture; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i support the banning of conversion therapy based on the overwhelming scientific evidence there is no way to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, regardless of the type of adverse therapy a person is put through including but not limited to: inducing nausea, vomiting, or paralysis while showing the patient homoerotic images; providing electric shocks; having the individual snap an elastic band around the wrist when aroused by same-sex erotic images or thoughts; using shame to create aversion to same-sex attractions; orgasmic reconditioning; hypnosis; behavior and cognitive therapies; sex therapies; psychotropic medication; and satiation therapy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i support the banning of conversion therapy also based on the fact that this barbaric practice is detrimental to society as a whole since as it is totally futile and the side effects on the survivors are depression, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, shame, social withdrawal, suicidality, substance abuse, stress, disappointment, self-blame, decreased self-esteem and authenticity to others, hostility and blame toward parents, increased self-hatred, feelings of anger and betrayal, loss of friends and potential romantic partners, problems in sexual and emotional intimacy, sexual dysfunction, high-risk sexual behaviors, a feeling of being dehumanized and untrue to self, a loss of faith, and a sense of having wasted time and resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i calls upon all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i to support the introduction and passage of a bill in the 2017 Legislative Session that will ban conversion therapy outright; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i call upon the Governor of the State of Hawai'i to support the legislation and once it is passed by the legislature to sign the bill that will ban conversion therapy outright into law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i call upon all members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to introduce and support the passage of bill that would ban conversion therapy at the national level; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

HHS 2016-07 Support Health/Medical Centers

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i has already supported services that will help the community and its population in areas of health and well-being; and

Whereas, Hospitals are having a difficult financial time operating with a limited income, but having to accommodate uninsured people when they need medical help; and

Whereas, Hospitals have to accept patients coming to emergency without questioning them if they have the ability to pay or not; and

Whereas, Hospitals may not have enough insured patients to help pay for all the hospital's expenses; and

Whereas, We have seen the demise of St. Francis Hospital, Kahuku Hospital, and where the State had to contract Kaiser to take care of several Maui public hospitals, and where Wahiawa General Hospital was in danger of closing; and

Whereas, Hospitals and medical centers are needed throughout the state, especially in the rural areas where medical assistance is not always close by, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports legislation that will help rural hospitals and medical centers to continue to operate by approving grants-in-aid, and other means to help them continue operation; and be it further

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, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.