



**Democratic Party of Hawaii  
2018 State Convention  
Proposed Platform**



## **2018 PLATFORM OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**

As Recommended for Approval at the 2018 State Convention  
by the 2018 Platform Committee

**Raymond Catania, Kauai Co-chair**  
**Margaret Wille, Hawaii Co-chair**

### **Melodie Aduja, Oahu Scribe**

Tanya Aynessazian Hawaii  
Laura Brown-Clay, Kauai  
Trish La Chica, Oahu  
Denise Chillingworth, Oahu  
Chris DeRego Coffield, Oahu  
Donna Domingo, Maui  
McLean Eames, Hawaii  
Ken Farms, Oahu  
Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Oahu  
Laura Gharrazeddine, Hawaii  
Mitzi Higa, Oahu  
Gary Hooser, Kauai  
Justin Hughey, Maui  
Noel Kent, Oahu  
Keith Kessler, Maui  
Herman Lange, Hawaii  
Tiare Lawrence, Oahu  
Lennart Lundstrom, Hawaii  
Terri Napeahi, Hawaii  
Lynn Robinson Onderko, Oahu  
Nadya Pennoff, Kauai  
Amy Perusso Oahu  
Kerry Porter, Oahu  
Rep. Sean Quinlan, Oahu  
Carlos Santana, Oahu  
Paul Spear, Kauai  
Rob Weltman, Maui  
Ben Wilson, Maui  
Michael Zola, Hawaii

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- 1 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
- 2 14. Conserve and wisely use the oceans, seas and marine resources in a sustainable manner;
- 3 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests,
- 4 combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss,
- 5 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective,
- 6 accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and
- 7 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable
- 8 development.

## 9 10 **II. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES ACTION PLANKS**

### 11 12 **1. REBUILD THE MIDDLE CLASS AND STAMP OUT ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND CULTURAL**

13 **INEQUITIES** (including minimum wage of \$15 per hour by 2020 with cost of living increases thereafter; paid  
14 Family/Sick Leave by 2020; Provide Affordable Health Insurance for all (Single-Payer Universal HealthCare  
15 Insurance); Make quality public education and vocational school alternatives a REAL priority including for  
16 at risk and youth with special needs; diversify the economy; eliminate tax loopholes for the wealthy and  
17 raise tax on income over \$200,000; reinstate full percentage of Public Land Trust Revenues set aside for  
18 the Betterment of Native Hawaiians (20% of public lands annual revenues); legalize recreational cannabis;  
19 make affordable housing affordable; prevent discrimination; substantially increase statutory exemptions  
20 from attachment or execution of real and personal property);

### 21 22 **2. MAKE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR CULTURAL ASSETS A HIGH PRIORITY -**

23 advance measures to re-establish healthy Climate and Environment for humans and fellow species  
24 (including ban on use of chemicals that harm our marine waters such as oxybenzone; address climate  
25 change crisis, ban use of polystyrene for food uses, protect indigenous and organic food farms from  
26 contamination; require truth in labeling on all agricultural products and 50% Hawaii grown to be labeled as  
27 Hawaii grown: advance “Buy Local” and Blue Zone and other wellness community programs; restrict marine  
28 aquarium harvesting; give priority to alternative energy and nature based solutions such as promoting use  
29 of compost and recycling policies and avoidance of incarceration; restrict the use of insecticides and  
30 herbicides deleterious to the web of life and implement the state biosecurity plan to address invasive  
31 species; protect and preserve our fragile ecosystems and cultural assets by requiring environmental and  
32 cultural assessments in advance of all development; advance set asides for Native Hawaiian Cultural  
33 Reserves and Parks, reclaim ancient trails across the island).

34  
35  
36 **3. MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER NOW** – in schools and on the streets and in our homes (including  
37 advancing gun control measures such as ban on assault weapons and full back ground checks for all; make  
38 elimination of police corruption a priority; advance restorative justice programs for offenders and oppose  
39 privatization of prisons, provide an effective means of assisting victims of domestic violence);

40  
41 **4. TAKE BACK OUR GOVERNMENT** (including measures to allow for direct democracy citizen initiatives  
42 with the appropriate protections to eliminate influences and impacts of “big money; demand that all  
legislation be entitled to at least one hearing; require record of all legislative votes; advance open  
government measures; raise ethical standards, campaign finance reforms).

## 43 44 **III. OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES**

### 45 46 **A. EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING**

#### 47 48 49 **EDUCATION**

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

7  
8 Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in education shall be  
9 compensated with a competitive wage based on national standards while taking into consideration the  
10 state's cost of living. We support hiring the most qualified ~~[individuals to be]~~ teachers, ~~[and]~~ administrators  
11 and specialists for our educational system. We also support ~~[and value the]~~ partnerships with universities  
12 and colleges that prepare educators and provide advanced degrees in Hawai'i or elsewhere who provide  
13 practicum support and or access.

14  
15 We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable  
16 about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize  
17 cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our  
18 health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects,  
19 cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations. We view standardized tests as just  
20 one way of evaluating learning and support multiple measures, including performance assessments such  
21 as portfolios and observations.

22  
23 Consistent with these goals, we seek to make public college, public university, trade, mentorship and  
24 apprenticeship programs available to all seeking further education tuition free.

25  
26 We need to ensure that our students are safe in our schools, free from bullying and discrimination, to include  
27 but not limited to, disability, gender bias, weight, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender  
28 expression, and/or religion. We support policies in all our schools that protect, honor and address the  
29 needs of transgender and gender nonconforming students. We need to ensure that they have access to  
30 proactive positive behavior supports rather than reactive responses.

31  
32 We believe children's early years are particularly important and support increased funding for birth to grade  
33 3 education and early childhood teacher education. There is to be coordination of departments so that there  
34 is Continuity of Care that includes medical providers when appropriate.

35  
36 We support an additional dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education. We support  
37 maximizing access to Federal funds to offset the State cost to provide specialized support.

38  
39 We cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the Federal government.

40  
41 We support adequate funding for mandatory public education Pre-K through 12. We do not support the use  
42 of tax monies in a voucher program or tuition tax credits for private education Pre-K-12. Use of tax monies  
43 for vouchers or tuition tax credits may have the effect of reducing support for public education and  
44 weakening church and state separation. We support the constitutional separation of church and state in  
45 education, which has been a cornerstone of democracy.

#### 46 47 **MAKING DEBT-FREE COLLEGE A REALITY**

48 Democrats are unified in their strong belief that every student should be able to go to college, public  
49 university, trade, mentorship and apprenticeship programs debt-free and a working family should not have  
50 to pay any tuition to go to public colleges, universities and other trade schools. We will also make community  
51 college free. The State government will push more colleges and universities to take quantifiable, affirmative

1 steps in increasing the percentages of racial and ethnic minority, low-income, and first-generation students  
2 they enroll and graduate.

3  
4 Achieving these goals depends on State and Federal investments in both students and their teachers.  
5 Whether full-time or adjunct, faculty must be supported to make transformative educational experiences  
6 possible.

### 7 8 **GUARANTEEING UNIVERSAL PUBLIC PRESCHOOL AND QUALITY SCHOOLS FOR EVERY CHILD**

9 Democrats believe we must have the best-educated population and workforce in the world. That means  
10 making childhood education and universal preschool a priority, especially in light of new research showing  
11 how much early learning can impact life-long success. Democrats will invest in early childhood programs  
12 like “Early Head Start” and provide every family with access to high-quality childcare and high-quality  
13 preschool programs. We support efforts to raise wages for childcare workers, and to ensure that early  
14 childhood educators are experienced and high-quality.

15  
16 We also support increased investment in after-school summer learning programs which help working  
17 families, keep kids safe, and inspire learning at a time when many students are left unsupervised. We must  
18 find ways to encourage mentoring programs that support students in reaching their full potential. Mentoring  
19 is a strategy to ensure that children living in poverty have the encouragement and support to aim high and  
20 enter the middle class.

21  
22 We will focus on group mentoring which is a low-cost, high-yield investment that offers the benefit of building  
23 a supportive network of peers who push one another towards success.

24  
25 Democrats believe all students should be taught to high academic standards. Schools should have  
26 adequate resources to provide programs and support to help meet the needs of every child. We will hold  
27 schools, districts, communities and the State accountable for raising achievement levels for all students –  
28 particularly low-income students, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students, English Language  
29 Learners, and students with disabilities.

30  
31 Democrats recognize and honor all the professionals who work in public schools to support students’  
32 education – teachers, education support professionals, and specialized staff. We know that good teachers  
33 are essential to improving student learning and helping all students to meet high academic standards.  
34 Democrats will launch a campaign to recruit and retain high-quality teachers. We will ensure that teachers  
35 receive the tools and ongoing professional development they need to succeed in the classroom and provide  
36 our children with a world-class education. We also must lift up and trust our educators, continually build  
37 their capacity, and ensure that our schools are safe, welcoming, collaborative, and well-resourced places  
38 for our students, educators, and communities.

39  
40 We will invest in high-quality STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) classes,  
41 community schools, computer science education, arts education, and expand distance learning models and  
42 career pathways. We will end the school-to-prison pipeline by opposing discipline policies which  
43 disproportionately affect Asian Americans, Filipino Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders,  
44 students with disabilities, and youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning,  
45 intersexual and asexual (“LGBTQIA”). We will support the use of restorative justice practices that  
help students and staff resolve conflicts peacefully and respectfully while helping to improve the teaching  
and learning environment. And we will work to improve school culture and combat bullying of all kinds.

46  
47  
48  
49 DPH is committed to eliminating opportunity gaps – particularly those that lead to students from low-income  
50 communities arriving on day one of kindergarten several years behind their peers. This means advocating  
51 for labor and public assistance laws that ensure poor parents can spend time with their children. This means  
52 raising household incomes in poor communities. It means ensuring children have healthcare, stable



1 housing free of contaminants, and a community free of violence to minimize the likelihood of cognitive  
2 delays. It means enriching early childhood programming to prepare children in areas such as literacy,  
3 numeracy, civic engagement and emotional intelligence. It means supporting equitable and adequate State  
4 funding for public education and expanding Title I funding for schools that see a large number of high  
5 concentrations of children in poverty. It means ending curriculum gaps that maintain and exacerbate  
7 achievement gaps.

## 8 9 **LABOR**

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

12 As the party of working ~~[men and women]~~ people in Hawai'i, we work to protect labor rights  
13 and social security; to ensure fair labor practices, a living wage for all workers, equal pay for equal work  
14 and fair taxation; we encourage legislation to raise the minimum wage and paid family and sick leave; to  
15 protect employees' rights to organize and bargain collectively with their employers; to oppose the  
16 outsourcing of Hawaii's jobs; to promote employment opportunities and sustainable growth; to assist the  
17 economically disadvantaged and advocate for sound trade and economic policies; to train our local  
18 workforce in diversified and environmentally responsible industries, and build our workforce for jobs  
19 in emerging technologies, in green industries, in renovation, and in green construction, so that their jobs  
20 are not dependent on ever-expanding real estate developments.

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

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

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

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

## 33 **RAISE INCOME AND RESTORE ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS**

### 34 **RAISING WORKERS' WAGES**

35 We believe that the current minimum wage is a starvation wage and must be increased to a living wage.  
36 No one who works full time should have to raise a family in poverty. We should earn at least \$15 an hour  
37 and have the right to form or join a union and will work in every way we can – in Congress and the Federal  
38 government, in the State Legislature and with the private sector – to reach this goal. We also support  
39 creating one fair wage for all workers by ending the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers and people with  
40 disabilities.

### 41 **PROTECTING WORKERS' FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

42 The Democratic Party believes that when workers are strong, Hawaii is strong. Democrats will make it  
43 easier for workers, public and private, to exercise their right to organize and join unions. Democrats believe  
44 that consumers, workers, students, retirees, and investors who have been mistreated should never be  
45 denied their right to fight for fair treatment under the law.

1 **SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES**

2 We will fight to secure equal pay for women which will benefit all women and their families, particular women  
3 of color who are disproportionately impacted by discriminatory pay practices, and against other factors that  
4 contribute to the wage gap. And we will combat the discrimination they face on and off the job. DPH will  
5 make sure that Hawai'i finally enacts paid family and medical leave by passing a family and medical leave  
6 law that would provide all workers at least 12 weeks of paid leave to care for a new child or address a  
7 personal or family member's serious health issue. We will fight to allow workers the right to earn at least  
8 seven days of paid sick leave. We will also require employers to provide paid vacation through legislation.

9  
10 Our work and family policies must also help family caregivers. We will ensure that family caregivers have  
11 the support, respite care, and training they need to support their loved ones. We will create a strong stable  
12 paid caregiving workforce to help meet families' needs, by raising wages, improving access to training, and  
13 giving workers the opportunity to come together to make their voices heard in support of a stronger system.

14  
15 **EXPANDING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMEOWNERSHIP**

16 DPH will continue to fight for those families who suffered the loss of their homes. We will help those who  
17 are working toward a path of financial stability and will put sustainable home ownership into the reach of  
18 more families. DPH will also combat the affordable housing crisis and skyrocketing rents in many parts of  
19 the State, which are leading too many families and workers to be pushed out of communities where they  
20 work.

21  
22 We will preserve and increase the supply of affordable rental housing by expanding incentives to ease local  
23 barriers to building new affordable rental housing developments in areas of economic opportunity. We will  
24 substantially increase funding to construct, preserve, and rehabilitate affordable housing rental units. Not  
25 only will this help address the affordable housing crisis, it will also create good-paying jobs in the process.  
26 DPH believes that we should provide more state resources to the people struggling most with unaffordable  
27 housing: low-income families, people with disabilities, veterans, and the elderly.

28  
29 We will expand programs to prevent displacement of existing residents, especially in Native Hawaiian and  
30 Pacific Islander communities; create affordable and workforce housing; and preserve neighborhood-serving  
31 nonprofit organizations and small businesses. We will reinvigorate housing production programs, repair  
32 public housing, and increase funding for rental assistance programs. We will fight for robust funding to end  
33 homelessness in our cities and counties once and for all, through targeted investment to provide the  
34 necessary outreach, social series, and housing options for all populations experiencing homelessness. We  
35 will engage in a stronger, more coordinated, and better funded partnership among federal, state, and local  
36 governments to end chronic homelessness.

37  
38 **ENSURING A SECURE AND DIGNIFIED RETIREMENT**

39 DPH believes that it should be easier to save for retirement and prepare for unforeseen risks and expenses.  
40 We will defend the right of workers to collect their defined benefit pensions and make sure workers get  
41 priority and protection when pension plans are in distress.

42  
43 Seniors should not have to choose between putting food on the table, keeping a roof over their heads, or  
44 buying the medication that they need to stay healthy. We strongly support funding critical programs to help  
45 seniors remain independent in their own home and communities. We are also committed to fighting the  
46 immense problem of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

47  
48 **BUILDING 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE**

49 If we are serious about reversing the decline of the middle class, we need major Federal investments to  
50 rebuild our crumbling infrastructure and put our communities back to work in decent paying jobs in both the  
51 public and private sectors. The climate emergency and the need to expand the middle class demand that  
52 we make the most ambitious investment in Hawaii infrastructure. We will put our communities to work

1 updating and expanding our roads, bridges, public transit, airports and passenger and freight rail lines. We  
2 will build 21<sup>st</sup> century energy and water systems, modernize our schools, continue to support the expansion  
3 of high-speed broadband networks. We will protect communities from the impact of climate change and  
4 help to mitigate its effects in investing in green and resilient infrastructure. We will address the backlog of  
5 deferred maintenance in the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Hawaiian  
6 Home Lands. We will protect public health and safety by modernizing drinking and wastewater systems.  
7 These investments will create secure, good-paying middle-class jobs today.

8  
9 DPH will to fight ensure resources and programs are adequately targeted to provide economic  
10 development, job training, and critical infrastructure investment in areas of greatest need.

### 11 **FOSTERING A MANUFACTURING RENAISSANCE**

12 DPH believes that one of the best ways to innovate, prosper, and create good-paying jobs is to make more  
13 in Hawaii, which is why we firmly support Hawaiian manufacturing with a “Made in Hawaii” plan. We must  
14 revitalize hard-hit manufacturing communities; create thriving hubs of manufacturing and innovation  
15 throughout Hawaii; and claw back tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, using the proceeds to  
16 reinvest in communities and works at home instead. DPH is proud of rescuing the agricultural industry from  
17 collapse with coffee, macadamia nuts, avocados, bananas, guavas, papayas, tomatoes and other fruits. In  
18 addition, other revitalized manufacturing industries involve bread, candy, dairy products, juices and soft  
19 drinks, indigenous food, printed materials (mostly newspapers), refined petroleum, stone, clay, glass  
20 products, clothing, jewelry, woodcraft, fabricated metals and shipbuilding.

### 21 **CREATING FAIR, WELL-PAYING CLEAN ENERGY JOBS**

22  
23 We must help Hawaii’s workers and businesses compete for jobs and investments in global clean energy,  
24 high-tech products, internet technology products and advanced manufacturing. We must make Hawaiian  
25 manufacturing more internationally competitive by making it the greenest and most efficient in the world,  
26 including by investing in industrial energy efficiency.

### 27 **PROVIDING OUR INNOVATION AGENDA: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND** 28 **MATHEMATICS (STEAM)**

29 DPH supports ambitious public and private investments in science, technology, engineering, arts, and  
30 mathematics. We are focused on creating clean energy jobs with fair, well-paying wages in our  
31 communities. Entrepreneurship and innovation are fundamental to our future economic growth – in the  
32 information technology (IT) industry as well as energy, manufacturing, transportation, health, retail,  
33 services, and other sectors. We will nurture the next generation of scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs,  
34 especially women and people of color, to make sure that Hawaii out-competes and out-innovates the rest  
35 of the world with our bold innovation agenda.

36  
37  
38  
39 New technologies are already transforming our economy. We must harness these forces so that they  
40 create higher-paying jobs, bring more people into the workforce, and reduce inequality. We need to  
41 educate our people and train our workers; support entrepreneurship and promote inclusion in the digital  
42 economy; attract and retain talented people from all over the world; and invest in research and  
43 development, innovation hubs, as well as in getting ideas to market. We also need to ensure that all  
44 students can learn computer sciences by the time they graduate from high school.

45  
46 High-speed internet connectivity is not a luxury, it is a necessity for 21<sup>st</sup> century economic success, social  
47 mobility, education, healthcare, and public safety. DPH will finish the job to connect every household in  
48 Hawaii to high-speed broadband, increase internet adoption, and help hook up anchor institutions so they  
49 can offer free WiFi to the public. We will take action to help Hawai’i widely deploy 5G technology for faster  
50 internet connections to underserved areas and enable the Internet of Things and other transformative  
51 technologies.

52  
53 DPH supports the University of Hawaii in its mission to increase awareness in science, technology and  
54 exploration to better understand our place in the universe and inspire and educate generations of young  
55 people in Hawai’i to pursue a career in science.

1  
2 **SUPPORTING HAWAII'S SMALL BUSINESS**

3 By supporting small business and entrepreneurship, we can grow jobs faster in Hawai'i. We will cut red  
4 tape that holds back small business and entrepreneurs. We will open up access to credit because we know  
5 that small businesses are some of the best job creators in our State. We will provide tax relief and tax  
6 simplification. Democrats will provide targeted funding and support for entrepreneurship and small  
7 business growth in underserved communities. We realize the critical importance of small businesses as  
8 engines of opportunity for women, people of color, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and people in  
9 rural Hawai'i and will work to nurture entrepreneurship.

10  
11 **CREATING JOBS FOR HAWAII'S YOUNG PEOPLE**

12 To the extent permitted under Federal law, Democrats will make investments to spur the creation of jobs  
13 for our young people ages 16 to 24. The unemployment rate of Hawaiian, Asian American, African  
14 American and Pacific Islander teenagers and youth with disabilities are far too high. Democrats will provide  
15 funding for a range of local programs that will put young people to work and create new career opportunities.

16  
17 **REMOVE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITIES**

18 **ENDING SYSTEMIC ETHNIC AND RACIAL INJUSTICE**

19 Democrats will promote ethnic and racial justice through fair, just and equitable governing of all public-  
20 serving institutions and in the formation of public policy. We will push for a societal transformation to make  
21 it clear that all lives matter and that there is no place for racism in our country.

22  
23 **CLOSING THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC WEALTH GAP**

24 Hawaii's economic inequality problem is even more pronounced when it comes to racial and ethnic  
25 disparities in wealth and income. DPH believes it is long past time to close this racial wealth gap. Disparities  
26 in wealth cannot be solved by the free market alone, but instead government must play a role in eliminating  
27 systemic barriers to wealth accumulation for different racial groups and improving opportunities for people  
28 from all racial and ethnic backgrounds to build wealth. State policies must remove barriers to achieving  
29 sustainable homeownership and provide for greater diversity in State contracting practices, incentivize and  
30 expand access to retirement investment programs, increase opportunities for quality jobs and education  
31 and challenge the deeply rooted structures that perpetuate and exacerbate current disparities and ultimately  
32 impair and depress Hawaii's economic growth and security.

33  
34 **REFORMING OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

35 Instead of investing in more jails and incarceration, we need to invest more in jobs and education and end  
36 the school-to-prison pipeline. We will remove barriers to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully  
37 re-enter society by "banning the box," expanding reentry progress and restoring voting rights. "Banning the  
38 Box" would allow applicants the opportunity to demonstrate their qualifications before being asked about  
39 their criminal records.

40  
41 The "war on drugs" has led to the imprisonment of hundreds of people in Hawai'i, disproportionately people  
42 of color, without reducing drug use. Whenever possible, DPH will prioritize prevention and treatment over  
43 incarceration when tackling addiction and substance use disorder. We will build on effective models of drug  
44 courts, veterans' courts, and other diversionary programs that seek to give nonviolent offenders  
45 opportunities for rehabilitation as opposed to incarceration.

46  
47 We encourage the Federal government to remove cannabis from the list of "Schedule I" Federal controlled  
48 substances and to appropriately regulate it providing reasoned pathway for future legalization. We support  
49 policies that will allow more research on marijuana, as well as reforming laws to allow legal marijuana  
50 businesses to exist without uncertainty.

51  
52 We have been inspired by the movements for criminal justice that directly address the discriminatory  
53 treatment of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and other disadvantaged ethnicities to rebuild trust in the  
54 criminal justice system. We require that convicted Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and all other races  
55 and ethnicities who reside within the State of Hawaii remain incarcerated in the State of Hawaii.

1  
2 We support reforms to our criminal justice system, including but not limited to bail reform, that encourage  
3 the reintegration of formally incarcerated individuals into greater society and reduces their rate of recidivism.

4  
5  
6 **AGRICULTURE**

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

12  
13 This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an  
14 integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and  
15 ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster  
16 agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive  
17 species and to encourage reduced holding times. We need to ensure food safety, strive towards food  
18 security and strive to set the highest standards for food quality and nutrition.

19  
20 We will promote ethical and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry and eggs.

21  
22 Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life-sustaining resource, we must protect its ecological  
23 balance while promoting the cultivation of ocean resources as a step toward greater self-sufficiency.

24 Fresh water free of pollutants shall be available to all. To ensure wise use and equitable distribution of our  
25 precious water, we must stress water conservation and alternative patterns of water treatment and  
26 consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation, water storage reservoirs, and the use of  
27 ~~[catchment systems]~~ rain barrels by the public.

28  
29 As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and  
30 diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety.

31  
32 We recognize the essential link between the availability of adequate and affordable water and low-cost  
33 electrical power as essential components of viable agricultural businesses.

34  
35 We support land use planning and infrastructure development to support sustainable diversified agriculture,  
36 including low cost inter-island transportation of agricultural products.

37  
38 We likewise support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification and value-  
39 added products.

40  
41 We support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step towards preserving high-grade  
42 productive lands for current and future needs.

43  
44 We support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at point  
45 of entry.

46  
47 We promote solid waste policies that divert green waste and food scraps for making invasive species free  
48 compost and enhanced mulch available to our farmers, landscapers, and residents.

49  
50 To support the development of new generations of farmers, we support increased availability of training in  
51 agriculture and related business requirements at centers of education around the state. We support making  
52 available incentives and low-cost loans to enable new farmers to establish farming operations.

1  
2 Small farmers are the backbone of Hawaii's agricultural future. We support the establishment of agricultural  
3 parks and clustered farming lots to allow small farmers to share required utilities and utilize fertile land  
4 efficiently. We support the establishment of community-supported food hubs for drying, canning, freezing,  
5 and distribution of agricultural crops and produce. .  
6

7 We support the development of agricultural land trusts to keep land in farming in perpetuity and to keep  
8 land costs down.  
9

## 10 **[ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/REFORM] ECONOMICS & COMMERCE**

11 ~~[A diversified and healthy economy in Hawai'i requires a well-educated and healthy citizenry. To encourage~~  
12 ~~existing and new enterprise, we need to develop a combination of tax policies and credits, lending~~  
13 ~~programs, and financial incentives that will attract the business community. The creation of intellectual~~  
14 ~~property and new start-ups should be a part of the curriculum of our business schools. Business training~~  
15 ~~should stress ethical company management that is responsive to customer needs.~~  
16

17 ~~State and county governments have a key role to play in setting reasonable standards for industry and~~  
18 ~~trade. As market conditions change, government agencies must adapt and revise regulations to promote~~  
19 ~~"green" sustainable industries that are compatible with preserving the natural and scenic beauty of Hawai'i.~~  
20 ~~In this regard, we must find ways to stimulate recycling and biodegradable packaging to minimize landfill~~  
21 ~~needs. We must move from carbon-based power to electric power.~~  
22

23 ~~Improvements to infrastructure are critical to providing a healthy base to the Hawaiian economy. Upgrading~~  
24 ~~publicly owned water works, preserving agricultural water sources, improving public transportation,~~  
25 ~~redesigning mass transit, and supporting universal basic education for all children are key elements in~~  
26 ~~maintaining a strong, sustainable economy in Hawai'i. In addition, we must abandon the "throwaway"~~  
27 ~~economy to avoid wasting our valuable resources.~~  
28

29 ~~We believe that government plays a vital role in nurturing and regulating our economic system. We believe~~  
30 ~~that private and public employers, as responsible members of community, by providing good jobs and fair~~  
31 ~~pay and benefits, are essential for economic expansion, diversification, innovation, and entrepreneurship.~~  
32 ~~We re-affirm our commitment to a progressive tax structure and will work to re-establish a system based~~  
33 ~~upon "ability to pay."]~~  
34

35 ~~Availability of financial support and a capable educated people are critical to our economic expansion and~~  
36 ~~diversification. The management of businesses should be ethical and responsive to the community with~~  
37 ~~transparency for investors and shareholders guaranteeing sound, healthy management. Innovation through~~  
38 ~~the generation of intellectual property should be the goal of our economic diversification. We support the~~  
39 ~~continuing protection of intellectual property developed in the state of Hawai'i.~~  
40

41 We must simplify government processes to encourage beneficial business development. We need to give  
42 priority to the development of "green" sustainable industries, diversification of our tourism market, and local  
43 [and] business ownership. We need financial literacy and asset building programs to strengthen our 'ohana.  
44 Green commerce includes, but is not limited to, biodegradable or recycling packaging. We need to pursue  
45 relationships with the information technology industry. We ~~[need to]~~ must invest in world-class higher  
46 education to stimulate our economic resources ~~[-W]~~ and we ~~[need to]~~ must reduce our dependence on  
47 tourism, real estate development, and military. A truly diversified economy will help to create diversified  
48 job[s-] market.  
49

## 50 **TECHNOLOGY**

51 We recognize that the responsible use and development of technology in all its manifestations offers  
52 immense potential for our community ~~[-government, including institutions of higher education and business~~

1 ~~sectors]. We encourage [synergistic] research, development, [commercialization] and educational~~  
2 ~~programs to promote technological proficiency and innovation. [In particular w]~~We support Science,  
3 Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) initiatives in our public, private and charter  
4 schools as these prepare the next generation to address the needs of our state. ~~[We also support programs~~  
5 ~~that facilitate incubator, i.e. start up, opportunities for new and promising technologies, and encourage the~~  
6 ~~local retention of our intellectual resources.]~~

7  
8 We maintain that state and local government databases should be integrated to promote efficiency in  
9 government. We support both net neutrality to ensure free and open access to the internet, and the  
10 protection of personal data as a personal right.

## 11 **TRANSPORTATION**

12  
13  
14 We recognize the necessity of providing a safe, efficient transportation infrastructure. We endorse efforts  
15 to promote less reliance on imported fossil fuel and to support energy-efficient methods of transportation.  
16 Therefore, we support county, state, and federal efforts to provide more efficient and punctual methods  
17 of public transportation, to include but not limited to: sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, bicycle paths and  
18 lanes, mass transit, highways, airports, and ferry systems. We support the allocation of resources including  
19 public funds to address all necessary transportation issues, including increased funding for mass transit.  
20 We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on the automobile by employing private and public use of  
21 alternative modes of travel. We encourage efforts to provide better vehicle and pedestrian safety. We  
22 support initiatives that will provide our state with more fuel-efficient vehicles, affordable mass transit and  
23 well-identified bike lanes. In order to be best served by mass transit, we must recognize the importance of  
24 the integration in an urban setting of any new modes of mass transportation with existing and future public  
25 streets and highways, bike lanes, retail establishments and services, and truly-affordable housing – while  
26 maintaining a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all future high-density developments.

27  
28 We support the development of alternative emergency options for potential evacuation, with special  
29 attention to rural areas that only have one access point.

## 30 **GLOBAL ECONOMY AND INSTITUTIONS**

31 DPH will protect and grow the global economy. We believe we must be responsible stewards and work with  
32 our partners to prevent another worldwide financial crisis.

33  
34  
35 DPH believes that global institutions – most prominently the United Nations – and multilateral organizations  
36 have a powerful role to play and are an important amplifier of American strength and influence. Many of  
37 these organizations need reform and updating and as such, we cannot turn our back on the international  
38 system that our country built. It has provided decades of stability and economic growth for the world and  
39 for America.

## 40 **B. HEALTHCARE, HOUSING, AND SOCIO-CULTURAL WELLBEING**

### 41 **HEALTHCARE**

42  
43 ~~Access to health care is a basic human need. Our citizens and visitors have an inherent right to high~~  
44 ~~quality, high standard health care. The state legislature and the federal government should take all~~  
45 ~~appropriate steps to create and support a health care system of public, for-profit, and nonprofit hospitals~~  
46 ~~and other medical facilities that follow best practices to enhance and protect and preserve life.~~

47  
48  
49 ~~We support the development of long-term care financing solutions, better pay and working conditions for~~  
50 ~~all health care providers, parity of mental and physical health coverage, and appropriate regulation of~~  
51 ~~health care delivery systems. We also support the development of empirically validated prevention~~  
52 ~~programs targeted at major public health issues.~~

53  
54 ~~We support national healthcare reform via single payer universal healthcare. We also encourage the~~

55 ~~inclusion of a public option in the current national health care plan.~~

56

57 We believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and our healthcare system must put people before  
58 profits. The high costs of insurance and insufficient coverage mean that many people do not have access  
59 to the care they need, which creates devastating social costs that are also a significant economic burden  
60 to the state.

48

49 Therefore, we support robust funding of the Hawaii Health Authority or other State Health Agency to design  
50 a statewide, unified, cost-effective healthcare system that includes comprehensive healthcare services for  
51 all, and then submit that design to the legislature for evaluation.

52



1 Such a universal, comprehensive healthcare system would: (1) Unify the delivery of healthcare in Hawaii  
2 by establishing a single network, benefit structure, reimbursement system, drug formulary, and prior  
3 authorization policies. All state-regulated payers would be required to pay into this unified system, including  
4 Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, and health insurance provided by the state and counties, and commercial  
5 health insurance plans funded by employers and individuals.(2) provide parity of mental and physical health  
6 coverage; (3) provide cost-effective regulation of comprehensive health care delivery systems with an  
7 administrative overhead of less than 3%; (4) include and protect all women’s healthcare needs including  
8 reproductive rights and the healthcare needs of the LGBTQIA community; (5) provide preventative health  
9 programs; (6) provide long-term care, dental, and vision care; and (7) provide for *Compact of Free*  
10 *Association (Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau) (COFA)* citizens and other  
11 non-citizens lawfully residing in Hawaii on an equal basis with US citizens and permanent residents. 13  
14 We urge Hawaii’s Medicaid Program to join an existing multi-state prescription drug discount purchasing  
15 group as Medicaid, and then, via the HHA’s ability to create a unified statewide system, enable delivery of  
16 that discount to all state residents.

17  
18 On the federal level, we support a universal single-payer healthcare system similar to or better than HR  
19 676, Expanded and Improved Medicare For All, wherein all individuals residing in the United States and  
20 U.S. territories are provided with comprehensive healthcare services.

21  
22 **REDUCING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS**

23 We will crack down on price gouging by drug companies and cap the amount that consumers have to pay  
24 out-of-pocket every month on prescription drugs. We will prohibit anti-competitive “pay for delay” deals that  
25 keep generic drugs off the market, and we will allow individuals, pharmacists, and wholesalers to import  
26 prescription drugs from licensed pharmacies in Canada and other countries with appropriate safety  
27 protections. Democrats will also fight to make such that Medicare will negotiate lower prices with drug  
28 manufacturers.

29  
30 **ENABLING CUTTING-EDGE MEDICAL RESEARCH**

31 DPH believes that we must accelerate the pace of medical progress, ensuring that we invest more in our  
32 scientists and give them the resources they need to invigorate our fundamental studies in the life sciences  
33 in a growing, stable and predictable way. We must make progress against the full range of diseases,  
34 including diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer’s, HIV an AIDS, cancer, and other diseases, especially chronic ones.

35  
36  
37 **COMBATING DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION**

38 We must confront the epidemic of drug and alcohol addiction, specially the opioid and crystal  
39 methamphetamine (Ice) crisis and other drugs plaguing our communities, by vastly expanding access to  
40 prevention and treatment, supporting recovery, helping community organizations, and promoting better  
41 practices by prescribers. The DPH is committed to assisting people struggling with addiction in Hawai’i to  
42 find and sustain healthy lives by encouraging full recovery and integration into society and working to  
43 remove common barriers to gainful employment housing and education. We will continue to fight to expand  
44 access to care for addition services and ensure that insurance coverage is equal to that of any other health  
45 conditions. We should also do more to educate our youth as well as their families teachers, coaches,  
46 mentors, and friends to intervene early to prevent dug and alcohol abuse and addiction. We should help  
47 state and local leaders establish evidence-based, age-appropriate, and locally-tailored prevention  
48 programs. These programs include school-based drug education programs that have been shown to have  
49 meaningful effects on risky behavior; community-based peer mentorship and leadership programs; and  
50 after-school activities that deter drug use and encourage life skills.

51  
52 **TREATING MENTAL HEALTH**

53 We must treat mental health issues with the same care and seriousness that we treat issues of physical  
54 health, support a robust mental health workforce, and promote better integration of the behavioral and

1 general health care systems. Recognizing that maintaining good mental health is critical to all people,  
2 including young people’s health and development, we will work with health professionals to ensure that all  
3 children have access to mental health care. We must also expand community-based treatment o substance  
4 abuse disorders and mental health condition and fully enforce our parity law.

5  
6 **SECURING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, RIGHTS, AND JUSTICE**

7 DPH is committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights and justice. We believe  
8 unequivocally that every woman should have access to quality reproductive healthcare services, including  
9 safe and legal abortion – regardless of where she lives, how much money she makes, or how she is insured.  
10 We believe that reproductive health is core to women’s, men’s and young people’s health and wellbeing.  
11 We condemn and will combat any acts of violence, harassment, intimidation of reproductive health  
12 providers, patients, and staff. We will defend the Affordable Care Act (“ACA”) , which extends affordable  
13 preventative healthcare to women, including no-cost contraception and prohibits discrimination in  
14 healthcare based on gender.

15  
16 We will address the discrimination and barriers that inhibit meaningful access to reproductive healthcare  
17 services, including those based on gender sexuality, race, income, disability, and other factors. We  
18 recognize that quality, affordable comprehensive healthcare, evidence-based sex education and a full  
19 range of family planning services help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and thereby also  
20 reduce the need for abortions.

21  
22 **ENSURING LONG-TERM CARE, SERVICES, AND SUPPORTS**

23 We face a long-term care crisis that prevents too many seniors and people with disabilities from being able  
24 to live with dignity at home or in their communities. The vast majority of people who are aging or living with  
25 a disability want to do so at home, but face challenges finding and affording the support they need to do  
26 so. Programs that emphasize independence rather than institutionalization must be better structured to  
27 support them. DPH will take steps to strengthen and expand the home care workforce, give seniors and  
28 people with disabilities access to quality, affordable long-term care, services, and supports, and ensure that  
29 all of these resources are readily available at home or in the community.

30  
31 **PROTECTING AND PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH**

32 Investment in our State’s crumbling public health infrastructure is critical to ensuring preparedness for  
33 emerging threats; for preventing disease, illness, and injury in communities; and for promoting good health  
34 and wellbeing. Inadequate access to public health services has a disparate impact on poor, rural and  
35 minority communities where public health services are a significant source of healthcare. DPH will fight for  
36 increased investments in public health to better address emerging threats and the needs across our State.  
37 We will ensure adequate funding of public health education at the undergraduate, graduate, and medical  
38 school levels as well as adequate funding of residency training programs in public health, preventative  
39 medicine, and its subspecialties.

40  
41 We must take a number of proactive steps so that all people – regardless of location, income or history –  
42 have the opportunity to live full, healthy lives. Democrats will fight for increased investments and  
43 coordination in public health to better address emerging threats as well as persistent needs across our  
44 State. Health equity among the communities remains elusive – higher income is strongly associated with  
45 longer life expectancy and the gap in life expectancy between the richest and poorest people is increasing.  
46 We continue to see unacceptable differences in health outcomes by race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.  
47 A growing body of research demonstrates the link between social factors – such as poverty, unemployment,  
48 experience of discrimination, and housing instability – and poor health. DPH will continue to pursue policies  
49 addressing these social factors and empowering communities to respond to their most pressing health  
50 needs.

51  
52 We cannot support the provisions that continue the practice of denying women coverage for abortion  
53 services. ~~[Access to these services should not continue to be denied to women who most need these~~  
54 services]. All women’s healthcare decisions should be made by the patients and their doctors, and not

1 restricted by the government. Contraceptives and preventative cancer screening should be easily available  
2 to all women.

3  
4 We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities  
5 through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all  
6 age groups, as well as on better nutrition.

7  
8 We also support the establishment of adequate mental health and statewide drug rehabilitation programs  
9 set up in conjunction with policing policies aimed at enabling all that seek assistance to obtain whatever  
10 support assistance is needed to allow them to remain free of drug dependence.

11  
12 We support fair and equitable access to medical ~~[marijuana]~~ cannabis to be administered by the State of  
13 Hawaii's Department of Health.

14  
15 We support the passage and enforcement of laws banning both medical and therapeutic treatments for the  
16 purpose of forcing sexual orientation, ~~[and]~~ gender identity and/or gender expression conversions, such as  
17 conversion therapy (aka reparative therapy), for minors and adults at the State and Federal level. We  
18 believe that everyone should have the opportunity to live a true and authentic self.

19  
20 We applaud the passage of the "Our Care, Our Choice Act" which gives terminally ill and mentally capable  
21 adult patients the right to make their own end of life choices which includes medical aid in dying. We support  
22 all efforts to ensure that all terminally ill and mentally capable adult patients can make their own end of life  
23 choices, including full access to medical aid in dying.

## 24 25 **DRUG POLICY REFORM**

26 We support legalization and regulation of ~~[marijuana]~~ cannabis and other cannabis derivatives. We support  
27 research and adoption of successful crime reduction strategies currently implemented in other States and  
28 Nations.

## 29 30 **HOUSING**

31 Housing is a basic human right ~~[need]~~ and we believe that adequate, accessible, affordable, and safe  
32 housing should be available to all residents of Hawai'i. Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to  
33 individual income is the basis of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy. Recent and past  
34 real estate bubbles have fueled disproportionate rent increases, a key contributor to homelessness.

35 Therefore, we support efforts to promote truly affordable housing for all citizens who rent.

36 We also need economically affordable ~~[home ownership,]~~ housing and encourage increased support to this  
37 end including preservation of existing housing stock. To this end, we support policies which re-think the  
38 current formulato determine "affordability" as this formula puts both rentals and sales out of the reach of  
most working families in Hawai'i. We strongly urge that the definition of "affordable" be amended to 20%-  
25% of monthly income for all income brackets.

41  
42 We support the statutory "Senior Circuit Breaker Refundable Tax Credit" or other relief to ensure that senior  
43 citizens are not taxed out of their homes. We insist on a substantial increase in the statutory exemptions  
44 from attachment or execution of personal residences.

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

47  
48  
49 We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawaii's homeless population to get  
50 them off the streets and reintegrated into society with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups  
51 including, but not limited to, the Hawaiian community, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans, the  
52 aged, and lesbian, gay, bisexual[,] and transgender, queer, questioning, intersexual asexual (LGBTQIA)

1 homeless youth population. We believe in the concept of “Housing First” and in developing affordable  
2 housing policies and programs like “Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD).”

#### 4 **HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

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

8  
9 We believe that the concept of “Family” includes people regardless of sexual orientation, blood relation,  
10 marital status, or gender, gender identity or gender expression, who choose to join together to offer one  
11 another moral, spiritual and economic support.

12  
13 We support full equality and nondiscrimination with respect to duties, benefits and responsibilities  
14 regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

15  
16 We believe in women's equality and right to privacy, including but not limited to equal access to reproductive  
17 services and care, shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence, and the right of rape victims to  
18 emergency contraception in the emergency room.

19  
20 We support the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, ~~[Transgender and Intersex community to full equality~~  
21 ~~before the law, including but not limited to, Marriage Equality both at the State and Federal level. We oppose~~  
22 ~~discriminatory federal and state constitutional amendments and other attempts to deny equal protection of~~  
23 ~~the laws to committed same-sex couples who seek the same respect and responsibilities as other married~~  
24 ~~couples. We celebrate the overturning of the Defense of Marriage Act and support the passage of the~~  
25 ~~Respect for Marriage Act with its current language as of May 2016.,]~~ Queer, Questioning, Intersex and  
26 Asexual (LGBTQIA) community to full equality under the law. We support and celebrate the passage of  
27 Marriage Equality at the State and Federal Level. We oppose any efforts to repeal Marriage Equality. We  
28 call upon all to work towards a society where members of the LGBTQIA community are accepted and  
29 honored for who they are.

30  
31 We support the full implementation of a law that allows members of the transgender community to amend  
32 their birth certificates to accurately reflect their self-identified genders. We support changes in the law that  
33 ensure that no one makes a decision for a person of what their gender is but that individual.

34  
35 We support removing or expanding the choices for gender markers on birth certificates, state IDs and driver  
36 licenses. We believe in equality and justice for individuals that do not adhere to the gender binary and their  
37 right to privacy. We will work towards a world that embraces gender diversity. We support consensual  
38 custody rights for children born through IVF and adoptive rights of transgender and gender non-binary  
39 people.

40  
41 We believe that all families should have an equal opportunity to build their assets and become self-  
42 sufficient; and we support a strong safety net of programs that will afford them the opportunity to do so. We  
43 must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with a safe and healthy  
44 environment in which to grow and thrive.

45  
46 We support initiatives that enhance access and equity in education, employment, and business  
47 opportunities intended to lift families and individuals out of poverty and remove existing barriers to equal  
48 opportunity in our communities.

49  
50 We support legislation and best practice policies that prioritize the safety, security and well-being of our  
51 foster children, who are our most vulnerable keiki in our community. This is the paramount consideration  
52 when making decisions regarding the time frame, criteria and justification for reunification and family

1 placement. We will always respect family and familial bonds, but reunification with every biological family  
2 is not always the safest, most secure or in the best interests of every child. This is especially true in  
3 aggravated circumstances cases involving drug use history, physical abuse, sexual abuse and unstable  
4 housing. We strongly support the efforts of parents and all people to recover and reorganize their lives for  
5 the better, but our ultimate concern must also be for the short and long-term safety and wellbeing of our  
6 foster children.

### 7 8 **ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

9 DPH is committed to ending the scourge of violence against women wherever it occurs – whether in our  
10 homes, streets, schools, military, or elsewhere. We will support comprehensive services for survivors and  
11 increase prevention efforts in our communities and on our campuses. DPH will fight to bring an end to  
12 sexual assault – wherever it occurs, including on campuses – because everyone deserves a safe  
13 environment where they can learn and thrive, not live in fear. We will provide comprehensive support to  
14 survivors and ensure a fair process for all on-campus disciplinary proceedings and in the criminal justice  
15 system. We will increase sexual violence prevention education programs that cover issues like consent  
16 and bystander intervention, not only in college, but also in secondary school.

### 17 18 **HONORING NATIVE HAWAIIANS**

19 Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai'i and deserve a just relationship with the [s]State and  
20 [f]Federal governments. [~~We support Native Hawaiian rights to self-determination, in the formation of their~~  
21 ~~chosen governmental entity.] We support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing~~  
22 ~~practices. We value and wish to foster the preservation of our host culture. We support recognition of Native~~  
23 ~~Hawaiians as indigenous people as provided by the U.S. Constitution; such recognition will add to the~~  
24 ~~process of Native Hawaiian self-determination. We support the efforts of Native Hawaiians to pursue self-~~  
25 ~~determination. We also support their right to pursue the international rights of Native Hawaiian people.~~

26  
27  
28  
29 We acknowledge the past injustices and the misguided, harmful Federal and State policies and actions  
30 based on outdated and discredited values and beliefs that resulted in the destruction of the Hawaiian  
31 Nation's economies, social, and religious systems, the taking of their lands, and the creation of  
32 intergenerational trauma that exists to this day. We believe that we have a moral and profound duty to  
33 honor, respect, and uphold our sacred obligation to the Hawaiian Nation State and the Hawaiian people.

34  
35  
36 DPH also supports efforts for self-governance and self-determination of Native Hawaiians whose values  
37 are the foundation of the Hawaiian Islands. We support proactive actions by the Federal and State  
38 governments to enhance Native Hawaiian culture, health, language, and education. We recognize and  
39 honor the contributions and sacrifices made in service to our county by Native Hawaiians.

40  
41 We support the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in decisions  
42 related to county and state affairs.

43  
44 We support Hawaiian language immersion schools that contribute to the revitalization and continuation of  
45 the Hawaiian language and appropriate assessments that accurately reflect Hawaiian language immersion  
46 students' progress and support the Hawaiian language immersion program. We support Hawaiian-focused  
47 schools and courses that provide culturally-based education in order to maximize choices in life and work.  
48 We support educational programming and efforts that embody Hawaiian values, language, culture and  
49 history as a foundation to prepare students for success in college, career and communities.

50  
51 We support the construction and use of micro housing units on Hawaiian home lands approved by the  
52 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and leased to native Hawaiian beneficiaries who meet the minimum  
53 Hawaiian blood quantum requirement, notwithstanding county zoning laws. We support multi-level housing  
54 in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and agribusinesses for Native Hawaiians by creating ag-tech zones

1 to promote agricultural innovation and diversify the State's agricultural systems for domestic consumption  
2 and export.

3  
4 We support Native Hawaiians in their efforts to secure justice from our Federal and State governments to  
5 repair harms endured by the Hawaiian People and the 'āina since 1893. We support the right of Native  
6 Hawaiians to self-determination, including the formation of their chosen governmental entity.

## 7 8 **IMMIGRATION**

9 We believe that our nation should have a fair immigration policy that recognizes the diversity of our country  
10 and the contribution that immigrants make and have made in the sciences, arts, and culture. We support  
11 an immigration policy that provides a reasonable and timely path to citizenship for immigrants who follow  
12 the rule of law. We support a path to US citizenship for Dreamers (children of undocumented citizens.) We  
13 encourage policies that avoid militarization of our borders. We abhor policies that would deny education  
14 and health and human services to immigrant children. We must ensure that immigrant children are never  
15 separated from their families and are treated with fairness and respect in our schools and healthcare  
16 system. We oppose [i]mmigration laws [that] should not discriminate based on sexual orientation, gender  
17 identity or expression.

18  
19 We oppose racial profiling and encourage policies that avoid the militarization of our borders and deplore  
20 policies that would deny education and health and human services to immigrant children. We need to  
21 ensure that immigrant children, whether their parents are documented or undocumented, are treated with  
22 fairness and respect in our schools and in our healthcare system.

23  
24 We recognize that most undocumented residents are simply looking for a better life for their families. We  
25 support a national immigration policy that holds employers that violate immigration law accountable and  
26 provides penalties proportionate to their responsibility.

27  
28 We support the United States embracing and welcoming refugees to our shores.

## 29 30 **PROMOTING ARTS AND CULTURE**

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

38  
39 DPH is proud of our support for arts funding and education. Investments in the arts strengthens our  
40 communities and contributes to Hawaii's rich cultural heritage. We will continue to support public funding  
41 for the Arts and Humanities and for programs providing art and music education in primary and secondary  
42 schools. Hawai'i prospers when we protect and promote the unique artistic and cultural contributions of the  
28 artists who create and preserve Hawaii's heritage.

## 44 45 **C. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELL BEING**

### 46 47 **ENVIRONMENT**

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

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

4  
5 The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawaii's natural resources are connected to the health  
6 and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment,  
7 which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

8  
9 We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and  
10 expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for  
11 water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh  
12 water resources.

13  
14 We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems  
15 and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone  
16 Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of  
17 coastal resources.

18  
19 We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private  
20 stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

21  
22 We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates  
23 and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change.  
24 This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous  
25 peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological  
26 knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.

27  
28 Cesspools throughout the State of Hawai'i threaten drinking water supplies, coral reefs and the health of  
29 people who swim and surf in our island waters. They create a serious public safety issue, environmental  
30 problem and economic danger that is exacerbated by the effects of climate change. We support septic  
31 tank upgrades and wastewater sewage systems where feasible by 2025.

32  
**33 ENERGY**

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

40  
41 We oppose any tax breaks to fossil fuel industries.

42  
43 We support energy independence, self-sufficiency, affordability and reliability for Hawai'i through the  
44 development of renewable alternative energy sources. Specifically, we need to support policies that foster  
45 the development of energy production methods that de-emphasize carbon based fuels and promote  
46 renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC).

47  
48 Electricity rates in Hawaii are among the highest in the nation despite the fact that we enjoy an abundance  
49 of sunshine year-round. Electric utility companies and cooperatives must open the grid to alternative power  
50 sources including solar panels and geothermal energy. We support the effort of our government officials to  
51 require utilities to provide for the maximum, comprehensive, integrated use of renewable energy and  
52 associated technologies such as storage and smart grid technologies.

1 **COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE BUILD A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY, AND SECURE ENVIROMENTAL JUSTICE: BUILDING A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY**

3 We are committed to getting 100 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources within a decade. We  
4 will cut energy waste in homes, schools, hospitals, and offices through energy efficient improvements;  
5 modernize our electric grid; and make manufacturing the cleanest and most efficient in the world. These  
6 efforts will create hundreds of new jobs and save families and businesses money on their monthly energy  
7 bills. We will transform Hawaii's transportation by reducing fossil fuel consumption through cleaner fuels,  
8 vehicle electrification, increasing the fuel efficiency of cars, boilers, ships, and trucks. We will make new  
9 investments in public transportation and build bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across our urban and  
10 suburban areas. We believe that the tax code must reflect our commitment to a clean energy future by  
11 preserving and extending tax incentives for energy efficiency and clean energy

12  
13 Democrats believe that carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases should be priced to reflect  
14 their negative externalities, and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and help meet our  
15 climate goals. Democrats are committed to defending, implementing and extending smart pollution and  
16 efficiency standards and fuel economy standards for automobiles and heavy-duty vehicles, building codes  
17 and appliance standards. We are also committed to expanding clean energy research and development.

18  
19 We will work to expand access to cost-saving renewable energy by low-income households, create good-  
20 paying jobs in communities that struggled with energy poverty, and oppose efforts by utilities to limit  
21 consumer choice or slow clean energy deployment. We will streamline State permitting to accelerate the  
22 construction of new transmission lines to get low-cost renewable energy to market, and incentivize wind,  
23 solar, and other renewable energy.

24  
25 **PROTECTING OUR PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS**

26 DPH believes in the conservation and collaborative stewardship of our shared natural heritage: the public  
27 lands and waterways, the oceans, mountains and all that makes Hawai'i great outdoors priceless. We need  
28 policies and investments that will keep Hawaii's public lands public, strengthen protections for our natural  
29 and cultural resources, increase access to parks and public lands for all people, protect native species and  
30 wildlife, and harness the immense economic and social potential of our public lands and waters.

31  
32 DPH will approach conservation of our public lands and waters in a way that reflects the diversity of our  
33 State, by actively engaging all people in the great outdoors and protecting natural landscapes and cultural  
34 sites that tell the story of Hawaii's complex history. To help meet these goals, we will work to build a diverse  
35 workforce in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) that manage Hawaii's public lands,  
36 waters, and cultural sites.

37  
38 Democrats oppose efforts to undermine the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act to protect  
39 threatened and endangered species.

40  
41 Agricultural practices have a significant impact on our water, land, oceans, and the climate. Therefore, we  
42 believe that in order to be effective in keeping our air and water clean and combating climate change we  
43 must enlist farmers as partners in promoting conservation and stewardship.

44  
45 **CONFRONT GLOBAL THREATS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP**

46  
47  
48 Climate change poses an urgent and severe threat to our national security, and DPH believes it would be  
49 a grave mistake for the United States to wait for another nation to take the lead in combating the global  
50 climate emergency. According to the military, climate change is a threat multiplier that is already  
51 contributing to new conflicts over resources, catastrophic natural disasters, and the degradation of vital  
52 ecosystems across the globe. DPH recognizes the catastrophic consequences facing our state, our  
53 country, our planet, and civilization.

54



1 We believe that Hawai'i must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. We are committed  
2 to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat. Our  
3 generation must lead the fight against climate change and we applaud Hawaii's leadership in joining the  
4 historic Paris Climate Accord. We will not only meet the goals set in Paris, we will seek to exceed them  
5 and push other countries to do the same by slashing carbon pollution and rapidly driving down emissions  
6 of potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons. We will support other States and developing countries  
7 in their efforts to mitigate carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, deploy more clean energy, and  
8 invest in climate resilience and adaptation.

## 9 10 **D. WELLBEING OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OF THE GOVERNED**

### 11 12 **PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS**

13 It is a core principle of the Democratic Party to maximize voter participation for all Americans. Our  
14 democracy suffers when nearly two thirds of our citizens do not or cannot participate. Democrats believe  
15 we must make it easier to vote, not harder.

16  
17 We will bring our democracy into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by expanding early voting and vote-by-mail, implementing  
18 universal automatic voter registration and same day registration and making Election Day a national  
19 holiday. We will restore voter rights for those who have served their sentences. And we will continue to  
20 fight against discriminatory voter identification laws which disproportionately burden young voters, diverse  
21 communities, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, low-income families, people with disabilities, the  
22 elderly, and women.

### 23 24 25 **GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM**

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

30  
31 ~~We strongly oppose discrimination in the provision of services either by the Government or by a business~~  
32 ~~to prospective customers and we find the practice abhorrent, whatever the source of the prejudice, which~~  
33 ~~motivates discrimination. We strongly support the efforts of our candidates and elected officials to also~~  
34 ~~vehemently oppose any legislation that would permit and/or endorse discrimination.]~~

35  
36 ~~We support enforcement of sunshine laws and transparency in legislative and administrative sessions and~~  
37 ~~meetings that discuss and make policy. This includes the protection of funding for the televising of public~~  
38 ~~hearings at the State and County levels, as well as the funding of the public access room at the legislature.]~~

39  
40 ~~We support limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations, corporations, and~~  
41 ~~individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all elections, to ensure that the power~~  
42 ~~to bring positive change to our county and state lies in the hands of individual voters. We do not believe~~  
43 ~~that money equals speech or that corporations are people for purposes of First Amendment protections.~~  
44 ~~We support and encourage legislation that would limit the impact of [overturning] "The Citizens United~~  
45 ~~Decision". We also support fully funded elections office.]~~

46  
47 We believe that a government based on the will of the people but respecting the rights of all is a potential  
48 solution to its citizens' needs and should not be denigrated as an option to a completely laissez-faire society.  
49 Thus, fair and equitable taxation is essential for good government, as providing series to society is worthy  
50 of financial support. We believe that this will adequately, efficiently, courteously, openly and fairly  
51 administer to the needs of the people. We support the incorporation of ho'oponopono, ethics in  
52 government, and a fair, voter-verifiable, fully transparent and auditable voting system. We also support  
53 enforcement of all sunshine laws and transparency in sessions and meetings that discuss and make policy.  
54

1 This includes the protection of funding for the televising of public hearings at the State and County levels,  
2 as well as the funding of the Public Access Room at the legislature.

3  
4 We support limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations, corporations, and  
5 individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all elections, to ensure that the power  
6 to bring positive change to our county and State lies in the hands of individual voters. We do not believe  
7 that money equals “free speech.”

8  
9 We must ensure the security of our electoral process with regards to electronic infiltration and manipulation.

10  
11 We support the separation of State and Church as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of  
12 America in the First Amendment as well as Article VI, and believe this right is meant to support equality and  
13 not erode it. We also oppose any legislation that weakens that wall. Separation of State and Church is  
14 meant to ensure that no single religion can impose its particular beliefs on members of the general  
15 population.

16  
17  
18 ~~[We support restorative justice that repairs the harm caused by criminal behaviors and reintegrates the~~  
19 ~~offenders as contributing members of society. Likewise, we support opportunities for those who have been~~  
20 ~~incarcerated to effect a smooth transition back into the community and make available health, educational,~~  
21 ~~and other assistance programs needed to allow them to become productive and respected members of the~~  
22 ~~community. We want the practice of private for-profit detention centers and prisons prohibited.~~

23  
24 ~~We expect all elected and appointed officials, government employees, and members of boards,~~  
25 ~~commissions and other bodies to maintain the highest ethical standards, as required by Article XIV of the~~  
26 ~~Hawaii State Constitution. We oppose revolving door policies and exemptions from the State Ethics Code~~  
27 ~~that undermine the integrity of government.]~~

28  
29 We believe in the constant renewal of both the Democratic Party and electoral reform in Hawai'i state  
30 government through the re-institution [and we encourage the legislature to re-examine the restoration] of  
31 multi-member legislative districts. The result would provide opportunities for both experienced as well as  
32 new candidates for elective office to serve, thus reflecting the changing demographics of Hawai'i.

33  
34 ~~[As we are a nation of laws and n]Notwithstanding claims of national security, the policy of the Democratic~~  
35 ~~Party of Hawaii is to demand [we call upon] the President and Congress of the United States, in order to~~  
36 ~~uphold due process and its application to any place "subject to [United States'] jurisdiction", to remove all~~  
37 ~~prisoners at Guantanamo to the United States, provide them with a fair civilian trial, and forthwith close the~~  
38 ~~detainee facilities at Guantanamo that have offered unconstitutionally cruel and unusual [incarceration]~~  
39 ~~punishment.~~

40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49 **SAFETY, SECURITY, NATURAL DISASTERS & OTHER EMERGENCIES**

50 We support safety and security in all dimensions as a basic function of government. We support just law  
51 enforcement and enhancement of crime prevention, without comprising civil liberties. This encompasses  
52 the full protection of the law, including enforcement of victim's rights, restitution, counseling, therapy, Orders  
53 of Protection, and shelters for victims and survivors of domestic violence and other criminal wrongs, as  
54 applicable. We support appropriate training for all law enforcement officers and agency personnel. We  
55 support full enforcement of the State of Hawai'i's hate crimes statute.

56  
57 We demand the protection of the people of Hawai'i and their property against natural and man-made  
58 disasters. We believe in the science of climate change, affirm human activity as its primary cause and main  
59 driver, and support emergency preparedness and planning efforts to mitigate its impacts. This includes  
60 investment in early warning systems, emergency management and response systems, and adequate  
61 emergency sheltering.

1  
2 **E. NATIONAL SECURITY, THE MILITARY, PEACE AND VETERANS RIGHTS**  
3

4 **NATIONAL ISSUES**

5 Many issues can only be addressed at the national level. As American citizens and Hawai'i Democrats we  
6 have the right and the duty to express our views on these issues to our Congressional delegation, as well  
7 as to the representatives we send to the Democratic National Convention and the Democratic National  
8 Committee.  
9

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

16 We believe that private ventures that may potentially endanger the environmental security of the planet  
17 should be closely and firmly regulated and monitored in their activities by the Federal Government. The  
18 Federal agencies responsible for such oversight must be adequately funded and staffed and must also  
19 receive appropriate and expert public oversight. The Gulf oil spill is the most compelling case in point.  
20

21 We support Federal initiatives, both from Congress and from the future administrations that would mitigate  
22 the catastrophic cultural, economic, and environmental damage created by federal policies on globalization.  
23

24 We condemn the deeply flawed process by which our Government has decided to use our military forces  
25 in acts of preventive war.  
26

27 Companies that shut down their operations and move to another place should be forced to make their  
28 abandoned employees and communities whole and to pay their fair share of taxes. Companies, which  
29 move their headquarters to foreign countries to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, should be sanctioned  
30 and fined.  
31

32 We ask that federal policies that violate the U. S. Constitution and/or international law, many of which were  
33 initiated by the previous Republican administration, be reexamined. Where they are found to be detrimental  
34 to our civil rights, and to human rights in general, and unless they are clearly essential to prevent clear and  
35 present danger to our national security, we call for their abolition.  
36

37  
38 **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

39 We support a foreign policy that respects Constitutional process and rights, honors human dignity, promotes  
40 adherence to international agreements, and integrates diplomatic, economic, military, educational and  
41 cultural policies. We support a fully funded, prompt, orderly and complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops and  
42 military contractors from Iraq. We oppose measures that compromise full withdrawal and endorse  
43 diplomatic efforts with all parties in the region. We believe that war should be a last resort but, when deemed  
44 necessary, should occur only within the confines of international law and international cooperation. We  
45 recognize that regime change can be more harmful and is not always the best policy.  
46

47 **FOREIGN POLICY**

48 We support a strong foreign policy that promotes peace, human rights, international cooperation and the  
49 rule of law. We believe that war should be a last resort but, when deemed necessary, should occur only  
50 within the confines of international law and international cooperation.  
51

52 **U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
54

1 The Armed Forces in Hawai'i and their families sacrifice to serve and defend our country and to help us in  
2 time of need. We encourage the continuation of efforts to coordinate military activities with affected  
3 communities. Hawai'i should honor their service by strongly supporting the best possible care of  
4 wounded and disabled veterans. We therefore support efforts to fully fund the Hawaii  
5 Office of Veterans Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA).

6  
7 We support our Veterans and our Veterans organizations and efforts to keep our Veteran's Hospitals fully  
8 funded.

9  
10 We oppose further attempts to privatize VA healthcare. We support supplementing VA healthcare with  
11 community care when needed. However, we support the VA as the primary medical care coordinator.

12  
13  
14 We support the expansion of the presumption of herbicide exposure for veterans who served in the territorial  
15 waters of Vietnam during the Vietnam War, collectively known as Blue Water Veterans.

16  
17 We honor the service of all of our military members.

18  
19 We support the efforts of our Congressional Delegation to extend benefits for our Reservists and National  
20 Guard who have suffered brain injury and/or PTSD. We support efforts to protect our troops from sexual  
21 predators who commit sexual assault and command rape within their service branches  
22 and support specialized treatment for victims of such crimes.

23  
24 We oppose war profiteering and the privatization of combat through employment of paramilitary  
25 contractors, especially the award of no-bid or sole source contracts.

26  
27 We support the protection of our 'āina against destruction by military use.

28  
29 We support the best training for our military, we urge protection of our 'āina from long-term degradation and  
30 prevention of harm to our cultural and community assets.

31  
32 We support full funding for the Veterans Treatment Court Program throughout the state. Many veterans  
33 struggle with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other illnesses due to their military service. The  
34 loss of the structure and camaraderie of military life can further complicate these illnesses. As a result,  
35 some veterans enter the justice system. We, therefore, want all Democrats to support full funding for the  
36 Veterans Treatment Court Program throughout the state, which assists these veterans in their reintegration  
37 to society.

38  
39 **SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AND KEEP FAITH WITH OUR VETERANS**  
40 **VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS**

41 Our country has a sacred, moral responsibility to keep faith with all our veterans and wounded warriors.  
42 We must take care of those who have their lives on the line to defend us. That is why we will push for more  
43 educational benefits and job training, end chronic homelessness and combat suicide, and protect and  
44 preserve the post-9/11 GI Bill for future generations. We will also ensure that reservists and Guard  
45 members are treated fairly when it comes to employment health, education benefits, deployment, and  
46 reintegration.

47  
48 We will fight for every veteran to have timely access to high-quality health care and timely processing of  
49 claims and appeals. We must also look for more ways to make certain the VA provides veteran-centric  
50 care, such as providing women with full and equal treatment, including reproductive health services;  
51 expanding mental health programs; continuing effort to identify and treat invisible, latent, and toxic wounds  
52 of war; treating post-traumatic stress; and expanding the post-9/11 veteran's caregiver program to include  
53 all veterans.

1 **A STRONG MILITARY**

2 DPH welcomes and honors all Americans who want to serve and will continue to fight for their equal rights  
3 and recognition. We commit ourselves to insuring fair treatment for LGBTQIA veterans, including by  
proactively reviewing and upgrading discharge records for veterans who are discharged because of their  
sexual orientation. Our military is strongest when people of all races, religions, sexual orientations, and  
gender identities are honored for their service to our country.