

NAT 2010-01 Repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

Whereas, The security of the United States has depended upon volunteers and conscripts regardless of race, religion, age, sex and ethnic background, among other immutable human characteristics; and

Whereas, National associations of psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists and social workers agree that homosexuality, bisexuality and transgender are immutable human characteristics; and

Whereas, The current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy has drummed out actual or suspected homosexual, bisexual and transgendered service personnel who wish only to serve their country's security needs; and

Whereas, The current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy has been used to sexually exploit members of the military; and

Whereas, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" harms our national security; and

Whereas, Other national security agencies and allied foreign militaries allow homosexual, bisexual, and transgendered people to serve openly; and our military personnel have served alongside these agencies and militaries in Iraq, Afghanistan and ongoing training missions through NATO and CINCPAC;

Whereas, More than 80 % of Americans and 73% of military personnel agree that gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve openly; and

Whereas, President Barack Obama and Secretary of Defense William Gates have both called for an end to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"; and

Whereas, The Department of Defense is currently studying the impact of repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell;" and

Whereas, Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili, USA (Ret.), is among the more than 100 retired admirals and generals who support the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i opposes the counterproductive 'witch hunts' that have been conducted under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of the United States Armed Forces; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports the immediate repeal of the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy to best support our troops and our loved ones; and be it further

Resolved, That concurrent with the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, the United States military review all policies and regulations for the purpose of eliminating discrimination in the military based on sexual orientation, identity or preference; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, candidates for these positions, and all members of the Congressional Committees at the Federal Government level who deal with matters related to the U.S. Armed Services.

GOV 2010-20 Supporting Civil Unions

Whereas, There are a substantial number of couples in Hawai'i who live within the context of a committed family situation but who also live without the benefit of an ironclad, state-provided civil and contractual relationship which is above legal reproach; and

Whereas, The Hawai'i Supreme Court has mandated that the State must provide the vehicle for a civil and contractual relationship to be available to every citizen of the State of legal age, enabling all of Hawai'i's citizens to equally share in the benefits and protections that such arrangements provide; and

Whereas, The State Senate passed civil unions legislation (HB444, SD1) in 2010 with eighteen (18) out of twenty-five (25) votes; and

Whereas, The State House of Representatives passed civil unions legislation (HB444, SD1) in 2010 with thirty-one (31) out of fifty-one (51) votes; and

Whereas, The State Central Committee has urged the passage of civil unions legislation repeatedly over the last two years; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports the institution of civil unions for two people of legal age as a reasonable step towards full marriage equality for those who wish to enter into such a civil and contractual relationship; and

Be It Further Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Governor of the State of Hawai'i to sign HB444, SD 1 into law or allow it to become to law without her signature; and

Be It Further Resolved, That, should the Governor veto HB444, SD 1 the Democratic Party of Hawai'i requests that all Legislators override her veto; and

Be It Finally Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, the State Democratic Central Committee, and the Governor of the State of Hawai'i.

GOV 2010-14 Corporate Contributions

Whereas, The integrity of our democracy depends on elections free of undue influence from special interest groups; and

Whereas, Corporations are creatures of government and should be subject to reasonable governmental control; and

Whereas, The federal government has, since 1907, prohibited corporations from making direct campaign contributions to candidates, and 22 other states have also established such prohibitions; and

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court recently ruled that a corporation is a person and cannot be limited in its contributions; and

Whereas, Citizen groups believe that an overwhelming influence of money in election campaigns has tarnished our democracy and pushed citizens aside in the political process; and

Whereas, Corporate officers and employees can still contribute to candidates of their choice as individuals or through political action committees; and

Whereas, A ban on direct corporate campaign contributions will provide individual citizens, small businesses and others, a more nearly equal voice in the lawmaking process; and

Whereas, A direct corporate campaign contribution ban will also increase trust in government and promote greater citizen participation; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i support the passage of legislation to ban direct corporate campaign contributions to candidates in state and county elections; and

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this resolution be given to all candidates for office identifying as Democrats.

GOV 2010-11 SUPPORTING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IN HAWAII

Whereas, The State's open government watchdog agency, the Office of Information Practices (OIP), and good government groups have proposed and supported a number of bills at the legislature to ensure that Hawai'i citizens have access to public documents and proceedings, but none of these bills have passed; and

Whereas, Instead, the OIP budget has been reduced, bills to make some records secret have passed, and additional exemptions to the sunshine law have been supported; and

Whereas, Giving the OIP the authority to determine whether a board or commission is subject to the Uniform Information Practices Act, and requiring all departments to designate a staff person to be the contact person for freedom of Information inquiries involving open meeting and open records laws; and

Whereas, The aforementioned, if passed into law would help resolve conflicting interpretations of the open meetings law, provide the public with informed and timely responses to records requests, and ensure agency compliance with open records and open meetings laws; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i support the passage of legislation to secure and broaden public access to government information by giving the Office of Information Practices the authority to determine what is subject to the Uniform Information Practices Act; requiring all departments to designate a contact person for freedom of information inquiries involving open meeting and open records laws.

GOV 2010-10 SUPPORTING FAIR ALL-ISLAND ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, SERVICES, AND PROCEEDINGS

Whereas, The residents of Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i, Kaua'i, Ni'ihau, and even some parts of rural O'ahu are disadvantaged in gaining access to government information, services, and proceedings because of their distant location away from the seat of government in Honolulu and the State Capitol; and

Whereas, Since the last study over fifteen years ago on ways to use technology to address fair access concerns of island residents, which resulted in neighbor island toll-free phone numbers, technology has further advanced to significantly reduce physical distance as a factor limiting neighbor islander access to government information, personnel, and proceedings; and

Whereas, It should be the responsibility of the state, including the governor and legislature, to provide neighbor island residents with fair access to government information, services, and proceedings by conducting a study to review, evaluate, and make recommendations for improving the level of access by disadvantaged residents; and

Whereas, A governor's statewide fair access commission, similar to one last convened in 1989, and a study on fair access to legislative proceedings and information conducted by the joint legislative access committee, a body created statutorily in 1996 with related duties, would help advance the cause of fair access for neighbor islanders and other disadvantaged residents and should be supported; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i support the passage of legislation to ensure that neighbor island residents have fair access to government information, services, and proceedings, including but not limited to the establishment of a new commission on public access to government information, services, and proceedings that shall expeditiously make recommendations to promote and improve such access; and

Be It Further Resolved, That the State Chair and State Central Committee are requested to take all necessary and appropriate action to encourage the Legislature to enact such legislation; and

Be It Finally Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i to be elected in November 2010 and, upon organization of the 2011 session of the Hawai'i State Legislature, to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and to the Chair of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives and the Chair of the Judiciary and Government Operations of the Senate.

GOV 2010-08 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO WEBCAST ALL LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS
IN AUDIO AND VIDEO FORMATS AND TO ARCHIVE THESE ON THE WEB

Whereas, Legislative committee hearing rooms in the state capitol are wired for sound and at least the audio of all proceedings conducted in these rooms is accessible to capitol occupants on cable television channels dedicated for this purpose; and

Whereas, By using funds currently appropriated to the legislature, including funding for the legislative broadcast program, hardware and software could be purchased to allow the audio and video of legislative proceedings to be webcast over the internet; and

Whereas, While broadcasts of legislative proceedings on 'Olelo cable channels are also webcast via www.olelo.org, less than 20% of all proceedings are broadcast, some are taped for later broadcast, and virtually none of the hearings of the major house committees are broadcast; and

Whereas, A program of webcasting all legislative proceedings would allow the legislature's activities to become transparent and instantly accessible to citizens across the state, including neighbor island residents who are greatly disadvantaged due to distance; and

Whereas, A pilot program that archived all broadcasted Senate proceedings has run successfully over the past two years making available to any interested party with web access the ability to instantly select and observe hearings and proceedings; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i requests the Legislature to take all necessary and appropriate steps to webcast all legislative proceedings in audio and video formats, and to have these archived for future availability on the web.

GOV 2010-06 Transparency in Government

Whereas, On January 29, 2010, the Hawai'i State House of Representatives took a voice vote to defer indefinitely the civil unions bill (HB444, SD1); and

Whereas, Representatives present at the session on January 29, 2010, failed to call for a roll call vote; and calls from the gallery on January 29, 2010, for a roll call vote were ignored; and

Whereas, Those in attendance on January 29, 2010, did not hear 26 ayes cast in favor of deferring the bill; and

Whereas, An investigative reporter individually polled the members of the House of Representatives and could not identify twenty-six (26) Representatives who cast aye votes in favor of deferring the bill; and

Whereas, On February 19, 2010, there was a controversy surrounding a motion to recall HB2311, where a video session of the vote differed with the count taken by the House Clerk's office; and

Whereas, On April 27, 2010, there was a controversy when a Representative called for a division of the House for SB2359; and

Whereas, The House does not tape its sessions, and hence there was no video record of the process; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i hereby urges the Legislature to pass legislation requiring a roll call vote for all votes affecting the status of legislation and requests the Legislature take the necessary steps to webcast all legislative proceedings in audio and video formats; and

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Legislature, and the members of the Hawai'i Congressional delegation.

GOV 2010-02 Limitation of Voting in Democratic Party Primaries to Party Members

Whereas, Since 1978, primary elections in Hawai'i have been open to participation by any voter; and

Whereas, It has become increasingly apparent in recent years across the United States that persons who are not Democrats have been voting in Democratic Party primaries for the purpose of selecting the weakest Democratic candidate, and for other inappropriate purposes including, most notably as urged by Rush Limbaugh, no friend of the Democratic Party, in his "Operation Chaos", to interfere with Democratic Party primary voting in 2008; and

Whereas, Voting in Democratic Party primaries by persons who are not Democrats increasingly threatens the integrity of the Democratic Party's processes for the selection of candidates for public office; and

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court held in *California Democratic Party v. Jones*, 530 U.S. 567 (2000), that a political party has the right, pursuant to its constitutionally protected rights of freedom of association, to limit voting in its primaries to party members, and that state governments must comply with the wishes of a political party to impose such limitations on voting, without the necessity of statutory changes, the Court noting that "A single election in which the party nominee is selected by nonparty members could be enough to destroy the party"; and

Whereas, Under California Democratic Party, primaries will be closed only if a political party asks that they be closed; and

Whereas, It is in the best interest of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i to limit participation in the primaries to persons who state that they subscribe to the principles of the party; and

Whereas, It is already a provision of the General Laws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i to support such a change; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i take all action necessary and proper to limit participation in all Democratic Party primaries within the State of Hawai'i to persons who are bona fide members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and to cause the Hawai'i State Government to institute such limitations in all future primaries as soon as possible; and

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, and the Hawai'i State Office of Elections.

GOV 2010-01 Present Statutory Provisions for Special Congressional Elections

Whereas, Hawai'i state law currently provides that, in special elections to fill vacancies in Hawai'i's Congressional delegation, a single election takes place without either a party primary or a run-off election; and

Whereas, Such an arrangement poses serious dangers that persons will be elected to fill such vacancies without having the mandate of a majority of the voters; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, That the 2010 Democratic Party of Hawai'i requests the Hawai'i State Legislature to revise the statutory provisions for special Congressional elections to provide for primary elections and/or run-off elections, and to institute such changes in all future special elections as soon as possible; and

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, and the Hawai'i State Office of Elections.

ENV 2010-22 Establish an Objective Evaluation of Sustainable Energy to Prioritize the Alternative Energy Systems and Technologies that Will Most Benefit All of Hawai'i.

Whereas, the State of Hawai'i depends on imported sources to fuel its commercial, industrial, residential and transportation needs, importing over 50 Million barrels of oil per year at a cost upwards of **four Billion dollars** per year paid to out-of-state interests, severely impacting the costs of living and doing business in Hawaii; and

Whereas, replacing our dependence on out-of-state fuel sources with a modern and truly sustainable energy system will create a cleaner and more environmentally-friendly Hawai'i, keep valuable resources in the state, support local economic growth and local employment in well-paying jobs, reduce human-caused climate change, and promote a sustainable-energy export industry; and

Whereas, Hawai'i has large local alternative-energy potential in wind, solar, biofuels, ocean thermal, wave energy, geothermal, and other energy sources, such as cooling of large buildings with cold seawater drawn from deep ocean just offshore as well as more efficient use of existing energy sources, with many competing interests asking for taxpayer and commercial support for various alternative-energy endeavors; and

Whereas, choosing the most beneficial course for a sustainable energy future for Hawai'i requires knowing the actual costs and benefits of the various energy schemes, including (but not limited to) energy cost and productivity, energy storage, environmental impact, energy security, community ownership of means of production, growth of small business, employment in well-paying jobs, and expansion of Hawai'i exports; and

Whereas, such cost/benefit assessment should be objective, and not dominated or biased by the financial or political interests of the promoters of any one energy system; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the 2011 Hawai'i State Legislature and Executive branch to commission an Objective Evaluation of Sustainable Energy to evaluate alternative and sustainable energy systems, and prioritize those which are likely to give the most benefit to all of Hawai'i; with an evaluation committee to be headed by impartial persons who are competent to evaluate technical, environmental, economic, and social considerations; and

Be It Further Resolved, the University of Hawai'i actively engage in and pursue energy alternatives in partnership with the private sector to the economic and environmental benefit of the state; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Objective Evaluation of Sustainable Energy is to proceed in a timely manner, and provide recommendations to the Legislature and the Executive in a public report by the end of 2011; and

Be It Finally Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature and Executive branch to act on the recommendations of the Objective Evaluation of Sustainable Energy, with speed and urgency.

ENV 2010-18 Urging the Establishment of a Single Payer Universal Healthcare System, including a National Health Board, to Ensure Quality Healthcare for All Residents of the United States

Whereas, every American has a right to access to affordable quality health care, but competition among private health insurance plans has made health care neither more affordable nor more accessible; and

Whereas, Pressure to hold down health care costs and maximize profits has led to strong financial incentives for private health plans to use underwriting strategies to avoid or limit covering the sick; and

Whereas, For physicians and other health care providers such as hospitals, competition among private health insurance plans has resulted in reduced fees, increased managed care paperwork and bureaucratic requirements, increased administrative costs, and increased obstacles to payment of claims and the private practice of medicine is now being threatened by the increasing power of health plans to set fees and force physicians to accept onerous and unfunded managed care policies; and

Whereas, Comparisons with other countries' health care systems and economic analyses have repeatedly shown that a single-payer health care financing system with universal coverage of all residents would cost less and provider better overall care than any proposal involving competing private health insurance plans; and

Whereas, A single payer system would eliminate cost-shifting, disputes over who is responsible for paying for care and the ties between employment and healthcare coverage and lower health care costs related to litigation from workers' compensation and automobile insurance; now therefore

Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges Congress to enact legislation to establish a single-payer health care financing system for the United States; and

Be It Further Resolved, That Congress and the Federal Executive Branch are urged to create a National Health Board, held accountable to act on behalf of the public good, insulated from special interest influences with expertise in health economics and representation from the actual stakeholders in health care: the providers of health care including physicians, hospitals, and other providers of care; and the public who are or will be recipients of health care; and

Be It Further Resolved, That this National Health Board shall be granted authority over establishment of a provider fee structure; allocation of government funding for health care education and training, medical research, and public health programs; scope of practice issues; and quality improvement programs; and

Be It Further Resolved, That the National Health Board have substantial authority over the public financing of the single-payer health care system, including health care taxes, to ensure that the funding of the system continues to reflect the realistic costs of providing quality health care, to ensure that public health care funds are spent in a cost-effective manner, and to ensure maintenance of quality health care for the residents of The United States of America in perpetuity; and

Be It Finally Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to members of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, the President of the United States, and the Hawaii State legislature.

ENV 2010-11 Requiring All Emergency Rooms to Offer Emergency Contraception

Whereas, The Women's Caucus of the Hawai'i State Democratic Party believes that when a victim of violent crime that results in physical injury seeks medical attention, the health care system should do everything possible to respond and administer medically necessary care; and

Whereas, The Women's Caucus of the Hawai'i State Democratic Party believes that sexual assault, or rape, is a crime that is violent, traumatic, and the ultimate, intimate violation in which a woman loses all sense of personal control, decision making, and dignity, and in which she is physically and psychologically violated; and

Whereas, Healers are responsible for providing victims with information regarding procedures being followed to ease pain, information critical to decisions regarding injuries, information regarding the risks of sexually transmitted disease, and honest information about the risks of pregnancy and emergency contraception; and

Whereas, According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Association, and the American College of Emergency Physicians, the accepted standard of care for victims of sexual assault includes the provision of emergency contraception, if desired; and

Whereas, Rape victims and victims of sexual assault deserve the fullest and best care available according to the standards set by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other professional medical groups; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, in order to assure that victims of rape and sexual assault receive the fullest and best care available, supports legislation requiring all hospital emergency rooms in the State to adhere to the accepted standard of care for victims of rape and sexual assault, including the administration of emergency contraception without delay or requiring patients to be transferred to another institution for that purpose; and

Be It Further Resolved, That all hospitals in the State are required to ensure that all hospital emergency personnel are properly trained in handling the special needs of rape victims including the education and provision of emergency contraceptive services; and

Be It Finally Resolved, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawai'i State Legislature.

ENV 2010-07 SMART GRID RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPORTER

Whereas, the State of Hawai'i has abundant renewable energies, such as geothermal, wind, solar, ocean, and hydro; and

Whereas, the Federal Government has many grant programs designed specifically for enterprise zones, including renewable energy; and

Whereas, our residents pay some of the highest electric rates in the world and have one of the most abundant renewable energy resource sites in the world; and

Whereas, passing this resolution into the party platform will create high paying jobs in the State of Hawai'i now and for future generations; and

Whereas, the State of Hawai'i has some of the most capable, well educated, and motivated individuals who would work with and employ smart grid technologies; and

Whereas, the State of Hawai'i would also implement mentoring and educational programs for, by, and through the Smart Grid Technology Program; and

Whereas, the State of Hawai'i would be the perfect global location for a living and working prototype of smart grid renewable technologies; and

Whereas, it is perfectly reasonable to create competitive utility entities to compete with privately owned utilities, and create cooperatives; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, that with the Smart Grid Energy Program, energy costs will decrease, the State of Hawai'i will become a global incubator for Smart Energy Technology and this program should become part of the party platform; and

Be it Further Resolved, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawai'i members of Congress, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature via the Hawai'i Democratic State Convention 2010.

EDU 2010-04 A RESOLUTION TO ADVOCATE ADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS

WHEREAS, availability of financial support and capable educated people are critical to our state; and

WHEREAS, our state depends on a educated and knowledgeable citizenry; and

WHEREAS, education shall be respected as a valuable resource; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that those pursuing a profession in education shall be compensated with a competitive wage based on national standards while taking into consideration the state's cost of living.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Hawaii State Governor, Hawaii State Legislature, the Hawaii State Board of Education, University of Hawaii Board of Regents and the public unions.

EDU 2010-02 Supporting Education Through Access to Library Services

Whereas, an informed and engaged citizenry is the foundation of a representative democracy; and

Whereas, since Benjamin Franklin formed the first public library as a part of the founding of the United States of America, public libraries, which are open to all people regardless of age, race, gender, social condition, and religion, have since that time been a major component in offering the public all aspects of the informational spectrum; and

Whereas, the Hawai'i State Library system has been mandated to supply all the people of Hawai'i with access to information, educational, and recreational material, while preserving the right to privacy; and

Whereas, the Hawai'i State Library system has been heavily impacted by both an increase in population in under-served areas and the heavy expenses of updating and supporting current informational technologies; and

Whereas, budgetary constraints have forced shortages of approximately 78 positions out of approximately 584 positions over the past two years, and we are now facing further budget cuts and staff eliminations; and

Whereas, adequate resources to provide the people of Hawai'i with libraries, book-mobiles, internet access and information services necessary to maintain the basic standard of service are not available; and

Whereas, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes the Hawai'i State Library system must exceed minimal standards to address inequity of service to the people of the state; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall urge the State Librarian, with the support and encouragement of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, to assemble a task force composed of public and private organizations, philanthropic and commercial organizations, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and representatives from communities both cultural and geographic, from all islands, to explore the library services needed in under-served communities, what resources they can develop, what facilities, collections, staffing, hours of operation, and services will be needed, and to supply this information to the Hawai'i State legislature 90 days prior to the 2011 legislative session, or as soon as this information may be assembled, and the report accepted by the chairman of the task force;

Be it Resolved, that this task force become a permanent part of the Hawai'i State Library long-range master plan; now, therefore

Be it Further Resolved, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawai'i State Governor, Hawai'i State Librarian, the Hawai'i State legislature, and State of Hawaii Board of Education.

EDU 2010-01 Full Funding to All Public Schools

Whereas, the 2008 State Democratic Party Platform states, "Recognizing that education is a key component to our islands' economic opportunities and successes, we pledge to pursue excellence in public education through a publicly funded school system. Our public educational system is one of our most valuable resources to prepare our children to become responsible citizens and to provide the means for them to succeed in their career choices"; and

Whereas, preparing children to become responsible citizens and to succeed is often done through example as the State promotes the pursuit of excellence through a publicly funded school system; and

Whereas, public schools, including charter schools, serve as a safety net in identifying among other things, child abuse, malnutrition, learning disorders, mental illness; and

Whereas, the lack of support staff who perform essential duties that would otherwise fall on the teacher would deplete teacher instructional time for the students; and

Whereas, government funds public education because an educated electorate is essential to a thriving democracy; now, therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly urges the State of Hawaii to fully fund, at 2007 or higher levels and without pay cuts, all public schools, including charter schools, to ensure the well-being of all children in the public school system; and

Be it Further Resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Hawaii, all members of the Hawaii State Legislature, and the Hawaii State Board of Education.

BUS 2010-22 Democratic Party of Hawai'i Resolution in Support of a Second Round of Federal Economic Stimulus

Whereas, over 15.3 million Americans continue to be out of work, with only 290,000 jobs added in the month of April alone; and

Whereas, despite the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act making strides towards fixing the nation's broken infrastructure and anemic job market, the economic devastation incurred by the Bush-Cheney Administration requires continued economic stimulus to continue to repair the damage; and

Whereas, millions of individuals who are out of work have subsequently been dropped from their health insurance plans; and

Whereas, an essential part of fixing the broken economy is bringing strength, sustainability and security back to the middle class; and

Whereas, President Obama sees unions and union membership as part of the solution to the economic crisis; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges Congress and the Obama Administration to pass a second round of economic stimulus expressly dedicated to job creation through infrastructure and energy investment, the improvement of safety net programs and aid to state and local governments; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges Congress and the Obama Administration to require that a second installment of recovery funds contain "Buy American" provisions that ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars create jobs for U.S. workers; and

Be It Finally Resolved, that the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i will transmit a copy of this Resolution to all relevant sources in order to demonstrate its ardent support a second round of economic stimulus funds.

BUS 2010-21 Democratic Party of Hawai'i Resolution In Support of Raising and Indexing the Minimum Wage

Whereas, skyrocketing healthcare, utility, food, energy and housing costs continue to drive up the cost of living for average Americans; and

Whereas, an ailing economy has led more and more employers to lower the wages of their employees; and

Whereas, without indexing the minimum wage to the rate of inflation, workers are locked in perpetual and increasing poverty; and

Whereas, neither the state of Hawai'i nor the federal government have laws requiring for the indexing of the minimum wage with respect to inflation; and

Whereas, nine states have passed laws requiring annual adjustments of their minimum wage relative to the Consumer Price Index; and

Whereas, Hawai'i has not passed a law raising its minimum wage since 2006; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports an increase in both state and national minimum wage; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall seek elimination of the federal and state tip credit; and

Be It Further Resolved, that these wages are raised in accordance with the rate of inflation, determined by the consumer price index; and

Be It Finally Resolved, that the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i will transmit a copy of this resolution and other information to all relevant parties to demonstrate its ardent support for increasing and indexing the minimum wage.

BUS 2010-20 UNIVERSAL LIVING WAGE

Whereas, according to the last two Conference of Mayors reports, the federal minimum wage is insufficient to afford anyone housing in any major city in America; and

Whereas, there are 10.1 million minimum wage workers in the United States; and

Whereas, The 2000 Conference of Mayors Report described the minimum wage as the most significant contributing factor of homelessness today; and

Whereas, there are 2 million homeless citizens in this country; and

Whereas, homeless, minimum wage workers have (for no other reason than because they are homeless), become the specific targets of hate crimes; and

Whereas, their ability to work themselves off the streets of America would remove them as targets of these hate crimes; and

Whereas, there is no single minimum wage dollar amount that can simultaneously satisfy the need to house minimum wage workers in some cities while not damaging small businesses in other cities; and

Whereas, a Universal Living Wage Formula has been crafted by House The Homeless, Inc. of Austin, Texas, which is related to the local cost of housing throughout the United States and ensures that any forty hour a week, minimum wage worker, can afford housing; and

Whereas, the Universal Living Wage Formula as devised by House the Homeless, Inc. can end homelessness for fully one-third of America's homeless citizens and prevent homelessness for all minimum wage workers; now, therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i hereby endorses and fully supports the adjustment of the federal minimum wage with the Universal Living Wage Formula which ensures that a 40 hour a week, minimum wage worker, can afford at least an efficiency apartment anywhere in the United of States while not spending more than 30% of their income on housing.

BUS 2010-08 A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SELF SUFFICIENCY AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Whereas, the State of Hawai'i is vulnerable to loss of supply lines through economic upheaval and civil conflict; and

Whereas, locally grown agricultural products are generally healthier; and

Whereas, a vibrant agricultural system will promote the wellbeing of the citizens of the State; and

Whereas, there is currently a lack of sufficient infrastructure to meet the needs of farmers and the consumers they serve; and

Whereas, small farms and farmers lack adequate facilities to store and distribute their products; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, that the State must commit to supporting, protecting, expanding and improving the agricultural sector in particular, and environmental sustainability in general; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Democratic Party should support the promotion of sustainable agriculture, thereby lessening the percentage of foodstuffs imported into Hawai'i; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Democratic Party shall support the promotion of locally grown agricultural items by strongly supporting the small farms and farmers; and

Be It Finally Resolved, that the Democratic Party shall support the development of local food storage and distribution centers (county, private or non-profit).

BUS 2010-05 SUPPORT EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

Whereas, Workers in the U.S. want union representation, according to numerous polls; yet the number of union members continues to decline; one major reason for declining union density is weak enforcement of labor laws that were enacted to provide workers with the right to unionize; and

Whereas, When workers attempt to unionize, employers vehemently oppose and fight back with vicious anti-union campaigns that include captive audience meetings, threats of shutting down the company if the union wins, and even firing of union supporters; and

Whereas, The deck is stacked in favor of the employer, who has supreme power over the worker's livelihood and can hire, fire, promote, demote, offer or deny pay raises, affect working conditions, and has full access to the worker on the job; and

Whereas, On the other hand, the union only has access to the workers at home or otherwise outside of work; the union is limited in its ability to rebut anti-union propaganda from the employer; and

Whereas, All of this is why union organizing has been so difficult for decades and why union density has declined; and which is why Congress is considering legislation, called the Employee Free Choice Act, that will help to level the playing field for workers seeking union representation; and

Whereas, This legislation will provide for mandatory "card check recognition" when a neutral third party verifies that more than 50% of the employees have signed cards authorizing a union to be their exclusive bargaining agent; card check recognition is an alternative means for workers to "vote" for a union; cards will be kept secret from the employer to minimize employer interference and possible unfair and illegal practices; and

Whereas, Until labor laws in this country are vigorously and timely enforced, card check recognition is needed to counteract the huge inherent advantage the employer has over workers seeking union representation; and

Whereas, The Employee Free Choice Act also provides for swift negotiation of a first contract following card check recognition, including a provision for an arbitrated contract that would be binding for two years; union representation without a collective bargaining agreement is almost the same as having no union representation at all; it is the union contract that provides a framework to ensure the protection of workers' rights; and

Whereas, The Hawai'i State Legislature in 2009 passed a law modeled after the Employee Free Choice Act to provide for card check recognition and arbitrated collective bargaining for workers not covered by the National Labor Relations Act; this legislation primarily affects agricultural laborers, who are among the lowest paid and most vulnerable in the workforce and need union representation; now, therefore

Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i reaffirms the legal right of all workers to join a union and urges employers to maintain neutrality in union organizing efforts; and

Be It Further Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i endorses the national Employee Free Choice Act and urges its passage; and

Be It Finally Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i will lead the fight for state and federal laws granting bargaining rights to public and private employees who currently do not have such rights.

BUS 2010-01 Employers Awarded Public Contracts Pay their Workers a Living Wage

Whereas, There are private contractors and service providers receiving Federal, State and County financial assistance and support in the form of grants, contracts, loans, and bond financing and

Whereas, Tax abatements and other development subsidies need to be leveraged for the public good, and the wages paid by state and county contractors should follow the federal service contract wages which track wages in the area; and

Whereas, When subsidized employers are allowed to pay their workers less than a "Living Wage", taxpayers end up footing a double bill in emergency medical, food stamps, housing and other services that low wage workers may need to support themselves and their families even minimally; now therefore,

Be It Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports the idea that public contracts be reserved for those employers who demonstrate a commitment to providing family-supporting jobs and a "Living Wage; and

Be It Further Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports passage of a state service contract legislation; and

Be It Finally Resolved, That copies of the resolution be transmitted to all members of the Hawai'i State legislature, the members of Hawai'i's Congressional delegation, and the appropriate state pre-convention resolutions committee.