

1 Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
2 Approved at the 2014 State Convention of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

3  
4 Preamble

5 The abiding values of the Democratic Party are liberty, social justice, compassion and respect for the  
6 dignity and worth of the individual. These values compel us to integrate democratic ideals in all aspects of  
7 economic, social, educational, and cultural life in our communities, our state and our nation. These  
8 principles must always be protected. As the party of the people, we Democrats commit ourselves to these  
9 values. We are facing increased global challenges economically, ecologically, and socio-culturally. We  
10 therefore adopt a worldview that is sensitive to and addresses these challenges that is not based on  
11 short-term economics. This platform outlines guiding principles for all members of the Democratic Party of  
12 Hawai'i.

13  
14 The Democratic Party of Hawai'i holds that our party and our government shall strive for the following  
15 ideas and values:

- 16  
17 1. Preserve and strengthen the future of agriculture in Hawai'i
- 18  
19 2. Protect and restore the civil and human rights of each person
- 20  
21 3. Support and provide for a strong economy
- 22  
23 4. Provide an excellent public education for students at every level
- 24  
25 5. Achieve energy sustainability
- 26  
27 6. Protect and preserve Hawaii's environment
- 28  
29 7. Support fair and just foreign policy that promotes peace
- 30  
31 8. Provide high quality and affordable healthcare for every human being
- 32  
33 9. Reform our government, supporting transparency in government and free, fair, and democratic  
34 elections
- 35  
36 10. Support strong labor practices, good jobs and fair pay
- 37  
38 11. Support military relations that honor and provide for all military personnel and veterans while  
39 protecting our 'aina
- 40  
41 12. Support the rights of native Hawaiians and the preservation of native Hawaiian culture
- 42  
43 13. Adopt transportation policies that improve our quality of life
- 44  
45 14. Support a comprehensive approach to ending poverty
- 46  
47 15. Support the eradication of discrimination

48  
49 ENVIRONMENT

50 The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment  
51 is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations  
52 will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection  
53 of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support  
54 public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.  
55

56 We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased  
57 citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and  
58 environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.  
59

60 The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawaii's natural resources are connected to the health  
61 and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural  
62 environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint.  
63

64 We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage  
65 and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future  
66 demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to  
67 secure our fresh water resources.  
68

69 We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems  
70 and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone  
71 Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of  
72 coastal resources.  
73

74 We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private  
75 stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.  
76

77 We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our  
78 candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of  
79 climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective  
80 participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local,  
81 and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.  
82

## 83 ENERGY

84 We must encourage the use of clean alternative fuel sources to include our public transportation systems.  
85 We must increase the use of public transit, telecommuting, car and vanpooling, ridesharing, biking,  
86 walking, and other forms of transportation thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. We must  
87 also urgently develop the use of a variety of cost-effective energy providing systems, encourage transit-  
88 oriented development, and support tax incentives that encourage renewable energy initiatives.  
89

90 We oppose any tax breaks to fossil fuel industries.  
91

92 We support energy independence, self-sufficiency, affordability and reliability for Hawai'i through the  
93 development of renewable alternative energy sources. Specifically, we need to support policies that foster  
94 the development of energy production methods that de-emphasize carbon based fuels and promote  
95 renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion  
96 (OTEC).  
97

98 Electricity rates in Hawaii are among the highest in the nation despite the fact that we enjoy an  
99 abundance of sunshine year round. Electric utility companies and cooperatives must open the grid to  
100 alternative power sources including solar panels and geothermal energy. We support the effort of our  
101 government officials to require utilities to provide for the maximum, comprehensive, integrated use of  
102 renewable energy and associated technologies such as storage and smart grid technologies.  
103

## 104 AGRICULTURE

105 Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands  
106 must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an  
107 integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible  
108 development of ocean resources in order to achieve sustainability in our state.  
109

110 This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an  
111 integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and

112 ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to  
113 foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against  
114 invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times.

115  
116 We will promote efficiency with feed mills and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry and  
117 eggs.

118  
119 Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life-sustaining resource, we must protect its ecological  
120 balance while promoting the cultivation of ocean resources as a step toward greater self-sufficiency.

121  
122 To ensure wise use and equitable distribution of our precious water, we must stress water conservation  
123 and alternative patterns of water treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled water for  
124 irrigation, water storage reservoirs, and the use of rain barrels by the public.

125  
126 Given the diversity of agricultural policies and practices within the state, we reaffirm a policy of  
127 agricultural home rule as it relates to zoning for each county.

## 128 129 130 NATIVE HAWAIIANS

131  
132 Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai'i and deserve a just relationship with the state and  
133 federal governments. We support Native Hawaiian rights to self-determination in the formation of their  
134 chosen governmental entity. We support recognition of Native Hawaiians as indigenous people as  
135 provided by the U.S. Constitution; such recognition will add to the process of Native Hawaiian self-  
136 determination. We also support the international rights of the Native Hawaiian people.

137  
138 We support the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in decisions  
139 related to county and state affairs.

140  
141 We support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing practices. We value and wish  
142 to foster the preservation of our host culture.

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

## 150 151 ARTS AND CULTURE

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

## 159 160 EDUCATION

161 We believe that the future of our state as well as our country depends upon an educated and  
162 knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality education  
163 and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity, in an environment conducive to the  
164 learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level, from pre-school through higher  
165 education, including life-long learning. Educational facilities must be maintained, renovated and built to  
166 21<sup>st</sup> century innovations so that our students learn in well-designed, safe environments.

167

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

173  
174 We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable  
175 about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize  
176 cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our  
177 health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects,  
178 cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations. We view standardized tests as  
179 just one way of evaluating learning and support multiple measures, including performance assessments  
180 such as portfolios and observations.

181  
182 We need to ensure that our students are safe in our schools, free from bullying and discrimination, to  
183 include but not limited to, disability, gender bias, weight, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity  
184 and/or religion.

185  
186 We believe children's early years are particularly important and support increased funding for birth to  
187 grade 3 education and early childhood teacher education.

188  
189 We support a dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education.

190  
191 We cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the federal government such as the "No Child  
192 Left Behind Act."

193  
194 We support adequate funding for mandatory public education K through 12. We also support funding for  
195 pre-school. We do not support the use of tax monies in a voucher program or tuition tax credits for private  
196 education K-12 or for pre-school. Use of tax monies for vouchers or tuition tax credits may have the effect  
197 of reducing support for public education and weakening church and state separation. We support the  
198 constitutional separation of church and state in education, which has been a cornerstone of democracy.

## 199 200 HEALTH CARE

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

205  
206 We support the development of long-term care financing solutions, better pay and working conditions for  
207 all health care providers, parity of mental and physical health coverage, and appropriate regulation of  
208 health care delivery systems. We also support the development of empirically validated prevention  
209 programs targeted at major public health issues.

210  
211 We support national healthcare reform via single payer universal healthcare. We also encourage the  
212 inclusion of a public option in the current national health care plan.

213  
214 We cannot support the provisions that continue the practice of denying women coverage for abortion  
215 services. Access to these services should not continue to be denied to women who most need these  
216 services.

217  
218 We support fair and equitable access to medical marijuana to be administered by the State of Hawaii's  
219 Department of Health.

220  
221 We support the passage and enforcement of laws banning both medical and therapeutic treatments for  
222 the purpose of forcing sexual orientation and gender identity conversions, such as reparative therapy (aka

223 conversion therapy), for minors and adults at the State and Federal level. We believe that everyone  
224 should have the opportunity to live a true and authentic self.

225  
226 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM

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

231  
232 We strongly oppose discrimination in the provision of services either by the Government or by a business  
233 to prospective customers and we find the practice abhorrent, whatever the source of the prejudice, which  
234 motivates discrimination. We strongly support the efforts of our candidates and elected officials to also  
235 vehemently oppose any legislation that would permit and/or endorse discrimination.

236  
237 We support enforcement of sunshine laws and transparency in legislative and administrative sessions  
238 and meetings that discuss and make policy. This includes the protection of funding for the televising of  
239 public hearings at the State and County levels, as well as the funding of the public access room at the  
240 legislature.

241  
242 We support limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations, corporations,  
243 and individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all elections, to ensure that the  
244 power to bring positive change to our county and state lies in the hands of individual voters. We do not  
245 believe that money equals speech or that corporations are people for purposes of First Amendment  
246 protections. We also support a fully funded elections office.

247  
248 We support the separation of State and Church as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of  
249 America in the First Amendment as well as Article VI, and believe this right is meant to support equality  
250 and not erode it. We also oppose any legislation that weakens that wall. Separation of State and Church  
251 is meant to insure that no single religion can impose its particular beliefs on members of the general  
252 population.

253  
254 We support restorative justice that repairs the harm caused by criminal behaviors and reintegrates the  
255 offenders as contributing members of society.

256  
257 We expect all elected and appointed officials, government employees, and members of boards,  
258 commissions and other bodies to maintain the highest ethical standards, as required by Article XIV of the  
259 Hawaii State Constitution. We oppose revolving door policies and exemptions from the State Ethics Code  
260 that undermine the integrity of government.

261  
262 We believe in the constant renewal of both the Democratic Party and electoral reform in Hawai'i state  
263 government; and we encourage the legislature to re-examine the restoration of multi-member legislative  
264 districts.

265  
266 As we are a nation of laws and notwithstanding claims of national security, we call upon the President  
267 and Congress of the United States, in order to uphold due process and its application to any place  
268 "subject to [United States'] jurisdiction", to remove all prisoners at Guantanamo to the United States,  
269 provide them with a fair civilian trial, and forthwith close the facilities at Guantanamo that have offered  
270 unconstitutionally cruel and unusual incarceration.

271  
272  
273 HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

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

277  
278 We believe that the concept of "Family" includes people regardless of sexual orientation, blood relation,

279 marital status or gender who choose to join together to offer one another moral, spiritual and economic  
280 support.

281  
282 We support full equality and non-discrimination with respect to duties, benefits and responsibilities  
283 regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.

284  
285 We believe in women's equality and right to privacy, including but not limited to equal access to  
286 reproductive services and care, shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence, and the right of  
287 rape victims to emergency contraception in the emergency room.

288  
289 We support the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex community to full equality  
290 before the law, including but not limited to, Marriage Equality both at the State and Federal level. We  
291 oppose discriminatory federal and state constitutional amendments and other attempts to deny equal  
292 protection of the laws to committed same-sex couples who seek the same respect and responsibilities as  
293 other married couples. We support the full repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act and the passage of the  
294 Respect for Marriage Act with its current language as of May 2014.

295  
296 We support the full implementation of a law that allows members of the transgender community to amend  
297 their birth certificates to accurately reflect their self-identified genders.

298  
299 We believe that all families should have an equal opportunity to build their assets and become self-  
300 sufficient; and we support a strong safety net of programs that will afford them the opportunity to do so.  
301 We must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with a safe and  
302 healthy environment in which to grow and thrive.

303  
304 We support initiatives that enhance access and equity in education, employment, and business  
305 opportunities intended to lift families and individuals out of poverty and remove existing barriers  
306 to equal opportunity in our communities.

307  
308 We support legislation and best practice policies that prioritize the safety, security and wellbeing  
309 of our foster children, who are our most vulnerable keiki in our community, as the paramount  
310 consideration when making decisions regarding the time frame, criteria and justification for  
311 reunification and family placement. We will always respect family and familial bonds, but  
312 reunification with every biological family is not always the safest, most secure or best interests  
313 of every child, especially in aggravated circumstances cases involving drug use history, physical  
314 abuse, sexual abuse and unstable housing. We strongly support the efforts of parents and all  
315 people to recover and reorganize their lives for the better, but our ultimate concern must also be  
316 for the short and long term safety and wellbeing of our foster children.

317  
318 LABOR

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

321  
322 As the party of working men and women in Hawai'i, we work to protect labor rights and social security; to  
323 ensure fair labor practices, a living wage for all workers, equal pay for equal work and fair taxation; to  
324 protect employees' rights to organize and bargain collectively with their employers; to oppose the  
325 outsourcing of Hawaii's jobs; to promote employment opportunities and sustainable growth; to assist the  
326 economically disadvantaged and advocate for sound trade and economic policies; and build our  
327 workforce for jobs in emerging technologies, in green industries, in renovation, and in green construction,  
328 so that their jobs are not dependent on ever-expanding real estate development.

329  
330 We believe that workers need to be safe and free from any form of discrimination, harassment or abuse in  
331 the workplace. We seek legislation that will achieve these goals.

332

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

337  
338 **TRANSPORTATION**

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

346  
347 We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on the automobile by employing private and public use of  
348 alternative modes of travel. We encourage efforts to provide better vehicle and pedestrian safety. In  
349 particular, we support initiatives that will provide our state with more fuel-efficient vehicles, affordable  
350 mass transit and well-identified bike lanes. In order to be best served by mass transit, we must recognize  
351 the importance of the integration in an urban setting of any new modes of mass transportation with  
352 existing and future public streets and highways, bike lanes, retail establishments and services, and truly-  
353 affordable housing – while maintaining a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all  
354 future high-density developments.

355  
356 We support the development of alternative emergency options for potential evacuation, with special  
357 attention to rural areas that only have one access point.

358  
359 **HOUSING**

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

365  
366 We also need economically affordable home ownership. To this end we support policies which re-think  
367 the current formula to determine "affordability" as this formula puts both rentals and sales out of the reach  
368 of most working families in Hawai'i.

369  
370 We support circuit breaker or other relief to ensure that senior citizens are not taxed out of their homes.

371  
372 We believe in the concept of "Housing First" to develop affordable, stable housing and support services to  
373 break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options.

374  
375 We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawaii's homeless youth population,  
376 to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society, with specific devoted services for disenfranchised  
377 groups including but not limited to the Hawaiian community, aged-out foster kids, returning veterans, the  
378 aged, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender homeless youth.

379  
380 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/REFORM**

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

386  
387 State and county governments have a key role to play in setting reasonable standards for industry and  
388 trade. As market conditions change, government agencies must adapt and revise regulations to promote

389 “green” sustainable industries that are compatible with preserving the natural and scenic beauty of  
390 Hawai‘i. In this regard, we must find ways to stimulate recycling and biodegradable packaging to minimize  
391 landfill needs. We must move from carbon-based power to electric power.  
392

393 Improvements to infrastructure are critical to providing a healthy base to the Hawaiian economy.  
394 Upgrading publicly-owned water works, preserving agricultural water sources, improving public  
395 transportation, redesigning mass transit, and supporting universal basic education for all children are key  
396 elements in maintaining a strong, sustainable economy in Hawai‘i. In addition, we must abandon the  
397 “throwaway” economy to avoid wasting our valuable resources.  
398

399 We believe that government plays a vital role in nurturing and regulating our economic system. We  
400 believe that private and public employers, as responsible members of community, by providing good jobs  
401 and fair pay and benefits, are essential for economic expansion, diversification, innovation, and  
402 entrepreneurship. We re-affirm our commitment to a progressive tax structure and will work to re-establish  
403 a system based upon “ability to pay.”  
404

405 Availability of financial support and a capable educated people are critical to our economic expansion and  
406 diversification. The management of businesses should be ethical and responsive to the community with  
407 transparency for investors and shareholders guaranteeing sound, healthy management. Innovation  
408 through the generation of intellectual property should be the goal of our economic diversification. We  
409 support the continuing protection of intellectual property developed in the state of Hawai‘i.  
410

411 We need to give priority to the development of “green” sustainable industries and business. We need  
412 financial literacy and asset building programs to strengthen our ohana. Green commerce includes  
413 biodegradable or recycling packaging. We need to pursue relationships with the information technology  
414 industry. We need to invest in world-class higher education to stimulate our economic resources. We  
415 need to reduce our dependence on tourism, real estate development, and military. A diversified economy  
416 will help to create diversified jobs.  
417

#### 418 NATIONAL ISSUES

419 Many issues can only be addressed at the national level. As American citizens and Hawai‘i Democrats we  
420 have the right and the duty to express our views on these issues to our Congressional delegation, as well  
421 as to the representatives we send to the Democratic National Convention and the Democratic National  
422 Committee.  
423

424 We consider it imperative that our national government re-establish regulations and guidelines assuring  
425 that financial institutions operate fairly and transparently, and that they do not jeopardize the larger public  
426 interest in pursuit of their private gain. We endorse the principle that if such institutions are “too big to fail,”  
427 then they are too big. We support the enactment and vigorous enforcement of laws that penalize those  
428 corporations (and their executives and directors) who have defrauded the public.  
429

430 We believe that private ventures that may potentially endanger the environmental security of the planet  
431 should be closely and firmly regulated and monitored in their activities by the Federal Government. The  
432 Federal agencies responsible for such oversight must be adequately funded and staffed and must also  
433 receive appropriate and expert public oversight. The Gulf oil spill is the most compelling case in point.  
434

435 We support Federal initiatives, both from Congress and from the Obama administration, that would  
436 mitigate the catastrophic cultural, economic, and environmental damage created by federal policies on  
437 globalization.  
438

439 We condemn the deeply flawed process by which our Government has decided to use our military forces  
440 in acts of preventive war.  
441

442 We ask that federal policies that violate the U. S. Constitution and/or international law, many of which  
443 were initiated by the previous Republican administration, be reexamined. Where they are found to be



444 detrimental to our civil rights, and to human rights in general, and unless they are clearly essential to  
445 prevent clear and present danger to our national security, we call for their abolition.

446

#### 447 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

448 We support a foreign policy that respects Constitutional process and rights, honors human dignity,  
449 promotes adherence to international agreements, and integrates diplomatic, economic, military, and  
450 cultural policies. We support a fully funded, prompt, orderly and complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops  
451 and military contractors from Iraq. We oppose measures that compromise full withdrawal and endorse  
452 diplomatic efforts with all parties in the region. We believe that war should be a last resort but, when  
453 deemed necessary, should occur only within the confines of international law and international  
454 cooperation.

455

#### 456 U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

460

461 We honor the service of all of our military members.

462

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

467

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

471

#### 472 TECHNOLOGY

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

481

#### 482 IMMIGRATION

483 We believe that our nation should have a fair immigration policy that recognizes the diversity of our  
484 country and the contribution that immigrants make and have made in the sciences, arts, and culture. We  
485 support an immigration policy that provides a reasonable and timely path to citizenship for immigrants  
486 who follow the rule of law.

487

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

489

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

494

495 With respect to immigrants who are illegally in our nation, we recognize that most are simply looking for a  
496 better life for their families. We support a national immigration policy that holds employers that violate  
497 immigration law accountable and provides penalties proportionate to their responsibility.