

1 **PLATFORM OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**
2 **APPROVED AT THE 2016 STATE CONVENTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**
3

4 **PREAMBLE**

5 The abiding values of the Democratic Party are liberty, social justice, economic justice, and protection of
6 the environment, and compassion and respect for the dignity and worth of the individual. At the heart of
7 our party lies a fundamental conviction that Americans must not only be free, but they must live in a fair
8 society. These values compel us to integrate democratic ideals in all aspects of economic, social,
9 educational, and cultural life in our communities, our state and our nation. These principles must always
10 be protected. As the party of the people, we Democrats commit ourselves to these values. We are facing
11 increased global challenges economically, ecologically, and socio-culturally. We therefore adopt a
12 worldview that is sensitive to and addresses these challenges that is not based on short-term economic
13 gains. This platform outlines guiding principles for all members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.
14

15 The Democratic Party of Hawai'i holds that our party and our government shall strive for the following
16 ideas and values:
17

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

37 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/REFORM**

38 A diversified and healthy economy in Hawai'i requires a well-educated and healthy citizenry. To
39 encourage existing and new enterprise, we need to develop a combination of tax policies and credits,
40 lending programs, and financial incentives that will attract the business community. The creation of
41 intellectual property and new start-ups should be a part of the curriculum of our business schools.
42 Business training should stress ethical company management that is responsive to customer needs.
43

44 State and county governments have a key role to play in setting reasonable standards for industry and
45 trade. As market conditions change, government agencies must adapt and revise regulations to promote
46 "green" sustainable industries that are compatible with preserving the natural and scenic beauty of
47 Hawai'i. In this regard, we must find ways to stimulate recycling and biodegradable packaging to minimize
48 landfill needs. We must move from carbon-based power to electric power.
49

50 Improvements to infrastructure are critical to providing a healthy base to the Hawaiian economy.
51 Upgrading publicly-owned water works, preserving agricultural water sources, improving public
52 transportation, redesigning mass transit, and supporting universal basic education for all children are key
53 elements in maintaining a strong, sustainable economy in Hawai'i. In addition, we must abandon the
54 "throwaway" economy to avoid wasting our valuable resources.
55

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

61
62 Availability of financial support and a capable educated people are critical to our economic expansion and
63 diversification. The management of businesses should be ethical and responsive to the community with
64 transparency for investors and shareholders guaranteeing sound, healthy management. Innovation
65 through the generation of intellectual property should be the goal of our economic diversification. We
66 support the continuing protection of intellectual property developed in the state of Hawai‘i.

67
68 We need to give priority to the development of “green” sustainable industries and business. We need
69 financial literacy and asset building programs to strengthen our ‘ohana. Green commerce includes
70 biodegradable or recycling packaging. We need to pursue relationships with the information technology
71 industry. We need to invest in world-class higher education to stimulate our economic resources. We
72 need to reduce our dependence on tourism, real estate development, and military. A diversified economy
73 will help to create diversified jobs.

74 75 **AGRICULTURE**

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

81
82 This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua‘a, an
83 integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and
84 ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to
85 foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against
86 invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times.

87
88 We will promote ethical and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry and eggs.

89
90 Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life-sustaining resource, we must protect its ecological
91 balance while promoting the cultivation of ocean resources as a step toward greater self-sufficiency.

92
93 To ensure wise use and equitable distribution of our precious water, we must stress water conservation
94 and alternative patterns of water treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled water for
95 irrigation, water storage reservoirs, and the use of catchment systems by the public.

96
97 As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and
98 diversified local food production, and “Buy Local” strategies to assure greater food security and food
99 safety.

100
101 We recognize the essential link between the availability of adequate and affordable water and low-cost
102 electrical power as essential components of viable agricultural businesses.

103
104 We support land use planning and infrastructure development to support sustainable
105 diversified agriculture, including low cost inter-island transportation of agricultural products.
106 We likewise support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification
107 and value-added products.

108
109 We support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step towards preserving high-grade
110 productive lands for current and future needs.

111

112 We support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at point
113 of entry.

114
115 We promote solid waste policies that divert green waste and food scraps for making invasive species free
116 compost and enhanced mulch available to our farmers, landscapers, and residents.

117 118 **LABOR**

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

121
122 As the party of working men and women in Hawai'i, we work to protect labor rights and social security; to
123 ensure fair labor practices, a living wage for all workers, equal pay for equal work and fair taxation; we
124 encourage legislation to raise the minimum wage and paid family and sick leave; to protect employees'
125 rights to organize and bargain collectively with their employers; to oppose the outsourcing of Hawaii's
126 jobs; to promote employment opportunities and sustainable growth; to assist the economically
127 disadvantaged and advocate for sound trade and economic policies; and build our workforce for jobs in
128 emerging technologies, in green industries, in renovation, and in green construction, so that their jobs are
129 not dependent on ever-expanding real estate development.

130
131 We believe that workers need to be safe and free from any form of discrimination, harassment or abuse in
132 the workplace. We seek legislation that will achieve these goals.

133
134 We support strict enforcement of union contracts and worker rights to unionize, to strike without job loss,
135 to have a safe workplace, to mediate and arbitrate disputes, and the repeal of the anti-labor Taft-Hartley
136 Act.

137
138 We support automatic dues payment to unions, repeal of all "right to work" laws and strict laws against
139 employers requiring credit checks or social media passwords for employment purposes. We seek
140 protection of undocumented workers from prosecution, deportation or job loss for reporting employer
141 labor law violations. We support the Jones Act.

142
143 We seek programs that prepare people with disabilities for independent and productive lives. We are
144 committed to the elimination of glass ceilings that prevent women and minorities from advancing to the
145 highest levels of government, education and business. In order to rapidly move returning veterans,
146 students, and the unemployed into jobs, we urge the creation of paid internship programs.

147 148 **TECHNOLOGY**

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

157 158 **HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

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

162
163 We believe that the concept of "Family" includes people regardless of sexual orientation, blood relation,
164 marital status, gender, gender identity or gender expression, who choose to join together to offer one
165 another moral, spiritual and economic support.

166

167 We support full equality and nondiscrimination with respect to duties, benefits and responsibilities
168 regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.
169

170 We believe in women's equality and right to privacy, including but not limited to equal access to
171 reproductive services and care, shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence, and the right of
172 rape victims to emergency contraception in the emergency room.
173

174 We support the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex community to full equality
175 before the law, including but not limited to, Marriage Equality both at the State and Federal level. We
176 oppose discriminatory federal and state constitutional amendments and other attempts to deny equal
177 protection of the laws to committed same-sex couples who seek the same respect and responsibilities as
178 other married couples. We celebrate the overturning of the Defense of Marriage Act and support the
179 passage of the Respect for Marriage Act with its current language as of May 2016.
180

181 We support the full implementation of a law that allows members of the transgender community to amend
182 their birth certificates to accurately reflect their self-identified genders.
183

184 We believe that all families should have an equal opportunity to build their assets and become self-
185 sufficient; and we support a strong safety net of programs that will afford them the opportunity to do so.
186 We must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with a safe and
187 healthy environment in which to grow and thrive.
188

189 We support initiatives that enhance access and equity in education, employment, and business
190 opportunities intended to lift families and individuals out of poverty and remove existing barriers to equal
191 opportunity in our communities.
192

193 We support legislation and best practice policies that prioritize the safety, security and well-being of our
194 foster children, who are our most vulnerable keiki in our community. This is the paramount consideration
195 when making decisions regarding the time frame, criteria and justification for reunification and family
196 placement. We will always respect family and familial bonds, but reunification with every biological family
197 is not always the safest, most secure or in the best interests of every child. This is especially true in
198 aggravated circumstances cases involving drug use history, physical abuse, sexual abuse and unstable
199 housing. We strongly support the efforts of parents and all people to recover and reorganize their lives for
200 the better, but our ultimate concern must also be for the short and long term safety and wellbeing of our
201 foster children.
202

203 **NATIVE HAWAIIANS**

204 Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai'i and deserve a just relationship with the state and
205 federal governments. We support Native Hawaiian rights to self-determination in the formation of their
206 chosen governmental entity. We support recognition of Native Hawaiians as indigenous people as
207 provided by the U.S. Constitution; such recognition will add to the process of Native Hawaiian self-
208 determination. We also support the international rights of the Native Hawaiian people.
209

210 We support the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in decisions
211 related to county and state affairs.
212

213 We support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing practices. We value and wish
214 to foster the preservation of our host culture.
215

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

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IMMIGRATION

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

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM

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

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

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

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

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

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

279
280 We expect all elected and appointed officials, government employees, and members of boards,
281 commissions and other bodies to maintain the highest ethical standards, as required by Article XIV of the
282 Hawaii State Constitution. We oppose revolving door policies and exemptions from the State Ethics Code
283 that undermine the integrity of government.

284
285 We believe in the constant renewal of both the Democratic Party and electoral reform in Hawai'i state
286 government; and we encourage the legislature to re-examine the restoration of multi-member legislative
287 districts.

288
289 As we are a nation of laws and notwithstanding claims of national security, we call upon the President
290 and Congress of the United States, in order to uphold due process and its application to any place
291 "subject to [United States'] jurisdiction", to remove all prisoners at Guantanamo to the United States,
292 provide them with a fair civilian trial, and forthwith close the facilities at Guantanamo that have offered
293 unconstitutionally cruel and unusual incarceration.

294
295 **EDUCATION**

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

303
304 Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in education shall
305 be compensated with a competitive wage based on national standards while taking into consideration the
306 state's cost of living. We support hiring the most qualified individuals to be teachers and administrators for
307 our educational system. We also support and value the universities and colleges that prepare educators
308 and provide advanced degrees.

309
310 We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable
311 about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize
312 cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our
313 health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects,
314 cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations. We view standardized tests as
315 just one way of evaluating learning and support multiple measures, including performance assessments
316 such as portfolios and observations.

317
318 Consistent with these goals we seek to make public college, public university, trade, mentorship and
319 apprenticeship programs available to all seeking further education tuition free.

320
321 We need to ensure that our students are safe in our schools, free from bullying and discrimination, to
322 include but not limited to, disability, gender bias, weight, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity,
323 gender expression, and/or religion. We support policies in all our schools that protect, honor and address
324 the needs of transgender and gender nonconforming students.

325
326 We believe children's early years are particularly important and support increased funding for birth to
327 grade 3 education and early childhood teacher education.

328
329 We support a dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education.

330
331 We cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the federal government.

332
333 We support adequate funding for mandatory public education K through 12. We do not support the use of
334 tax monies in a voucher program or tuition tax credits for private education K-12. Use of tax monies for

335 vouchers or tuition tax credits may have the effect of reducing support for public education and
336 weakening church and state separation. We support the constitutional separation of church and state in
337 education, which has been a cornerstone of democracy.

338
339 **HOUSING**

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

345
346 We also need economically affordable home ownership. To this end we support policies which re-think
347 the current formula to determine "affordability" as this formula puts both rentals and sales out of the reach
348 of most working families in Hawai'i.

349
350 We support circuit breaker or other relief to ensure that senior citizens are not taxed out of their homes.

351
352 We believe in the concept of "Housing First" to develop affordable, stable housing and support services to
353 break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options.

354
355 We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawaii's homeless population, to get
356 them off the streets and reintegrated into society, with specific devoted services for disenfranchised
357 groups including but not limited to the Hawaiian community, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning
358 veterans, the aged, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender homeless.

359
360 **HEALTH CARE**

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

365
366 We support the development of long-term care financing solutions, better pay and working conditions for
367 all health care providers, parity of mental and physical health coverage, and appropriate regulation of
368 health care delivery systems. We also support the development of empirically validated prevention
369 programs targeted at major public health issues.

370
371 We support national healthcare reform via single payer universal healthcare. We also encourage the
372 inclusion of a public option in the current national health care plan.

373
374 We cannot support the provisions that continue the practice of denying women coverage for abortion
375 services. Access to these services should not continue to be denied to women who most need these
376 services.

377
378 We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities
379 through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among
380 all age groups, as well as on better nutrition.

381
382 We also support the establishment of adequate mental health and statewide drug rehabilitation programs
383 set up in conjunction with policing policies aimed at enabling all that seek assistance to obtain whatever
384 support assistance is needed to allow them to remain free of drug dependence.

385
386 We support fair and equitable access to medical marijuana to be administered by the State of Hawaii's
387 Department of Health.

388
389 We support the passage and enforcement of laws banning both medical and therapeutic treatments for
390 the purpose of forcing sexual orientation, ~~and~~ gender identity and gender expression conversions, such

391 as conversion therapy (aka reparative therapy), for minors and adults at the State and Federal level. We
392 believe that everyone should have the opportunity to live a true and authentic self.

393
394 **DRUG POLICY REFORM**

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

396
397 **ARTS AND CULTURE**

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

405
406 **ENVIRONMENT**

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

412
413 We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased
414 citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and
415 environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

416
417 The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawaii's natural resources are connected to the health
418 and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural
419 environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future
420 generations.

421
422 We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage
423 and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future
424 demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to
425 secure our fresh water resources.

426
427 We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems
428 and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone
429 Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of
430 coastal resources.

431
432 We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private
433 stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

434
435 We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our
436 candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of
437 climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective
438 participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local,
439 and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.

440
441
442 **ENERGY**

443 We seek to achieve energy sustainability based on renewable energy sources. We must encourage the
444 use of clean alternative fuel sources to include our public transportation systems. We must increase the
445 use of public transit, telecommuting, car and vanpooling, ridesharing, biking, walking, and other forms of
446 transportation thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. We must also urgently develop the

447 use of a variety of cost-effective energy providing systems, encourage transit-oriented development, and
448 support tax incentives that encourage renewable energy initiatives.

449
450 We oppose any tax breaks to fossil fuel industries.

451
452 We support energy independence, self-sufficiency, affordability and reliability for Hawai'i through the
453 development of renewable alternative energy sources. Specifically, we need to support policies that foster
454 the development of energy production methods that de-emphasize carbon based fuels and promote
455 renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion
456 (OTEC).

457
458 Electricity rates in Hawaii are among the highest in the nation despite the fact that we enjoy an
459 abundance of sunshine year round. Electric utility companies and cooperatives must open the grid to
460 alternative power sources including solar panels and geothermal energy. We support the effort of our
461 government officials to require utilities to provide for the maximum, comprehensive, integrated use of
462 renewable energy and associated technologies such as storage and smart grid technologies.

463 464 **TRANSPORTATION**

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

472
473 We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on the automobile by employing private and public use of
474 alternative modes of travel. We encourage efforts to provide better vehicle and pedestrian safety. In
475 particular, we support initiatives that will provide our state with more fuel-efficient vehicles, affordable
476 mass transit and well-identified bike lanes. In order to be best served by mass transit, we must recognize
477 the importance of the integration in an urban setting of any new modes of mass transportation with
478 existing and future public streets and highways, bike lanes, retail establishments and services, and truly-
479 affordable housing – while maintaining a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all
480 future high-density developments.

481
482 We support the development of alternative emergency options for potential evacuation, with special
483 attention to rural areas that only have one access point.

484 485 **NATIONAL ISSUES**

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

490
491 We consider it imperative that our national government re-establish regulations and guidelines, such as
492 the Glass-Steagall Act, assuring that financial institutions operate fairly and transparently, and that they
493 do not jeopardize the larger public interest in pursuit of their private gain. We endorse the principle that if
494 such institutions are "too big to fail," then they are too big. We support the enactment and vigorous
495 enforcement of laws that penalize those corporations (and their executives and directors) who have
496 defrauded the public.

497
498 We believe that private ventures that may potentially endanger the environmental security of the planet
499 should be closely and firmly regulated and monitored in their activities by the Federal Government. The
500 Federal agencies responsible for such oversight must be adequately funded and staffed and must also
501 receive appropriate and expert public oversight. The Gulf oil spill is the most compelling case in point.

502

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

506
507 We condemn the deeply flawed process by which our Government has decided to use our military forces
508 in acts of preventive war.

509
510 Companies that shut down their operations and move to another place should be forced to make their
511 abandoned employees and communities whole and to pay their fair share of taxes. Companies, which
512 move their headquarters to foreign countries to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, should be
513 sanctioned and fined.

514
515 We ask that federal policies that violate the U. S. Constitution and/or international law, many of which
516 were initiated by the previous Republican administration, be reexamined. Where they are found to be
517 detrimental to our civil rights, and to human rights in general, and unless they are clearly essential to
518 prevent clear and present danger to our national security, we call for their abolition.

519
520 **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

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

528
529 **U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

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

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

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

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

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