

**2026 Democratic Party of Hawai'i State Convention
Resolutions**

as adopted on May 30, 2026

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2026-01 Supporting the Development and Implementation of Authentic Statewide Assessments in Public Schools

Whereas, The Hawai'i State Department of Education has committed to a student-first model of education that prioritizes the holistic development of every *keiki*, ensuring they are not only career-ready but culturally grounded; and

Whereas, Standardized tests often prioritize rote memorization and one-size-fits-all metrics that fail to capture the diverse talents and critical thinking skills of Hawai'i's students; and

Whereas, The Platform of Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports that a variety of learning strategies should be used and that standardized testing should be replaced with authentic assessments that promote real-world learning opportunities for students.

Whereas, Authentic assessments, including capstone projects, portfolios, scientific demonstrations, and āina-based learning, provide a more accurate reflection of student mastery and better prepare students for modern challenges than standardized tests; and

Whereas, The current federal administration is actively reducing federal education funding and has signaled a commitment to eliminating the federal Department of Education, thereby increasing the necessity for state-level educational investments; and

Whereas, It is fiscally irresponsible to continue funneling state resources into expensive corporate assessments at a time when federal support is diminishing and every state dollar must be maximized for the direct benefit of the classroom; and

Whereas, Developing authentic assessments would allow Hawai'i to eliminate recurring testing contracts that cost tens of millions of dollars each year, reinvesting funds into local teachers and classrooms; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of the State of Hawai'i urges the Department of Education to reduce its reliance on standardized testing to assess student performance; and be it further

Resolved, That the department is requested to invest in authentic assessments that align with real-world problem-solving; and be it further

Resolved, That the department is urged to identify the total annual expenditure on out-of-state testing vendors and evaluate how those funds can be redirected to develop an authentic assessment framework; and be it further

Resolved, That Hawai'i educators are requested to be meaningfully included in the design of any new student assessments to ensure that such assessments reflect the culture of the islands and unique demands of classroom instruction; and be it

Ordered, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai'i, the Superintendent of the Department of Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Chairs of the House and Senate standing committees at the Hawai'i State Legislature with jurisdiction over public education.

2026-02 Urging the Adoption of Wealth Taxation to Fund Paid Family Leave, Higher Education, and Social Safeguards

Whereas, The Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports policies that circulate currency through our economy, helping businesses to thrive, including tax policy that lessens the tax burden of low- and middle-income earners and increases the tax burden of high-income earners and the wealthy; and

Whereas, The "Big Beautiful Bill" extended and expanded Trump era tax cuts, increased border, immigration and defense spending, and made major cuts or tightened safety net programs and educational programs, where the Congressional Budget Office estimated the law would increase the federal deficit by over \$2.8 trillion over the next ten years.

Whereas, Billionaire wealth has surged while our nation's public infrastructure—from our schools to our social safety net programs—has been systematically defunded or restricted; and

Whereas, The erosion of federal social safeguards and public education funding has left a gap that must be filled by bold state action; and

Whereas, Working families in Hawai'i face the highest cost of living in the nation, frequently forced to choose between a paycheck and caring for a newborn or loved one or pursuing the higher education and many times have to make a difficult decision to move away to find a more affordable place to live breaking up generational and cultural ties to our islands; and

Whereas, A fair and progressive tax system, including a Billionaire Minimum Income Tax, would provide the necessary revenue to ensure that the residents of Hawai'i can thrive in the islands they call home and ensure Paid Family Leave is a right for every parent or caregiver and that higher educational opportunities are accessible to every student regardless of their financial background; ; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i advocates for the passage of a Billionaire Minimum Income Tax to ensure that the ultra-wealthy contribute to the public resources from which they profit; and be it further

Resolved, That the Party urges the use of such revenues to establish a Comprehensive State Paid Family Leave Program, providing all workers with paid time off to care for newborns, newly adopted children, or ailing family members without fear of financial ruin; and be it further

Resolved, That the Party supports the expansion of the "Hawai'i Promise" program to provide Tuition-Free Education at all University of Hawai'i campuses and community colleges, ensuring that our keiki can attain a degree and build a career without the burden of predatory student debt; and be it further

Resolved, That these investments in paid leave and education are not "costs," but essential social safeguards that not only strengthen our local economy, improve public health, but also help to foster and support a local workforce rooted in ohana and community values; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i calls upon our State and Federal delegations to prioritize these human-centered policies over tax breaks for the top 0.01% of earners; and be it

Ordered, That this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i State Central Committee and our elected representatives as a commitment to an economy rooted in equity, education, and the values of Aloha.

2026-03 Calling for Restoration of the Foley Commission to Examine Legislative Power Concentration and Recommend Reforms, and Adopt Further Legislative Process Reforms

Whereas, In 2022, a Hawai'i State Representative pled guilty in federal court to honest services wire fraud involving payments accepted in exchange for the exercise of his official legislative duties and

Where a thorough reckoning of these events required not only accountability for individual conduct, but also an honest examination of the structural and institutional conditions that created the environment in which such conduct could occur; and

Whereas, The Foley Commission was established to examine ethical standards and governance practices in the Hawai'i State Legislature and produced 31 substantive recommendations for reform that the Legislature did not fully act upon, passing 20 of the 28 bills in some form during the 2023 session; and

Whereas, Current House and Senate Rules vest extraordinary authority in a small number of legislative leaders, including the power of committee chairs to hold bills without a hearing and the absence of mandatory disclosure requirements for decisions to advance or withhold legislation, creating conditions of opacity inherently susceptible to corruption; and

Whereas, The people of Hawai'i deserve a legislature in which every member's vote carries equal weight and in which no single legislator's ability to advance or kill a bill constitutes a commodity that can be bought or sold; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully urge the legislature to adopt the following amendments to House and Senate Rules: that each committee make all testimony immediately available for public review at least 22 hours before a hearing and at least 2 hours before a hearing for late testimony; that each committee vote on the disposition of all bills referred to it and not use deferrals as a means of hiding committee member positions; that non-fiscal bills not be referred to finance committees; that all bills be circulated for co-sponsorship and that any House bill with at least 17 co-introducers or any Senate bill with at least 9 co-introducers be scheduled for at least one hearing; and that written amendments be in the possession of legislators before any amended bill may be voted on; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully urge the legislature to pass a bill placing a constitutional amendment question on the ballot to allow the electorate to vote on term limits for state legislators; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to restore the Foley Commission with a mandate to re-examine the institutional and structural conditions that contributed to the Hawaii State Representative's conviction, review House and Senate Rules governing committee referrals, hearing schedules, and chair discretion, assess whether existing rules provide sufficient transparency and accountability to constituents, and submit a final report to the full House no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the Thirty-Fourth Legislature with specific recommended amendments to House Rules; with the Commission to be composed of independent members with expertise in legislative ethics and to conduct its work publicly with a full record available to all residents; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and the Clerk of the Legislature.

2026-04 Calling on Elected Democrats to Uphold the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform and Establishing New Accountability Mechanisms for Those Who Do Not

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform represents the collective voice of Party members and the policy positions that elected Democrats are expected to promote and support through legislation, voting, and implementation; and

Whereas, The preamble of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform commits the Party to integrity, honesty, and transparency, and calls on elected officials to govern in accordance with Democratic values and the will of the people who elected them; and

Whereas, Elected Democrats who consistently vote against or refuse to advance the Party platform undermine the democratic process, erode public trust, and render the platform meaningless as an expression of Party values; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i has no current formal mechanism to hold elected officials accountable when their voting records and legislative conduct are inconsistent with the platform they sought election under; and

Whereas, Accountability to constituents and to Party principles is not merely aspirational but essential to a functioning democracy and a credible political party; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i call on all elected Democrats statewide to publicly commit to upholding the Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform and to provide a public written explanation when casting votes or taking official actions that are inconsistent with platform positions; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges adoption of internal rules establishing accountability mechanisms for elected Democrats who act contrary to the platform, including the authority to issue a formal censure or public rebuke, and to communicate the official Party position to constituents when their elected representative has voted against it; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i conduct and publish an annual review of the voting records and official conduct of all elected Democrats in Hawai'i, measured against the Party platform, and to make this review publicly available to all Party members and constituents; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the State Central Committee, all county committees of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and all elected Democrats currently serving in office in the State of Hawai'i.

2026-05 Affirming the Need for Comprehensive Civics and Social Media Literacy Education

Whereas, The Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i affirms its commitment to liberty, social and economic justice, and respect for the dignity and worth of each individual and its support for a functioning democracy requires governmental transparency, free and fair elections, and most importantly, a well-informed and engaged citizenry; and

Whereas, House Bill 763, House Draft 1 which sought to establish a comprehensive civics course in public schools to empower students with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective civic participation, did not advance during the 2025-2026 legislative sessions; and

Whereas, The widespread use of social media has introduced new challenges to civic life, including the rapid proliferation of misinformation and disinformation; and

Whereas, The nation of Finland has demonstrated a successful, cross-curricular approach to combating misinformation by integrating media and information literacy into its national curriculum from a young age, thereby fostering a population that is more discerning and resilient to fake news and propaganda; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i's commitment to high-quality public education for students at every level necessitates preparing them for the realities of the digital age; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i affirms its support for legislation and policies that would require the Hawai'i Department of Education to develop and implement a comprehensive and mandatory civics and social media literacy curriculum for all public school students, from elementary school through high school; and be it further

Resolved, That such a curriculum should include, but not be limited to: 1. Civic Education: Foundational instruction on the structure and function of government at the local, state, and federal levels, including the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i and the U.S. Constitution, with a specific focus on the rights and responsibilities of citizens and the importance of active civic participation. 2. Social Media and Digital Literacy: Practical lessons on how to critically evaluate online sources, identify misinformation and disinformation, understand the role of algorithms and echo chambers, and engage in safe and ethical online communication; and be it further

Resolved, That the development of a curriculum requires the collaboration of educators, media professionals, and community organizations to ensure the curriculum is relevant, dynamic, and effective in preparing Hawai'i's youth to be informed, responsible, and resilient citizens in a rapidly evolving digital world.

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all Democratic members of the Hawaii State Legislature, the Governor, and the Superintendent of the Department of Education and Members of the Board of Education.

2026-06 Condemning the Unauthorized United States Military Attack on Iran and Calling for Congressional Oversight and Diplomatic Resolution

Whereas, the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i passed a similar resolution in 2026; and

Whereas, On February 28, 2026, the United States and Israel launched coordinated military strikes on Iran, targeting government officials, military commanders, and facilities across multiple Iranian cities, killing thousands of civilians; and

Whereas, The United States Constitution vests the power to declare war exclusively in the Congress of the United States, and no such declaration or authorization was sought or obtained prior to these strikes; and

Whereas, The United Nations Secretary General condemned the strikes as squandering an opportunity for diplomacy, and the UN Security Council convened in emergency session in response; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform affirms that diplomacy, international cooperation, and adherence to constitutional principles must guide United States foreign policy; and

Whereas, The people of Hawai'i, as a state with deep ties to the Asia-Pacific region and a history of bearing the consequences of militarism, have a profound interest in peaceful resolution of international conflicts; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i condemns the unauthorized military attack on Iran as a violation of the United States Constitution and international law, and call on the United States Congress to immediately assert its war powers authority, conduct full oversight of the military action, and require Congressional authorization for any continuation of hostilities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i call on the United States Congress and the Administration to pursue an immediate ceasefire and return to diplomatic negotiations to resolve conflicts with Iran without further military escalation; and be it finally

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

2026-07 Supporting Disclosure and Transparency of Government Files Related to Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP)

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform explicitly affirms that "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people must be transparent and accountable," and the continued withholding of UAP-related data by unelected entities undermines the fundamental principle of informed consent by the governed; and

Whereas, The late Senator Daniel K. Inouye, while serving as Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Secret Military Assistance, formally testified to the existence of a "secret government, directed principally by National Security Council staffers, accountable to not a single elected official... a shadowy government with its own air force, its own navy, its own fund-raising mechanism, and the ability to pursue its own ideas of the national interest, free from all checks and balances, and free from the law itself"; and

Whereas, Senator Inouye was instrumental in reviving official interest in this subject, joining colleagues in 2007 to discreetly allocate \$22 million within the Pentagon's classified budget to investigate Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), establishing a historic precedent for the study of deeply compartmentalized programs operating outside standard Constitutional oversight; and

Whereas, The continued lack of transparency regarding Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) suggests a persistence of these "shadowy" mechanisms, potentially concealing advanced technologies or national security data from the American people and their elected representatives; and

Whereas, In 2020, the Pentagon deemed UAPs a potential national security threat and formed a dedicated task force to study them; and

Whereas, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer introduced the UAP Disclosure Act in 2023 and 2024 to establish that all government records related to UAPs and technologies of unknown origins should be presumed public, stating, "The American public has a right to learn about technologies of unknown origins, non-human intelligence, and unexplainable phenomena"; and

Whereas, Public figures, including Hillary Clinton as recently as March 2026, have reiterated that "whatever can be disclosed should be disclosed," and Hawai'i's Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono have consistently supported National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) amendments mandating the declassification of UAP records; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully petitions Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation to co-sponsor and aggressively support the UAP Disclosure Act and related transparency legislation, ensuring that the federal government adheres to a "presumption of disclosure" for all records concerning unidentified anomalous phenomena and technologies of unknown origin; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges our Senators and Representatives to exercise their full oversight and appropriations authority to demand a complete accounting of any "Legacy Programs" or "waived-unacknowledged" Special Access Programs (SAPs) that may be operating without the direct knowledge and consent of the United States Congress; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai'i, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the four County Mayors and Councils, Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, and relevant community partners across our islands.

2026-08 Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Increase the Loan Guarantee Limit for Hawaiian Home Lands Mortgages

Whereas, The State of Hawai'i, through the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), has a constitutional and trust responsibility to provide homestead opportunities for Native Hawaiians pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act; and

Whereas, Access to affordable financing remains one of the most significant barriers preventing beneficiaries from constructing or purchasing homes on Hawaiian Home Lands; and

Whereas, The State's loan guarantee program has historically enabled qualified beneficiaries to secure mortgages by reducing lender risk, thereby increasing access to homeownership opportunities; and

Whereas, Current loan guarantee limits no longer reflect the realities of Hawai'i's housing market, where construction and home purchase costs have significantly increased; and

Whereas, Increasing the loan guarantee limit would expand access to financing, reduce the waiting list for DHHL beneficiaries, and advance the State's commitment to housing equity and economic self-sufficiency for Native Hawaiians; and

Whereas, HB2308, HD1, introduced during the 2026 legislative session, proposed to raise the loan guarantee ceiling to better align with present-day housing costs and improve the effectiveness of the program failed to advance; and

Whereas, Stable homeownership contributes to stronger families, healthier communities, and long-term generational wealth-building within the Native Hawaiian community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to enact legislation to increase the loan guarantee limit for Hawaiian Home Lands mortgages to a level that reflects current market conditions and construction costs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports continued investment in and expansion of programs that improve access to housing for DHHL beneficiaries; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

2026-09 Urging the State of Hawai'i and the Counties to Ensure Consistent Ballot Tracking and Full Custody of Election Records

Whereas, Public confidence in Hawai'i's elections depends on accurate, transparent, and consistent reconciliation of ballots collected and ballots counted; and

Whereas, Reports to the Hawai'i Elections Commission identified discrepancies between ballots collected and counted in recent elections, including a reported difference of 661 ballots in Kaua'i and unresolved concerns regarding significantly higher variances on Hawai'i Island; and

Whereas, Reviews of public records have confirmed inconsistencies among the Statewide Voter Registration System, county collection logs, USPS mail receipts, and electronic ballot records, making reconciliation difficult; and

Whereas, The Office of Elections has acknowledged that certain election records, including Cast Vote Records from the 2020 General Election, were not retrievable after being held by a private contractor; and

Whereas, Federal law, including the Civil Rights Act of 1960 (52 U.S.C. §§ 20701–20702), requires election officials to retain and preserve all election records and maintain ultimate authority and access to such records, even when third-party vendors are used; and

Whereas, Failure to comply with these requirements may result in criminal penalties and undermines the integrity of election administration; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the State Office of Elections and the Counties to implement uniform, transparent processes for tracking all ballots—mail, in-person, electronic, overseas, and military—and to ensure consistent reconciliation across all systems; and be it further

Resolved, That election administrators must retain full custody, control, and access to all election records in compliance with federal law, regardless of any contracted services; and be it further

Resolved, That corrective procedures be adopted to prevent the loss, inaccessibility, or inconsistent reporting of election records, thereby safeguarding the integrity of Hawai'i's elections; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the State Office of Elections, county clerks, the Governor, the Legislature, Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, the Hawai'i Elections Commission, and Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

2026-10 Urging the Hawai‘ State Legislature to Conduct a Statewide Inventory of Traditional Hawaiian Fishponds (Loko I‘a) to Advance Food Self-Sustainability and Cultural Restoration

Whereas, Traditional Hawaiian fishponds (loko i‘a) represent one of the most sophisticated and sustainable aquaculture systems in the world, developed by Native Hawaiians over centuries, to ensure a reliable and abundant food supply; and

Whereas, Loko i‘a are integral to Native Hawaiian cultural practices, ‘ike kūpuna, and traditional resource management systems that reflect a reciprocal relationship between people and ‘āina; and

Whereas, Prior to Western contact, hundreds of fishponds existed across the Hawaiian Islands and played a critical role in sustaining local communities; and

Whereas, Many loko i‘a have since fallen into disrepair due to land use changes, regulatory barriers, lack of resources, and insufficient coordinated state support; and

Whereas, The restoration and revitalization of loko i‘a present a significant opportunity to advance Hawai‘i’s goals of food security, sustainability, and climate resilience; and

Whereas, Hawai‘i currently imports a substantial majority of its food, making the State vulnerable to supply chain disruptions and highlighting the urgent need to strengthen local food production systems; and

Whereas, There is currently no comprehensive, up-to-date statewide inventory identifying the location, condition, ownership, and restoration potential of fishponds across the State; and

Whereas, Legislative efforts, such as HB309 SD1, have recognized the importance of identifying and assessing fishpond resources to better inform policy and support restoration efforts; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports prioritizing community-based and Native Hawaiian-led stewardship of loko i‘a, recognizing the importance of ‘ike kūpuna and traditional management practices; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i urges the Hawai‘i State Legislature to fund and direct the appropriate state agencies to conduct a comprehensive statewide inventory of traditional Hawaiian fishponds (loko i‘a), including their location, condition, ownership, regulatory status, and restoration potential; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature utilize the findings of the inventory to develop a coordinated statewide strategy to support the restoration, protection, and sustainable use of loko i‘a for food self-sustainability to include but not limited to technical and financial assistance, and streamlined permitting processes; and be it further

Resolved, That the development of such an inventory and strategy should include meaningful partnerships with Native Hawaiian organizations, cultural practitioners, and lineal descendants; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai‘i, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairpersons of the Senate and House Water and Land Committees, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and all Democratic members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature.

2026-11A Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Mitigate the Cost of Living Impacts of Global Conflict on Hawai'i Residents

Whereas, Global conflicts often lead to increases in fuel and energy costs, which have a disproportionate impact on Hawai'i due to the State's geographic isolation and dependence on imported energy and goods; and

Whereas, Rising fuel costs increase the price of electricity, food, transportation, shipping, and other necessities, placing the greatest burden on kūpuna, low- and moderate-income families, Native Hawaiian communities, and residents on fixed incomes; and

Whereas, The State of Hawai'i has a compelling interest in ensuring economic stability, food security, and access to essential services for its residents during periods of global instability; and

Whereas, Proactive planning and targeted relief measures can help protect vulnerable members of the community from sudden economic shocks and disruptions in global supply chains; and

Whereas, Strengthening Hawai'i's resilience through local food production, renewable energy development, and community support systems can help reduce vulnerability during periods of international conflict and economic uncertainty; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to explore and, as appropriate, implement emergency energy cost relief measures, transportation and shipping subsidies, and the expansion of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and kūpuna assistance programs in the event of significant price increases resulting from global conflict; and

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i encourages consultation with community organizations, Native Hawaiian service providers, anti-poverty advocates, food security organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that assistance programs are accessible, culturally appropriate, and responsive to the needs of Hawai'i's diverse communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports efforts to strengthen Hawai'i's food security, renewable energy capacity, and economic resilience in order to reduce vulnerability to global instability and supply disruptions; and be it

Ordered, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, the Senate Committee on Human Services, the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness, and all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

2026-11B Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Support Military Families Through State and Community-Based Initiatives

Whereas, Hawai'i is home to a large population of active-duty military personnel and their families, who are integral members of our communities and whose service and sacrifice are deeply valued; and

Whereas, Military deployments place significant emotional, financial, educational, and childcare burdens on families, particularly on keiki and on spouses who must assume additional responsibilities during periods of separation; and

Whereas, Access to timely and culturally responsive mental health services is essential to the well-being of military families and to the healthy development of their children; and

Whereas, Frequent deployments and relocations may disrupt educational continuity, employment stability, childcare arrangements, and family support systems; and

Whereas, Military-connected students in Hawai'i's public schools may experience unique social and emotional challenges associated with deployments, transitions, and parental absences; and

Whereas, While support for military families is primarily a federal responsibility, the impacts of deployment and military life are experienced within Hawai'i's schools, workplaces, healthcare systems, and communities; and

Whereas, Hawai'i has a compelling interest in ensuring that military families residing in the State have access to community support systems that strengthen family resilience and well-being; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to support military families through state initiatives that complement existing federal programs, including school-based counseling services for military-connected keiki, access to culturally responsive mental health services, and efforts to improve childcare accessibility and family stability during deployments; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i encourages the Legislature to consult with military family support organizations, Native Hawaiian service providers, educators, mental health professionals, employers, and community organizations to ensure that such programs and services are accessible, culturally appropriate, and responsive to the needs of Hawai'i's diverse communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports efforts to strengthen partnerships among state agencies, schools, employers, healthcare providers, and military support organizations to improve coordination of services available to military families residing in Hawai'i; and be it

Ordered, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, the House Committee on Public Safety, the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, the House Committee on Health, and all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

2026-12 Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Ensure Equity in Public Financing for Candidates for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees

Whereas, The State of Hawai'i has established a system of partial public financing of elections to promote fairness, reduce the influence of large private contributions, and encourage broader participation in the democratic process; and

Whereas, The Legislature's recent efforts to modernize Hawai'i's public financing system represent meaningful progress toward improving electoral participation, transparency, and access to public campaign financing; and

Whereas, The Office of Hawaiian Affairs was established pursuant to Article XII of the Hawai'i State Constitution to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians and Hawaiians, and its trustees carry statewide fiduciary responsibilities of constitutional significance; and

Whereas, The elections for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is a statewide non-partisan race and allows all registered voters in the State of Hawai'i to participate, and requires OHA Trustee candidates to campaign statewide and communicate with all potential voters; and

Whereas, OHA Trustee candidates must campaign statewide without access to the same campaign infrastructure typically available in partisan statewide races, relying primarily on grassroots, community-based support; and

Whereas, Under current law, candidates for the State House of Representatives and State Senate run in geographically limited districts, and candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor running statewide, have significantly higher public financing limits than OHA Trustee candidates; and

Whereas, The 2026 Legislature did pass H.B. 2050, HD1 SD1 CD, where candidates for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees must obtain qualifying contributions exceeding \$5,500 to participate in the public financing program, and while substantially higher than the thresholds for candidates for the State House of Representatives and State Senate, it still results in significantly lower percentages of public financing support for a statewide office, thus the bill awaiting the Governor's signature does not fully address the inequities affecting OHA Trustee races; and

Whereas, Inequitable public financing structures may discourage qualified community leaders and grassroots candidates from seeking election to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees, thereby limiting public participation and reducing the diversity of voices available to voters; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Legislature to direct the Hawai'i Campaign Spending Commission, in coordination with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, to develop and recommend a public financing formula specifically tailored to OHA Trustee races that accounts for their unique statewide scope, nonpartisan structure, and lack of geographic district limitations; and be it further

Resolved, that such reforms should include consideration of statewide parity in public financing formulas, reduced qualifying contribution thresholds, increased matching fund ratios, and funding levels proportionate to the actual costs of statewide campaigning; and be it

Ordered, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Chair of the Hawai'i Campaign Spending Commission, the Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees, the Chief Election Officer, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

2026-13 Calling for the Hawai'i State Legislature to Require a Study on the Health Effects of Geothermal Development

Whereas, Geothermal energy is a renewable energy source that was supported by the Democratic Party of Hawaii Resolution 2024-17 to reduce Hawai'i's dependence on fossil fuels and move toward energy sovereignty; and

Whereas, Potential expansion of geothermal development have raised concerns about its impact on the health of nearby communities caused by geothermal energy projects that involve activities such as drilling, fluid extraction, and emissions, such as hydrogen sulfide, particulate matter, heavy metals, and other byproducts that could affect air and water quality, leading to possible respiratory, neurological, and other health effects; and

Whereas, There is a need for comprehensive, peer-reviewed research to assess both short-term and long-term health impacts of geothermal energy production in various geographic and environmental settings; and

Whereas, Understanding the potential health risks and benefits of geothermal development can guide policymakers, industry stakeholders, and communities in making informed decisions regarding the expansion and regulation of geothermal energy projects; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Hawai'i State Legislature is urged to require a comprehensive, independent study to evaluate the potential health effects of geothermal energy development, with a focus on air and water quality impacts, occupational health concerns, and community health outcomes; and be it further

Resolved, That this study shall be conducted by the University of Hawai'i or an impartial scientific body with expertise in environmental health, geology, and energy systems, in collaboration with local health agencies, research institutions, and affected communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the study shall include recommendations for mitigation strategies to minimize potential adverse health effects and propose best practices for sustainable geothermal development; and be it further

Resolved, That the findings of this study shall be made publicly available and presented to the appropriate legislative or regulatory bodies to inform future policy decisions regarding geothermal energy expansion and public health protections; and be it

Ordered, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the University of Hawai'i, the Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, the Chairs of the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, the Senate and House Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection; as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, all County Mayors, and all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

2026-14 Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Increase the Pro Rata Share of Public Land Trust Revenues Provided to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Whereas, The Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports Native Hawaiians in their efforts to secure justice from the federal and state governments to repair the harms suffered and endured by the Native Hawaiian people and 'āina, including fulfilling its Public Land Trust responsibilities which require that the revenue be provided annually to Native Hawaiians and funding of the Hawaiian Homes Commission budget.

Whereas, The State of Hawai'i holds the Public Land Trust (PLT) in trust for five purposes, including the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians, as established under Section 5(f) of the Admission Act and Article XII, Section 4 of the Hawai'i State Constitution; and

Whereas, The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is the entity designated to receive and administer a portion of Public Land Trust revenues on behalf of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries; and

Whereas, The pro rata share of Public Land Trust revenues for the betterment of Native Hawaiians has long been understood to be twenty percent, yet the State has for decades provided an amount significantly below that level, resulting in a substantial and continuing shortfall in resources owed to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries; and

Whereas, The Legislature established an annual transfer of \$21,500,000 in 2022 as an interim measure, but this amount remains well below the full pro rata share and was not intended as a final determination of the State's obligation; and

Whereas, Since that time, the cumulative effects of inflation have significantly eroded the purchasing power of these funds—reducing their real value by approximately 18 to 20 percent—thereby resulting in a de facto reduction in support and further diminishing the State's ability to meet its trust responsibilities; and

Whereas, As the cost of housing, health care, education, and basic necessities continues to rise, maintaining a static funding level effectively reduces the level of services and support available to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries; and

Whereas, While the ongoing work of the Public Land Trust Working Group and completion of a comprehensive inventory are important, these long-term efforts should not preclude reasonable interim adjustments to address present-day needs; and

Whereas, During the 2026 legislative session, House Bill 2584, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, proposed a temporary increase in the annual transfer of Public Land Trust revenues to restore value and provide stability while longer-term solutions are developed did not advance; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports interim adjustments to Public Land Trust revenue transfers while comprehensive solutions, including completion of the Public Land Trust inventory and implementation of Working Group recommendations, are pursued; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to increase the pro rata share of Public Land Trust revenues provided to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to more accurately reflect the twenty percent trust standard, current economic conditions, and the State's fiduciary responsibilities; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

2026-15 Affirming Strong Support for Hawai'i's Vote-By-Mail System and Opposing Efforts to Limit or Repeal It

Whereas, *‘O ke kuleana o ke kama‘āina, ke kū‘oko‘a o ka lāhui, he waiwai waihona, he kuleana pa‘a*, and the right to vote is fundamental to the self-determination and well-being of Hawai'i's people; and

Whereas, The State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i passed a resolution on this topic; and

Whereas, Hawai'i adopted universal vote-by-mail statewide with Act 136 (2019), implemented starting with the 2020 Primary Election, providing a ballot to every registered voter and ensuring secure voter service centers and official Places of Deposit (ballot drop boxes); and

Whereas, The transition to vote-by-mail in Hawai'i coincided with record-breaking voter turnout in 2020, reversing decades of decline, with approximately 69.65% turnout statewide and over 95% of ballots returned by mail or official drop box (EAC 2020 Election Administration & Voting Survey, Associated Press, Nov. 2020); and

Whereas, Materials presented by a permitted interaction group of the Hawai'i Elections Commission have questioned whether mail-in voting has sustainably increased participation, noting turnout rates of **34% (2016)**, **38% (2018)**, **51% (2020)**, **39% (2022)**, and **32% (2024)**, with the spike in 2020 largely attributed to pandemic conditions; and

Whereas, The security of Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system is maintained through a series of safeguards, including a statewide voter registration database that is continuously updated to ensure accuracy, unique barcodes on each ballot to prevent double voting, and the critical process of signature verification where election officials match the signature on the return envelope with the voter's signature on file; and

Whereas, The State of Hawai'i has streamlined the voter registration process by providing a convenient option to register to vote or update voter registration information as part of the driver's license and State ID application process, further expanding access and ensuring the accuracy of voter rolls; and

Whereas, *Ua lehulehu a manomano ka ‘ikena a ka Hawai‘i*, the knowledge and experience of our kūpuna guide us to remove unnecessary burdens to civic engagement, and vote-by-mail reduces barriers faced by kūpuna, persons with disabilities, and residents of remote neighbor-island communities; and

Whereas, Proposals across the United States—including Georgia's SB 202, Florida's SB 90, and Texas's SB 1—have sought to restrict vote-by-mail, limit drop boxes, and add barriers to absentee voting, signaling a concerning national trend to curtail voting access; and

Whereas, repealing or restricting mail by voting would disenfranchise voters living on neighbor islands and Hawaiian Home Lands, as well as elderly and disabled voters who depend on accessible voting options; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i affirms strong support for Hawai'i's vote-by-mail system and opposes efforts to limit or repeal it; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawai'i Office of Elections, Hawai'i Elections Commission, County Clerks, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, and all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

2026-16 Condemning the Genocide in Gaza and Calling on the United States to End Military Support for Israeli Actions Against Palestinian Civilians

Whereas, Since October 7, 2023, more than 75,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, with independent peer-reviewed studies estimating that over 80 percent of those killed are civilians, including a disproportionate number of women, children, and elderly; and

Whereas, In September 2025, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory concluded that four of the five acts of genocide as defined by the Genocide Convention have been committed in Gaza since October 7, 2023, and a case accusing Israel of genocide is under review by the International Court of Justice; and

Whereas, Gaza's healthcare infrastructure, schools, and civilian housing have been systematically destroyed, and humanitarian aid has been repeatedly blocked, resulting in mass starvation and preventable death; and

Whereas, The United States has provided sustained military and diplomatic support to Israel throughout these actions, making the United States complicit in the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform affirms the dignity and worth of all human beings and commits the Party to the defense of human rights and international law; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i condemns the genocide being carried out against the Palestinian people in Gaza and call on the United States government to immediately suspend all military aid and weapons transfers to Israel until the killing of civilians ceases and full humanitarian access to Gaza is restored; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i call on all members of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation to support an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid, and a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict grounded in international law and the equal rights of all peoples; and be it

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

2026-17 Supporting Non-Engagement with the State of Israel During its Genocide Against Palestinians

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i is committed to justice, equality, human rights, and the protection of oppressed peoples worldwide; and

Whereas, During the 2024 legislative session, the Hawai'i State Legislature adopted a joint resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian aid into Gaza, aligning with the Party's December 2023 unanimous resolution supporting ceasefire, humanitarian assistance, peace, and self-determination; and

Whereas, Ongoing violence, famine, displacement, and suffering experienced by Palestinian civilians have caused catastrophic harm, and major human rights organizations and United Nations bodies have documented severe violations of international law; and

Whereas, Palestinian civilians continue to face airstrikes, military blockades, starvation, forced displacement, and other human rights abuses resulting in mass casualties and widespread trauma; and

Whereas, Preventing complicity in international law violations requires governments and institutions to act responsibly, support victims, and promote accountability; and

Whereas, U.S. military and financial assistance to Israel, including that connected to the State of Hawai'i, raises concerns about complicity in these harms; and

Whereas, Foreign-funded travel by public officials, including delegations sponsored by the State of Israel, raises concerns regarding propriety, conflicts of interest, and compliance with the Hawai'i State Ethics Code under Hawai'i Revised Statutes §84-11 and §84-11.5; and

Whereas, Such travel may erode public confidence in the independence and ethical standards of Hawai'i's elected officials; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i affirms that such travel does not reflect the values of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i as outlined in its platform and mission; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i expresses concern about Hawai'i public officials participating in foreign-funded delegations to Israel during ongoing violations of international law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i calls for suspension of U.S. military and financial assistance to Israel until it complies with international law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i opposes high-value gifts or foreign-government-funded travel by public officials without full transparency, prior ethics review, and a clear public purpose; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted electronically to the Governor of Hawai'i, Hawai'i's elected officials, the Democratic National Committee, and national and local media, and posted on the Party's website and social media platforms.

2026-18 Affirming the Authority to Initiate and Sustain United States Military Engagement Resides with Congress and Urging Consideration of Constitutional Safeguards to Ensure Congress' Authority

Whereas, The State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i passed a resolution on this issue; and

Whereas, The Constitution of the United States vests in Congress the authority to declare war, reflecting the principle that decisions of war and peace must be made through democratic deliberation; and

Whereas, The President, as Commander in Chief, holds authority to direct the Armed Forces, creating a balance of powers intended to prevent unilateral engagement in prolonged military conflict; and

Whereas, The War Powers Resolution of 1973 was enacted to reinforce Congressional authority but relies largely on voluntary compliance and political enforcement; and

Whereas, Successive administrations of both political parties have engaged in military actions without explicit Congressional authorization, raising concerns regarding the erosion of Congressional war powers; and

Whereas, The absence of clear, enforceable limits on unilateral executive military action risks undermining constitutional checks and balances; and

Whereas, Hawai'i's residents, including many service members and their families, bear a direct impact from decisions to deploy United States Armed Forces; and

Whereas, Native Hawaiian values of *mālama ola* and *pono* call for careful, balanced, and accountable decision-making; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i affirms that the authority to initiate and sustain United States military engagement resides with Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the United States Congress to strengthen statutory frameworks governing the use of military force to ensure meaningful oversight and accountability; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i calls for the study and consideration of constitutional safeguards, including potential amendments, to establish clear and enforceable limits on unilateral executive authority to engage in sustained military conflict without Congressional authorization; and be it further

Resolved, That such safeguards may include mechanisms ensuring timely Congressional approval, automatic limitations on unauthorized hostilities, and appropriate avenues for judicial review; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Hawai'i's Congressional delegation, leadership of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

2026-19 Opposing Renewal of Military Leases on State and Crown Lands and Calling for the Return of Pōhakuloa to the Hawaiian People

Whereas, The Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i states that the United States military has an obligation to protect the health and safety of the people of Hawai'i and an obligation to protect the ecological health of the environment and to hold the United States military accountable for harm it causes to the people of Hawai'i and to the environment.

Whereas, In 1964, the state of Hawai'i leased approximately 22,700 acres to the U.S. Army for 65 years for just \$1; and

Whereas, These lands are a part of the Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA), which spans more than 132,000 acres, making it the largest US Department of Defense installation in Hawaii; and

Whereas, On May 9, 2025, the state's Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) voted to reject the U.S. Army's final environmental impact statement for its proposed retention of its state-owned land lease set to expire in 2029; and

Whereas, The military has used the state lands within the training area for military exercises, despite the lands' designation as a conservation district, status as "ceded" (lands acquired through the unlawful overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom) and cultural significance to Native Hawaiians; and

Whereas, Pursuant to the Admission Act of 1959, Section 5(f), the military use of these public lands are not one of the five trust purposes; and

Whereas, The military's use of these public lands is in violation of the public trust and the Hawai'i State Constitution, Article XII, Section 4; and

Whereas, The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has included in its 2026 legislative package a constitutional amendment to prohibit live-fire military training on state lands, reflecting the broad demand of Kanaka Maoli for the return of these lands; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Governor and the Board of Land and Natural Resources to refuse any renewal or extension of the Army's lease at Pōhakuloa when it expires in 2029 and to begin the process of returning these conservation lands to the public land trust for the benefit of Native Hawaiians and the people of Hawai'i; and be it further

Resolved, That the Hawai'i State Legislature support OHA's proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting live-fire military training on state lands, require full environmental remediation by the Army prior to any land return, and be it further

Resolved, That Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation oppose any federal legislation that would circumvent the state's authority over its public trust lands or fast-track lease renewals without full community consent; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Board of Land and Natural Resources, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, all members of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, and the leadership of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

2026-20 Urging Democratic Party of Hawai'i Support for the 2026-2028 Party-run Presidential Primary Committee Report of the Standing Party-Run Presidential Primary Committee

Whereas, The State of Hawai'i does not hold a Presidential Primary Election, therefore, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i is operationally tasked to hold a contest to determine the State of Hawai'i's Democratic preference of viable presidential contenders; and

Whereas, This preference informs the apportionment of Hawai'i delegates to the Democratic National Convention where the Democratic presidential candidate is selected to represent Democrats in the general election nationwide; and

Whereas, Article V, Section 9O of the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i establishes the Party-Run Presidential Primary (PPP) Committee; and

Whereas, The purpose and responsibility of the PPP Committee, in part, is as follows: In the 3-year term preceding the Presidential Election the Party-run Presidential Primary Committee shall be responsible for reviewing the requirements from the Democratic National Committee that govern the process to hold a Party-run Presidential Primary (PPP) so they can assist in writing the Delegate Selection Plan and develop the program to implement the PPP and lead the effort to fundraise to pay for their plan; and

Whereas, When a state Party holds its own contest to determine presidential preference, the Democratic National Committee provides in its convention guiding documents the option of conducting a caucus or a Party-run Presidential Primary and in the past, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has conducted both types of contests; and

Whereas, The 2024-2026 PPP Committee after review of prior party-run presidential primaries and presidential caucuses has determined that the goal of the 2028 contest is to obtain the highest participation through outreach and accessibility, thus aligning with our most valued Democratic principle, reaching the best outcome for the people through fair elections and active citizen participation; and

Whereas, The 2024-2026 PPP Committee has determined that mail-in ballots with an option of voting online and including rank choice voting, as the method that would likely obtain the highest participation; and

Whereas, The 2024-2026 PPP Committee has prepared its recommendations for the 2028 PPP in a report entitled Operation & Financial Plan for the 2028 Party-run Presidential Primary; and

Whereas, Funding cycle deadlines will inform and determine the early and necessary actions required to achieve fundraising goals; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's Executive Committee, at its first meeting following the 2026 convention, shall address the formation of the 2026-2028 PPP Committee to ensure timely actions; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall deem the findings and recommendations of the 2024-2026 PPP Committee Report as its adopted policy unless amended within thirty days after the appointment of the 2026-2028 PPP Committee Chair and/or Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs or an operational and finance plan is repealed and replaced by a two-thirds vote of the successor 2026-2028 PPP Committee by August 31, 2026; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution and the 2024-2026 PPP Committee Report be transmitted electronically to the 2026-2028 Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and the 2026-2028 Chair and/or Co-Chairs and Vice Chairs of the 2026-2028 PPP Committee and its committee members.

2026-21 Opposing Future Transit Fare Increases

Whereas, Affordable, reliable public transportation is essential to the economic stability and mobility of Hawai'i residents, particularly those with lower and fixed incomes who rely on the bus as their primary means of transportation; and

Whereas, According to the Honolulu Department of Transportation, approximately 71% of TheBus riders earn under \$60,000 per year, and 21% of TheBus riders earn under \$20,000, indicating that fare increases disproportionately affect working-class and economically vulnerable residents; and

Whereas, Hawai'i residents are already experiencing rising costs of living, making additional transportation costs especially burdensome at this time; and

Whereas, Honolulu City Council Bill 54 (2025) increased the Adult Monthly HOLO Pass from \$80 to \$90 and the Adult Annual HOLO Pass from \$880 to \$990, representing a 12.5 percent increase for both passes; and

Whereas, Former Honolulu Department of Transportation Services Director Wes Frysztacki stated every 10% increase in fares results in a 3% ridership decline in TheBus; and

Whereas, In 2024 fares only brought in \$47 million dollars while TheBus costs about \$330 million, which means only about 15% of costs are currently paid for by fares; and

Whereas, Kauai Bus Fares stand at \$2.00 per trip, Maui Bus fares stand at \$2.00 and Hawai'i Island bus fares are currently free; and

Whereas, Given public transit riders are far more likely to make less income than the State median wage, the State has a vested interest in keeping public transit throughout the state affordable; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Honolulu City Council to forgo any and all future transit fare rate increases and instead pay for all increasing operating costs via existing revenue structure such as property taxes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to pass legislation which restricts future fare increases unless the State Legislature approves such an increase; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Hawai'i State Legislators who are members of the Democratic Party, the Mayor and Council Members of each County in Hawai'i.

2026-22 Supporting No-Cost and Low-Cost Spay and Neuter Clinics

Whereas, Millions of healthy and adoptable cats and dogs are euthanized each year at taxpayer expense due to a lack of critical resources and public awareness; and

Whereas, Spaying and neutering dramatically reduces the number of unwanted animals and decreases roaming, aggression, and community conflicts before issues arise; and

Whereas, Spaying reduces the risk of mammary and ovarian cancers and neutering reduces the risk of testicular cancer; and

Whereas, Programs exist to assist with the cost of spaying and neutering pets and community cats; and

Whereas, Hawai'i counties and animal welfare organizations continue to face challenges related to pet overpopulation, including the costs associated with sheltering, caring for, and euthanizing animals; and

Whereas, Veterinarians, national and local animal protection organizations, and private citizens already work together to advocate for spaying and neutering in the United States and Hawai'i; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge elected officials to support humane reduction of animal overpopulation by funding and expanding no-cost and low-cost spay and neuter clinics including clinics, mobile services, and community partnerships; and be it

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

2026-23 Support to Prioritize Investment in Membership Communication and Enhancements When Budgeting

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes and embraces that it is a membership-powered organization, and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the strength, sustainability, and success of the Party is reliant on meaningful engagement, communication, and support of its membership at all levels, and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i instructs the State Central Committee shall prioritize investments when drafting its budget ensuring that the budget directly enhances Party member communication, participation, organizing capacity, and overall Party member experience, and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i requires for every one dollar (\$1.00) expended and/or budgeted for travel by the State Central Committee, no less than five dollars (\$5.00) shall be expended and/or budgeted for membership communications and/or membership enhancements, including but not limited to digital communications infrastructure, outreach efforts, accessibility improvements, training, and organizing resources, and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i declares that this funding framework shall serve as a guiding principle in the development and approval of annual budgets to ensure that member engagement remains central to the Party's operations, and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i instructs the State Central Committee to provide transparency and accountability to the Party's membership by reporting annually on expenditures and budget allocations consistent with this policy, and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the members of the newly constituted State Central Committee following the biennial State Party Convention, all members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's following Standing Committees as they are appointed and confirmed: Communications, Membership, Fundraising, and Finance; and posted on the Party's website along with all the other policies of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i .

2026-24 Urging the Establishment of a Vacant Lot Property Tax Surcharge

Whereas, Vacant lots and buildings can reduce the quality of life within a neighborhood by attracting vandalism/crime and creating safety hazards like fires, pests, or structural collapse; and

Whereas, Each county's relatively low effective real property tax rates may unintentionally incentivize property owners and developers to hold or maintain vacant lots for extended periods, waiting to develop or sell such properties only when it is most financially beneficial; and

Whereas, A Vacant Lot Property Tax Surcharge does not make it unlawful to maintain vacant land or vacant buildings, but instead requires property owners who choose to keep vacant lots to pay an additional cost that reflects the broader impacts on the quality of life within a community; and

Whereas, Lands actively maintained or stewarded for Native Hawaiian cultural, ancestral, subsistence, burial protection, or traditional and customary practices require special consideration for these lawful uses; and

Whereas, A Vacant Lot Property Tax Surcharge can encourage timely development, rehabilitation, or active use of land, while also generating additional revenues that could support infrastructure, housing, and other community benefits including the potential acquisition of long-term vacant lots for redevelopment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Counties of Hawai'i to establish a Vacant Lot Property Tax Surcharge and/or the Hawaii State Legislature to enact legislation or a constitutional amendment that establishes or incentivize the counties to implement a Vacant Lot Property Tax Surcharge with the following recommended provisions:

Establish a definition for "vacant lot" as any parcel that meets one or more of the following conditions:

- A lot without a County-approved and fully constructed structure; or
- A lot on which the existing structure is considered essentially abandoned or substantially unoccupied.

The definition shall not include:

- Lands (lots) actively maintained or stewarded for Native Hawaiian cultural, ancestral, subsistence, burial protection, or traditional and customary practices where the intent is to avoid penalizing lands actively maintained for Native Hawaiian cultural stewardship, ancestral responsibilities, traditional and customary practices, or unresolved kuleana and inheritance matters and are not being held primarily for speculative investment purposes.
- A lot with active use and benefit, such as those with agricultural zoning, those with community gardens, parks, etc; or
- A lot which has active construction underway toward a County-approved structure consistent with the property's zoning designation.
- All parcels located within the State Agricultural or Conservation Land Use Districts;

Provide that the vacant lot property surcharge is applied as follows:

- The surcharge is intended to apply **strictly to undeveloped parcels within the State Urban Land Use District, specifically targeting** higher density areas, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) areas, or in such areas where vacant lots are a detriment to the neighborhood; and ; and

Establish a property tax surcharge rate structure which:

- Will increase over time to ensure those with long-term vacant lots pay the most; and
- Includes an initial grace period to allow lot owners a reasonable opportunity to develop or otherwise utilize the lot; and
- Is impactful enough to incentivize vacant lot owners to develop or turn the lot into something the community can benefit from; and
- Continues to apply notwithstanding any sale or transfer of ownership

With regard to existing tax rates:

- Specify that the Vacant Lot Property Tax Surcharge is imposed in addition to existing real property tax rates and is not a replacement for any base real property tax; and
- Specify that the Vacant Lot Property Tax Surcharge shall not be reduced or lessened.

And be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Hawai'i State Legislators who are members of the Democratic Party, the Mayor and Council Members of the City & County of Honolulu, Hawai'i Island, Maui and Kaua'i.

2026-25 Supporting Public Financing for Elections and Enhanced Campaign Transparency

Whereas, Vibrant democracy requires that all eligible Hawai'i voters have equal access to representation and governance, unburdened by the excessive influence of large donors or special-interest money; and

Whereas, The platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i affirms that "the abiding values of the Democratic Party are integrity, honesty, and transparency for all," and that "our democracy cannot properly function so long as political power can be bought"; and

Whereas, Public financing of candidates helps level the playing field, making it feasible for diverse and underrepresented voices to run for office and strengthening public trust in the integrity of campaigns; and

Whereas, Senate Bill 51 and House Bill 766, introduced during the 2025 legislative session, proposed comprehensive systems of public financing for state and county elective offices, and House Bill 2238, introduced in the 2026 legislative session, proposes a comparable comprehensive public financing system beginning with the 2028 general election, demonstrating sustained legislative interest that has yet to result in enacted law; and

Whereas, Campaign finance reform aligns with the core Democratic values of fairness, accountability, and ensuring that government is truly of, by, and for the people; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i call on Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature to support and pass legislation providing for comprehensive public financing of campaigns, strengthened transparency requirements, and enforceable contribution limits; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i encourage the establishment of seed-funding grants, matching funds for small contributions, strict disclosure requirements for donors and expenditures, and effective enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the chairs of the legislative committees on elections and campaign finance, and the leadership of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

2026-26 Supporting the Adoption of Ranked Choice Voting to Foster Competitive and Representative Elections in Hawai'i

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i is committed to a vibrant, inclusive, and representative democracy that encourages robust participation and ensures every voter's voice is heard; and

Whereas, Under the current First-Past-The-Post system, when multiple challengers enter a race, the spoiler effect frequently occurs, splitting the vote among reformers and allowing incumbents to win with a mere plurality, often far less than 50% of the vote, despite a majority of the electorate desiring change; and

Whereas, This dynamic has rendered many Hawai'i elections uncompetitive, discouraged new and diverse candidates from entering the field, and left voters feeling that their ballots are wasted if they do not support the most electable candidate; and

Whereas, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) has proven successful in jurisdictions like New York City and Alaska, where it has empowered fresh candidates to succeed, increased the representation of women and people of color, and allowed candidates to seek cross-endorsements and build coalitions; and

Whereas, The New York model of RCV utilizes a logical instant runoff mechanic where voters rank candidates by preference, and if no candidate secures a 50% majority of first-choice votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and their supporters' votes are redistributed to their next-ranked choice until a majority winner emerges; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports the transition to Ranked Choice Voting for all state and local elections, including primary and general contests, to ensure winners hold the broadest possible support from the community; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to pass enabling legislation to modernize our voting systems and restore true competition and accountability to our democratic process; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the President of the Hawai'i State Senate, the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives, and the Chairs of the County Councils of Honolulu, Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i.

2026-27 Urging a Property Tax Surcharge on High-Value Non-Resident Secondary Homes to Fund Social Safeguards

Whereas, The State of Hawai'i faces a persistent funding gap for essential social infrastructure, including public education, childcare, and financial security for working families; and

Whereas, Federal budgetary shifts—specifically funding cuts within the President's budget and the "Big Beautiful Bill," alongside systemic attacks on the Federal Department of Education—threaten the stability of grants and services Hawai'i's families rely upon; and

Whereas, These federal actions necessitate that Hawai'i establish sustainable, independent revenue streams to shield our community from national political volatility and ensure our schools and social programs remain robust; and

Whereas, Hawai'i's low property tax rates encourage out-of-state investors to purchase high-value real estate as investments, driving up local housing costs while contributing minimally to the state's tax base; and

Whereas, That according to UHERO, a median single family home across the state cost \$950,000 in 2024, and three out of four counties hold median single family home prices exceeding a million dollars; and

Whereas, A surcharge on secondary residences valued over \$5,000,000 owned by non-residents targets the most affluent tier of the market without burdening local owner-occupants; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the State Legislature is urged to initiate any necessary amendments to the Hawai'i State Constitution to grant the State authority to levy a statewide property tax surcharge on secondary residential properties valued at \$5,000,000 or more owned by non-residents in coordination with the counties.

Resolved, That the revenue generated be deposited into a "Hawai'i Social Safeguards Fund" to provide:

1. Fully Funded Public Education: Ensuring robust support for K-12 classrooms and teacher salaries;
2. Universal Paid Family Leave: Allowing all workers to care for loved ones without losing their livelihood;
3. Free Universal Preschool and Higher Education: Providing a tuition-free path from prekindergarten through the University of Hawai'i system for local residents; and
4. Strengthened Social Safeguards: Protecting our most vulnerable citizens from economic hardship; and be it

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

2026-28 Urging Democratic State Legislators to Raise Revenues Through Tax Fairness and Progressive Revenue Measures

Whereas, Hawai'i faces growing fiscal pressures as federal funding reductions and economic uncertainty threaten essential public services including food security, education, healthcare, affordable housing, environmental protection, and infrastructure; and

Whereas, Hawai'i residents already face some of the highest costs of living in the nation, yet the State's overall tax structure remains regressive, with working families paying a greater share of their income in state and local taxes than the wealthiest households and large corporations; and

Whereas, Closing tax loopholes and modernizing Hawai'i's revenue system would ensure that those who benefit most from Hawai'i's economy, including large corporations and high-value real estate investors, contribute their fair share to the public good while strengthening economic fairness for local residents and businesses; and

Whereas, A fair and progressive tax system can generate significant and sustainable revenues needed to invest in housing, healthcare, education, climate resilience, and infrastructure while strengthening long-term economic stability for Hawai'i's people and businesses; and

Whereas, Democratic values prioritize fairness, shared prosperity, and responsible governance, requiring that the burden of taxation be distributed in a way that reflects fairness, ability to pay, and advances the common good; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature to take bold and responsible action to strengthen Hawai'i's fiscal future through fair and progressive revenue measures, including closing corporate tax loopholes that allow Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) operating in Hawai'i to avoid paying state corporate income taxes on their profits, restructuring the conveyance tax to a marginal rate structure so that high-value real estate transactions contribute more fairly, and exploring additional public finance tools such as public banking, sovereign wealth funds, green bonds, and other mechanisms that support long-term economic resilience; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i encourage legislators to reject austerity measures and program cuts that harm vulnerable communities and instead pursue revenue solutions that strengthen public services, support economic justice, and uphold the Democratic Party's core values; and be it

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

2026-29 Urging Sanctuary Protections for Immigrants and Prohibiting State and County Cooperation with Federal Immigration Enforcement

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform affirms the dignity and worth of all people and commits the Party to defending the civil rights and liberties of every person regardless of immigration status; and

Whereas, Hawai'i is a state built by immigrants, whose labor, culture, and community have shaped every aspect of island life, and whose continued presence is essential to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of our communities; and

Whereas, Federal immigration enforcement actions, including warrantless raids, detention of community members without due process, and the use of fear as a tool of mass compliance, cause profound harm to families, children, and entire communities; and

Whereas, State and county law enforcement resources exist to protect the safety and welfare of all residents, and their diversion to serve federal immigration enforcement priorities undermines public trust, discourages crime reporting, and compromises community safety; and

Whereas, Numerous states and counties across the country have enacted sanctuary policies that limit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement, affirming that local government's first obligation is to the people who live within its jurisdiction; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to pass comprehensive sanctuary protections prohibiting state and county agencies from inquiring into, collecting, or sharing information about individuals' immigration status except as required by state law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge state and county law enforcement agencies to refuse cooperation with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations, including declining to honor ICE detainer requests, denying access to county facilities for enforcement purposes, and refraining from acting as agents of federal immigration authorities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to prohibit the use of state and county resources, personnel, facilities, or data systems in furtherance of federal civil immigration enforcement; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, the Hawai'i County Mayor and County Council, and the leadership of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

2026-30 Urging the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation to Restore Federal Democracy, the Rule of Law, and Constitutional Accountability

Whereas, The integrity of American democracy and the rule of law face unprecedented threats, necessitating a comprehensive federal response to protect the rights of all citizens and ensure no official, regardless of rank, is above the law; and

Whereas, We support the Hawai'i congressional delegation in continuing to hold the administration accountable to federal law and the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, The weaponization of federal agencies, including the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS), for political retribution or personal gain undermines the foundations of our republic; and

Whereas, The First-Past-The-Post system and partisan gerrymandering have eroded competitive elections, requiring a federal mandate for fair representation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation to utilize a legislative majority to investigate and refer for prosecution the systemic abuses, ethical breaches, and corruption associated with the current administration; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the passage of a 50-State Voting Rights Act that prohibits partisan gerrymandering by mandating independent redistricting commissions for all federal contests and guarantees universal federal standards for ballot access, registration, and protection against disenfranchisement; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the enactment of the Federal Law Enforcement Accountability Act to eliminate qualified immunity for federal agents in the DOJ, DHS, ICE, and CBP, to mandate that federal officials be held to the same or higher legal standards as state and local law enforcement, and to establish statutory firewalls to prevent White House interference in criminal investigations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the establishment of strict criminal and civil penalties for any federal official who violates the First and Fourth Amendments, the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, including the strict enforcement of the Section 3 Insurrection Clause to bar those who violate their oath from federal service, and the Tenth Amendment; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the current Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and the Democratic National Committee.

2026-31 Urging the State Legislature and the Governor to Prohibit Data Centers Construction and Development Statewide

Whereas, Data centers require enormous and continuous consumption of water for cooling, with industry projections estimating that data center water demands in the United States could quadruple by 2030, placing severe strain on freshwater resources in communities that host them; and

Whereas, Hawai'i faces unique and acute constraints on water, energy, and land, and the island's electrical grid already struggles to meet existing demand while the State pursues its commitment to 100 percent renewable energy; and

Whereas, Data centers generate profits primarily for out-of-state and multinational corporations while consuming local resources, displacing agricultural land, and returning minimal economic benefit to the communities that bear their environmental costs; and

Whereas, Much of the land in Hawai'i is ceded land and 'aina of deep cultural and spiritual significance to Kānaka Maoli and industrial development of this scale without the free, prior, and informed consent of Native Hawaiian communities constitutes a further violation of Indigenous land rights; and

Whereas, The Hawai'i County Planning Department released the Final Draft General Plan 2045 in July 2025, presenting an active and immediate opportunity to embed data center restrictions into the island's long-range land use policy before further development pressure mounts; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the State Legislature and Governor to adopt an immediate moratorium on data center permitting while comprehensive environmental and cultural impact review is conducted; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the State Legislature to prohibit data center construction and development state wide; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the State Legislators who are members of the Democratic Party, the Governor, the Lt Governor, Mayor of Hawai'i County, all members of the Hawai'i County Council, the Hawai'i County Planning Department, and the leadership of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

2026-33 Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Adopt Legislative Process Reforms

Whereas, The preamble of the platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i states that "the abiding values of the Democratic Party are integrity, honesty, and transparency for all" and that "our democracy cannot properly function so long as political power can be bought"; and

Whereas, The "Government" plank of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform calls for government accountability, the highest ethical standards, full transparency, and policies that protect the integrity of the electoral process; and

Whereas, On May 28, 2022, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i adopted Resolution 2022-40.a urging Hawai'i lawmakers to address corruption at the legislature by adopting, implementing, and better enforcing anti-corruption safeguards; and

Whereas, The Hawai'i State Legislature convened the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct in 2022 to reform laws surrounding corruption, lobbying, ethics, and campaign spending, yet legislators failed to act on its most impactful proposals in the legislative sessions that followed; and

Whereas, Bills that do not create or expend funds are often needlessly referred to finance committees, creating an insurmountable backlog; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully urge the legislature to adopt the following amendments to House and Senate Rules: that each committee make all testimony immediately available for public review at least 22 hours before a hearing and at least 2 hours before a hearing for late testimony; that each committee vote on the disposition of all bills referred to it and not use deferrals as a means of hiding committee member positions; that non-fiscal bills not be referred to finance committees; that all bills be circulated for co-sponsorship and that any House bill with at least 17 co-introducers or any Senate bill with at least 9 co-introducers be scheduled for at least one hearing; and that written amendments be in the possession of legislators before any amended bill may be voted on; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully urge the legislature to pass a bill placing a constitutional amendment question on the ballot to allow the electorate to vote on term limits for state legislators; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai'i, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i county committees of Maui, O'ahu, and Kaua'i, and the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

2026-34 Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Enact Campaign Finance Reforms

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform affirms the values of integrity, transparency, and a government that serves the people rather than wealthy special interests; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Government plank supports public financing of elections as essential to a democracy free from the disproportionate influence of large donors; and

Whereas, The Hawai'i Legislature's Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct issued recommendations in 2022 that the Legislature has yet to fully act upon, leaving significant campaign finance loopholes in place; and

Whereas, House Bill 772, Introduced in the 2026 legislative session, would close the loophole that currently allows campaign contributions to be transferred between candidate campaigns, obscuring the origin of donor money and enabling circumvention of contribution limits; and

Whereas, Legislation introduced in the 2026 session would bar corporations from donating to Hawai'i political campaigns, an approach that, if enacted, would make Hawai'i the first state in the country to effectively close the door on corporate campaign spending; and

Whereas, The influence of corporate money in elections distorts democratic representation and undermines the ability of ordinary residents to hold elected officials accountable; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to prohibit campaign contributions from state contractors, grantees, lessees, owners, board members, staff, consultants, and their immediate family members; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to enact viable comprehensive public financing for candidates for state and county office; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to prohibit the transfer of campaign contributions through other candidate campaigns, including by closing the fundraiser ticket loophole exploited to move donor money between campaigns; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to pass legislation barring corporations from donating to or spending money to influence Hawai'i political campaigns; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai'i, all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, the county committees of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i for Maui, O'ahu, and Kaua'i, and the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

2026-35 Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Enact Comprehensive Data Privacy Legislation to Protect the Digital Rights and Personal Information of Hawai'i Residents

Whereas, The Constitution of the State of Hawai'i explicitly recognizes the individual's right to privacy as a fundamental right; and

Whereas, The rapid expansion of the digital economy has enabled the collection, storage, and sale of vast amounts of sensitive personal information by private corporations without sufficient state-level oversight; and

Whereas, Hawai'i residents currently lack essential legal protections to control their digital footprint, leaving them vulnerable to data breaches, unauthorized profiling, and the exploitation of their personal data by third-party brokers; and

Whereas, The establishment of clear consumer data rights would provide much-needed transparency and security for the people of Hawai'i while creating a stable regulatory environment for businesses; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to enact a comprehensive data privacy framework that grants residents the right to know what personal data is being collected about them; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports such definition to only apply to for-profit businesses and not the public sector data or government agencies or similar organizations or groups, and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i support legislation that provides residents the right to delete their data, the right to correct inaccuracies, the right to opt-out of the sale or sharing of their personal information, and the right to limit the use of sensitive personal data including geolocation and financial records; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the President of the Hawai'i State Senate, the Speaker of the Hawai'i House of Representatives, and the Chairs of the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over consumer protection and commerce.

2026-36 Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Pass Comprehensive Artificial Intelligence Transparency and Accountability Legislation

Whereas, Artificial intelligence technologies are rapidly transforming Hawai'i's economy, public services, education, and civic life with significant and often unexamined impacts on workers, communities, and individual rights; and

Whereas, The Hawai'i State Legislature has introduced multiple bills in recent sessions to regulate artificial intelligence, including companion bills SB 3001, which passed the 2026 legislature, and HB 2502 addressing AI chatbot safety, reflecting growing legislative recognition of the need for oversight; and

Whereas, In February 2026, the current administration demanded that AI companies remove safeguards preventing their models from being used for mass domestic surveillance of Americans and fully autonomous weapons, demonstrating that the federal government cannot be relied upon to protect residents from AI-enabled surveillance and violence; and

Whereas, AI systems deployed without transparency or accountability pose particular risks to vulnerable populations including children, workers, and those interacting with government services, and the burden of harm from unregulated AI falls disproportionately on communities that are already marginalized; and

Whereas, Democratic values of fairness, transparency, and accountability require that the development and deployment of AI in Hawai'i be subject to meaningful public oversight; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to pass comprehensive artificial intelligence legislation that prohibits the use of AI for mass surveillance of residents, prohibits AI systems from targeting individuals for violence or operating lethal systems without direct human oversight, requires transparency in AI systems used in consequential decisions affecting Hawai'i residents, and protects workers from AI-driven displacement or surveillance without due process; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to ensure that any AI regulatory framework centers the rights of Hawai'i residents over the profit interests of technology corporations, and that Native Hawaiian communities have meaningful input into how AI systems affect their lands, data, and cultural resources; and be it

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

2026-37 Preserving the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's Support for Communities' Access to the Courts to Protect Taxpayers from Extreme-Weather Costs

Whereas, The Platform of Democratic Party of Hawai'i seeks to protect and preserve Hawai'i's environment and achieve energy sustainability, including actions to urgently address climate change and has, since 2012, advanced numerous statewide clean-energy transition, environmental protection, and climate-impact mitigation resolutions demonstrating the Party's longstanding commitment to reducing fossil-fuel dependence, protecting Hawai'i's environment, and addressing accelerating climate impacts; and

Whereas, Climate-driven extreme-weather events are causing escalating damages that threaten the health, safety, and livelihood of communities in Hawai'i and across the nation, as seen in the March 2026 Kona Low storms that caused massive flooding, evacuations, contaminated water supplies, infrastructure damage, power outages, and destroyed homes and businesses, with statewide damages exceeding \$1 billion; and

Whereas, Communities nationwide face increasing "billion-dollar" disasters that strain taxpayer resources, with flooding events averaging \$4.6 billion and severe storms \$2.4 billion per event, and severe thunderstorms alone causing \$60 billion in insured losses in 2023, while local governments' costs to prepare for destructive weather are rising as FEMA assistance becomes uncertain due to proposed budget cuts and staffing reductions, and as federal support declines and insurance becomes unaffordable, counties and states must increasingly bear the costs of extreme-weather events; and

Whereas, Lawsuits hold private actors accountable for substantial public costs arising from their conduct, and major fossil-fuel companies have long known through their own research that their products would cause the climate-driven harms now imposing billions in damages, yet—much like opioid and tobacco companies—fossil-fuel corporations and trade groups spent billions to obscure the truth about the catastrophic consequences of fossil-fuel use; and

Whereas, Numerous local governments and state attorneys general, representing more than 25 percent of the U.S. population, have filed lawsuits seeking to hold fossil-fuel companies accountable for deceptive conduct; and

Whereas, The American Petroleum Institute has declared stopping climate lawsuits and "climate superfund" laws a top legislative priority, while sixteen Republican attorneys general have called for a "liability shield" for Big Oil modeled after the 2005 gun-industry immunity law, and states such as Utah and Oklahoma have introduced bills to block community-accountability measures, even as the United States Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Counties have passed resolutions urging protection of communities' access to the courts for climate-related adaptation costs, and any legislation limiting such access undermines the rule of law; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i categorically opposes any legislation—whether in Congress or state legislatures—that limits or eliminates access to the courts by preempting existing laws or granting fossil-fuel companies immunity from lawsuits seeking to hold the industry accountable for deceptive conduct and the costs of climate-change-driven harms, and affirms the rights of cities, counties, tribes, and states to pursue litigation and legislation holding the fossil-fuel industry accountable for climate-related damages suffered by their communities; and be it

Ordered, That copies be transmitted to Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation; the Governor; the Departments of Health and the Attorney General; the State Legislature; the County Mayors; and the Democratic National Committee.

2026-38 Urging the Department of Health and the Commission on Water Resource Management to Deny Reactivation of the Navy's Aiea-Halawa and Red Hill Shafts Until Completion of the Environmental Review

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i has affirmed its commitment to protecting Hawai'i's drinking-water resources through environmental resolutions adopted at the 2022 State Convention, including Resolution 2022-11 *Red Hill Fuel Tank Storage Facility*, which recognized the risks posed by fuel contamination, aquifer vulnerability, and threats to public health; and

Whereas, Similar risks exist statewide, as every county relies on vulnerable groundwater aquifers regulated by the Department of Health and the Commission on Water Resource Management, and each county contains military installations, PFAS-impacted sites, fuel storage areas, and drinking-water systems that would face comparable threats if contaminated wells or shafts were reactivated without full environmental review, demonstrating that these policy considerations apply statewide; and

Whereas, The Navy's Aiea – Halawa Shaft and Red Hill Shaft were shut down in December 2021 after the massive accidental jet-fuel discharge—officially estimated between 100,000 and 200,000 gallons—from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, causing Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon contamination and placing some 93,000 people at risk of acute and chronic health effects including nausea, headaches, dizziness, respiratory irritation, and neurological impacts, among others; and

Whereas, the Red Hill jet-fuel discharge showed that the Navy's leadership and reporting channels produced delayed and inaccurate disclosure of time-critical information, and that internal incentives can discourage scrutiny, as reflected in a substantiated Department of Defense Inspector General findings that a service member who sought oversight through Congress faced attempts by a superior to deter disclosures and reported workplace repercussions; and

Whereas, The Southern O'ahu Basal Aquifer, a primary drinking-water source for O'ahu, must be protected from petroleum and PFAS contamination, and the EPA's Red Hill Work Plan and updates emphasize uncertainty regarding contaminant migration, long-term impacts, and the need for continued monitoring and mitigation, all triggering the need for a formal Environmental Assessment (EA) under state and federal environmental-review laws; and

Whereas, In January 2026, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply reported PFAS at its Halawa Shaft, Halawa Wells, and Ka'amilo Wells further west, indicating continued PFAS migration requiring temporary treatment; and

Whereas, The Navy's Environmental Assessment evaluates only the water-treatment facility at the Red Hill Shaft and does not assess the environmental, aquifer-wide, or human-health risks associated with reactivating the Aiea–Halawa and Red Hill Shafts themselves, even though reactivation is the action requiring State approval and the action with potential statewide consequences; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Department of Health and the Commission on Water Resource Management to deny any permit for reactivating any contaminated drinking-water shaft or well in the State of Hawai'i until an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is completed for the proposed reactivation and any associated treatment facilities, pipelines, infrastructure, or operational changes; until PFAS and petroleum contaminants are remediated to levels protective of long-term human health and independent third-party testing confirms sustained compliance with EPA Maximum Contaminant Levels; and until a transparent, community-informed monitoring and reporting system is established; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation; the Governor; the Department of Health; the Commission on Water Resource Management; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the U.S. Navy; the State Legislature; and the City and County Councils.

NC - 2026-11 Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Enact Measures to Support Military Families and to Mitigate the Cost-of-Living Impacts of Global Conflict on Hawai'i Residents

Whereas, Hawai'i is home to a large population of active-duty military personnel and their families, who are integral members of our communities and whose service and sacrifice are deeply valued; and

Whereas, Military deployments place significant emotional, financial, and childcare burdens on families, particularly on keiki and on spouses who must assume additional responsibilities during periods of separation; and

Whereas, Access to timely and culturally responsive mental health services is essential to the well-being of military families and to the healthy development of their children; and

Whereas, Global conflicts often lead to increases in fuel and energy costs, which have a disproportionate impact on Hawai'i due to our geographic isolation and dependence on imported energy and goods; and

Whereas, Rising fuel costs increase the price of electricity, food, transportation, and other necessities, placing the greatest burden on kūpuna, low- and moderate-income families, and those on fixed incomes; and

Whereas, The State of Hawai'i has a compelling interest in ensuring economic stability, food security, and access to essential services for its residents during periods of global instability; and

Whereas, Proactive planning and targeted relief measures can help to protect the most vulnerable members of our community from sudden economic shocks; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Hawai'i State Legislature is urged to enact legislation that increases funding for mental health services and provides expanded childcare assistance for military families whose service member is subject to deployment; and be it further

Resolved, That the Hawai'i State Legislature is urged to explore and, as appropriate, implement emergency energy cost relief measures, transportation and shipping subsidies, and the expansion of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and kūpuna assistance programs in the event of significant price increases resulting from global conflict; and be it further

Resolved, That in developing such measures, the Legislature is encouraged to consult with community organizations, military family support organizations, Native Hawaiian service providers, and other stakeholders to ensure that programs are accessible, culturally appropriate, and responsive to the needs of Hawai'i's diverse communities; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, and House Committee on Public Safety; and Senate Committee on Health and Human Services; and House Committee on Health; and all Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature.

2026-32 Honoring the Life and Service of Dr. Philip J. Barnes

Whereas, Dr. Philip J. Barnes was born in Indianapolis on April 29th, 1945, to Cecilia Doyle Barnes and William Barnes, Sr.; and

Whereas, Phil earned his bachelor's degree from Purdue University, his master's from Indiana University, and two doctoral degrees from the University of Miami; and

Whereas, Phil's recent passing in his beloved Hilo, on January 19, 2026 leaves a profoundly felt impact on our community; and

Whereas, Phil was a long-time and very active member of the Democratic Party and served as Chair of the Hawai'i County Democratic Party for 8 years; and

Whereas, Phil served in various roles on the State Central Committee of the State Democratic Party for many years; and

Whereas, Phil served on the Rules, Resolutions, and Platform committees at many Hawai'i County Democratic Party Conventions; and

Whereas, Phil inspired and provided guidance to many on organizing party events and local protests, with his most recent undertaking being the Stand Up Hawai'i: A Rally for Democracy held at the Mo'ohau Bandstand on May 17th, 2025; and

Whereas, Phil was a tireless advocate for the people of Hawai'i, always with the goals of compassion, fairness and inclusion; and

Whereas, Phil supported the Down Syndrome of Louisville and the Kindness Warrior Walk, particularly Will's Walkers team, in honor of his grandson; and

Whereas, Phil was a long serving member of the Sierra Club and recently an active member of Indivisible Hawai'i; and

Whereas, Phil spent over 20 years teaching Hawaiian Studies and authored A Concise History of the Hawaiian Islands, which he dedicated to the residents of Hawai'i of all races who are working together to expand the spirit of Aloha in the 21st Century; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i take time during the Hawai'i County and State Conventions to honor Dr. Philip J. Barnes and thank him for his heartfelt and steady contributions to the Democratic Party; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to his wife, Diane Fournier, of Hilo, and his daughter Brooke Barnes, and grandson Will, of Cincinnati, OH.

NP 2026-39 Recognizing and Memorializing the Life, Legacy, and Public Service of Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i gathers at its 2026 State Convention in gratitude and remembrance to honor the life, legacy, and extraordinary public service of Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, whose decades of leadership embodied courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the people of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Hanabusa devoted her life to public service as a member of the Hawai'i State Senate, President of the Hawai'i Senate, and Hawai'i's Representative in the United States Congress, where she fought tirelessly for working families, Native Hawaiian communities, women, kūpuna, the LGBTQIA+ community and all of the people of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Hanabusa made history as the first woman to serve as President of the Hawai'i State Senate and the first woman of color in the United States to serve as president of a state senate chamber, breaking barriers for women and communities of color in public leadership and paving the way for future generations of leaders; and

Whereas, Throughout her career, Congresswoman Hanabusa stood as a steadfast ally and champion of organized labor, consistently supporting the rights of unionized workers, advocating for fair wages, collective bargaining, workplace protections, and economic justice for all working people; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Hanabusa deeply understood the importance of preserving and uplifting the culture, history, and future of the Hawaiian community, and she worked diligently to protect Native Hawaiian rights, defend Hawaiian Home Lands, and ensure that the voices of kānaka maoli were represented in the halls of power; and

Whereas, In 2018, during a critical moment for LGBTQIA+ equality in Hawai'i, Congresswoman Hanabusa intervened to help unstick legislation banning the harmful and discredited practice of conversion therapy on minors, helping move the measure forward and demonstrating her belief that every young person deserves dignity, safety, and affirmation; and

Whereas, Her willingness to act with moral clarity and compassion helped advance protections for vulnerable youth and reflected her broader commitment to justice, equality, and human dignity; and

Whereas, Beyond her public accomplishments, Congresswoman Hanabusa was known for the deep care and aloha she extended to those around her, especially her staff and mentees, whom she not only guided professionally but also cared for personally; cooking meals for them, supporting them through life's challenges, and remaining a constant source of encouragement, wisdom, and friendship long after they had moved on from her office; and

Whereas, Congresswoman Hanabusa inspired countless future leaders through her integrity, strength, humility, and dedication to public service, leaving behind a legacy that continues to shape Hawai'i and especially in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i for generations to come; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, assembled at its 2026 State Convention, hereby recognizes and memorializes Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa for her lifetime of service to the people of Hawai'i, her steadfast advocacy for union labor and the Hawaiian community, and her enduring contributions to equality and justice; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i expresses its deepest gratitude for Congresswoman Hanabusa's leadership, friendship, and legacy, and extends its aloha and heartfelt condolences to her 'ohana, friends, colleagues, and all who were touched by her remarkable life; and be it

Ordered, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Hanabusa 'ohana as a lasting expression of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's respect, admiration, and aloha.

NP 2026-40 Honoring Hawaii State Senator Karl Rhoads

Whereas, Karl Rhoads has dedicated more than twenty years of distinguished public service to the people of Hawai'i through his leadership in both the Hawai'i State House of Representatives and the Hawai'i State Senate; and

Whereas, Throughout his legislative career, Senator Rhoads has been recognized as a principled, thoughtful, and steadfast advocate for justice, civil rights, public education, environmental stewardship, government accountability, consumer protections, and the democratic values that strengthen our islands and communities; and

Whereas, Senator Rhoads served with distinction in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives beginning in 2006 before continuing his service in the Hawai'i State Senate starting in 2016, where he earned the respect of colleagues, constituents, advocates, and community organizations across the State of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, Senator Rhoads has consistently demonstrated integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to public service, approaching the legislative process with intellectual rigor, fairness, and an unwavering dedication to improving the lives of the people of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, His leadership has helped advance policies protecting working families, expanding civil liberties, promoting equity and inclusion, strengthening democratic institutions, and defending the rights and dignity of all people, including the LGBTQIA+ community and other historically marginalized communities; and

Whereas, Senator Rhoads has served as a mentor and example to generations of Democratic leaders, activists, organizers, and public servants, embodying the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's values of equality, opportunity, justice, and aloha for all; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes that Senator Rhoads' decades of service have left a lasting and meaningful impact on the State of Hawai'i and on the countless individuals and communities he has represented with honor and distinction; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i hereby extends its deepest gratitude and appreciation to Senator Karl Rhoads for his twenty years of exemplary service to the people of Hawai'i and to the Democratic ideals of fairness, inclusion, and good government; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i congratulates Senator Rhoads on his remarkable career of public service and expresses its sincere mahalo for his dedication, leadership, and enduring contributions to the State of Hawai'i; and be it

Ordered, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Senator Karl Rhoads as a token of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's profound respect, admiration, and appreciation.

NP 2026-41 Thanking and Honoring Dr. William J. Puette for his Service and Dedication to the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Whereas, Dr. William J. Puette has served the Democratic Party of Hawaii with distinction as Parliamentarian, providing steady guidance grounded in fairness, order, and respect for democratic process; and

Whereas, Dr. Puette is a Professional Registered Parliamentarian through the National Association of Parliamentarians and a Certified Parliamentarian through the American Institute of Parliamentarians, and has shared that expertise in service to Party conventions, committees, officers, delegates, and members; and

Whereas, Dr. Puette has helped strengthen the Party's internal democratic practices by assisting members in understanding and applying proper parliamentary procedure, including the orderly consideration of resolutions and convention business; and

Whereas, Dr. Puette's service to the public extends well beyond the Democratic Party of Hawaii, including decades of work as Director of the Center for Labor Education and Research at the University of Hawaii-West Oahu, where he has educated workers, union members, students, and the broader public on labor law, leadership, grievance handling, parliamentary procedure, and Hawaii labor history; and

Whereas, Dr. Puette has further served the people of Hawaii as a Commissioner on the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, bringing his experience in labor education, democratic process, fairness, and equity to the protection of civil rights; and

Whereas, Dr. Puette's career reflects a lifelong commitment to democratic participation, worker education, civil rights, historical understanding, and public service; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawaii expresses its deep appreciation and aloha to Dr. William J. Puette for his many years of service as Party Parliamentarian, for his commitment to fair and orderly democratic process, and for his broader public service to workers, students, civil rights, and the people of Hawaii; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawaii recognizes Dr. Puette's retirement as Parliamentarian with gratitude for his wisdom, patience, integrity, and dedication to the values of democracy; and be it

Ordered, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Dr. William J. Puette with aloha pumehana, mahalo nui loa and sincere appreciation of the Democratic Party of Hawaii.

NP 2026-42 Honoring the Life and Legacy of Former Governor George R. Ariyoshi

Whereas, George Ryoichi Ariyoshi devoted his life to public service and made history as the first Japanese American elected Governor of the State of Hawai'i, serving with distinction from 1974 to 1986; and

Whereas, Quiet but effective, Governor Ariyoshi provided steady leadership during a period of economic challenge and rapid growth, emphasizing fiscal responsibility, good government, environmental stewardship, and long-term planning for the people of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, Throughout his career in public service, including service in the Hawai'i House of Representatives, Hawai'i Senate, and as Lieutenant Governor, Governor Ariyoshi not only earned the respect of colleagues and communities across Hawai'i for his integrity, humility, and dedication to public service, but was also greatly respected nationally and internationally; and

Whereas, Governor Ariyoshi's leadership opened doors for future generations of Asian Americans and many local leaders throughout Hawai'i and the nation, demonstrating the importance of perseverance, inclusion, and civic responsibility; and

Whereas, Governor Ariyoshi embodied the spirit of *kodomo no tame ni* — “for the sake of the children” — leading with a deep commitment to thoughtful long-term planning and responsible stewardship for future generations, inspiring others to govern not only for the needs of the present, but for the enduring well-being of Hawai'i and its people; and

Whereas, His lifelong commitment to Hawai'i, its people, and democratic values leaves a lasting legacy that continues to inspire public servants and community leaders today; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i honors the life, legacy, and public service of former Governor George R. Ariyoshi and expresses its deepest gratitude for his many contributions to the State of Hawai'i and its people; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i extends its heartfelt condolences to the Ariyoshi family and all those whose lives were touched by his leadership, friendship, and service; and be it

Ordered, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Ariyoshi family.

NP 2026-43 Honoring the Life and Service of State Representative Mark M. Nakashima

Whereas, State Representative Mark M. Nakashima dedicated his life to public service and to the people of Hawai'i Island through years of leadership marked by humility, integrity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to his community; and

Whereas, Born in Hilo, Mark Nakashima was a 1981 Honoka'a High graduate – a Dragon for Life - and carried with him throughout his life the values of hard work, service, and caring for others that reflected his deep connection to Hawai'i Island and its people; and

Whereas, As a longtime educator and public servant, Representative Nakashima believed deeply in the importance of education, opportunity, and supporting future generations, always working to improve the lives of students, families, and working people throughout Hawai'i; and

Whereas, Throughout his distinguished service as the Representative from District 1, representing Hāmākua, Kaūmana and a portion of Hilo, including leadership roles within the House Majority Caucus, Representative Nakashima earned the respect of colleagues and constituents alike through his thoughtful leadership, steady demeanor, collaborative spirit, and dedication to public service often being described as gentle but fierce advocate for Hawai'i Island; and

Whereas, Representative Nakashima remained deeply committed to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its core values of fairness, equality, opportunity, and service to community, always striving to ensure that local voices and neighbor island communities were heard and represented; and

Whereas, His legacy of kindness, mentorship, public service, and devotion to Hawai'i continues to inspire all who seek to serve with humility, compassion, and aloha; and now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i honors the life, legacy, and extraordinary public service of State Representative Mark M. Nakashima and expresses its deepest gratitude for his enduring contributions to the people and State of Hawai'i; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i extends its heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, students, and all those whose lives were touched by his leadership, friendship, and service; and be it

Ordered, This resolution be transmitted to his wife, Yvette Lee Nakashima and the Nakashima 'ohana.

TABLE OF SUPPLEMENTAL NON-POLICY RESOLUTIONS

[illegible]

NP 2026-44 Honoring the Life and Legacy of Hopena Pokipala

Whereas, Hopena Pokipala dedicated himself to serving his family, friends, and community with generosity, humility, and a genuine commitment to uplifting others; and

Whereas, As a direct descendant of Robert Kalanihiapo Wilcox, the first Delegate of the Territory of Hawai'i to the United States House of Representatives, Hopena was inspired to follow in his ancestor's footsteps and dedicate his life to serving the people of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, In 2024, Hopena stepped forward as a Democratic candidate for the Hawai'i State House of Representatives representing District 51, seeking to build leadership rooted in aloha, accountability, and care for the people of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, His aspirations for public service reflected his deep concern for local families, housing affordability, community safety, environmental stewardship, and ensuring that future generations could continue to live and thrive in Hawai'i; and

Whereas, As a Native Hawaiian, longshoreman, entrepreneur, and community member, Hopena had recently begun working with the International Longshoreman Division in Hawai'i and was proud to be stepping into union work, carrying the values of hard work, resilience, cultural pride, and service to others; and

Whereas, Hopena was deeply connected to the ocean through surfing, canoe paddling, and canoe sailing, finding in the water not only recreation, but peace, strength, purpose, and connection; and

Whereas, He carried himself with quiet mana — calm, fearless, humble, hardworking, compassionate, and deeply respectful — leading not through titles alone, but through his actions, character, and heart; and

Whereas, Friends and loved ones remember the way Hopena made people feel welcomed, valued, and cared for, and recall his laughter, smile, steady presence, and ability to remain calm even in moments of chaos; and

Whereas, Hopena embodied a strong entrepreneurial spirit through the creation of his business, carrying forward a family legacy of vision, determination, and fearless pursuit of opportunity; and

Whereas, Though his life was far too short, Hopena lived authentically and with purpose, honoring his culture, loving his people, and inspiring others through courage, compassion, and service, truly reflecting the saying "A'ohē lua e like ai" which means there is no second quite like it, as a one-of-a-kind leader whose spirit of aloha, resilience, authenticity, and generosity will continue to live on through the ocean, the community, and all those whose lives he touched; and

Whereas, Hopena's life, leadership, and sincere intention to serve in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives stand as a reminder to all Democrats of the importance of uplifting, encouraging, and investing in the next generation of young Democratic leaders who will carry forward the work of service to Hawai'i; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the delegates to the 2026 Convention of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i honor the life and legacy of Hopena Pokipala and extend their heartfelt condolences to his 'ohana, friends, and community; and be it

Ordered, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to his mother, Heather Keliikoa, and his 'ohana of Ka'ōhao (Lanikai), as an expression of deepest sympathy, respect, and aloha.

NP 2026-45 Honoring Senator Breene Yoshito Harimoto (1954-2020)

Whereas, Senator Breene Yoshito Harimoto was known for his warm demeanor, humility, and steadfast commitment to public service, and was described by Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi as “one of the kindest people I have ever known, a man who truly cared about others,” who “served his constituents with honor and treated everyone around him with kindness and respect,” and whose “legacy of public service will continue to benefit the people of Hawai‘i for many years to come” ; and

Whereas, Senator Harimoto served in the Hawai‘i State Senate from January 21, 2015, until his passing on June 18, 2020, representing District 16—Pearl City, Momilani, Pearlridge, ‘Aiea, Royal Summit, ‘Aiea Heights, Newtown, Waimalu, Hālawā, and Pearl Harbor—with dedication and aloha ; and

Whereas, Senator Harimoto served as Vice Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, and as a member of the Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs Committee and the Ways and Means Committee, contributing to statewide policy on transportation, safety, and fiscal matters ; and

Whereas, Senator Harimoto also served as the Senate’s representative and Chair of the O‘ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, and as the Senate’s alternate representative on the Hawai‘i Interagency Council for Transit-Oriented Development and the Hawai‘i Interagency Council on Homelessness; and

Whereas, Prior to the Senate, Senator Harimoto served four years on the Honolulu City Council from January 2, 2011, to January 2, 2015, where he chaired the Transportation Committee and championed rail, transit-oriented development, complete streets, smart growth, and public health and safety ; and

Whereas, Senator Harimoto previously served eight years on the Hawai‘i State Board of Education from 1996 to 2002, including two years as chair from 2000 to 2002, helping guide statewide education policy and governance; and

Whereas, Senator Harimoto was a long-time community volunteer, co-founder and Executive Director of the Pearl City Foundation and the Momilani Community Center, supporting programs that serve thousands of residents annually; and

Whereas, Senator Harimoto was a lifelong resident of his district, a graduate of Waipahu High School and the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and worked professionally as an information technology specialist, bringing analytical skill and practical experience to his public service; and

Whereas, Senator Harimoto was a dedicated member and supporter of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, actively engaging with Party leaders, district councils, and community organizations on issues of education, transportation, community development, and public service, strengthening the Party’s commitment to fairness, opportunity, and community-based leadership; and

Whereas, Senator Harimoto passed away on June 18, 2020, after a long and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer; and was survived by his wife Cheryl, his sons Kevin, Kasey, and Kerry, and his grandchildren Hailey, Hiro, and Harper, who continue to honor his legacy of service and aloha; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i honors the life, service, and legacy of Senator Breene Yoshito Harimoto, expresses its deepest condolences to his family, and recognizes his extraordinary contributions to Hawai‘i’s people, communities, and future; and be it

Ordered, That a copy of this Resolution be presented to his family in recognition of his decades of public service, leadership, and aloha for the community he so faithfully served.

NP 2026-46 Honoring Charles “Chuck” Armando Prentiss (1936-2025)

Whereas, Charles “Chuck” Armando Prentiss was born on April 4, 1936, in Jersey City, New Jersey, and earned degrees in economics and city planning from Rutgers University, an MBA from the Wharton School of Finance, and a PhD in business management from American International University; and after serving as a regional planner and city manager in New Jersey, he moved to Honolulu in 1972 with his wife Karen Ayotte and their three children, continuing his distinguished career as an urban planner for the City and County of Honolulu and as Executive Secretary of the City Planning Commission until his retirement in 1991; and

Whereas, Chuck honorably served as a U.S. Air Force Command Pilot and Vietnam veteran, completing 23 years in the Hawai‘i Air National Guard and 13 additional years in the Hawai‘i Army National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel after assignments in Dover, Delaware; Tachikawa, Tokyo; and Honolulu; and

Whereas, Chuck was a steadfast advocate for thoughtful land-use planning, cofounded and chaired the first O‘ahu Neighborhood Board in Mililani, later chaired the Kailua Neighborhood Board, mentored generations of community members, and served on the State Environmental Council, the Honolulu Landfill Advisory Committee, and as Legislative Chair for Keep It Kailua; and

Whereas, For twenty years Chuck served as President of Hawai‘i’s Thousand Friends, under whose leadership the organization became a respected voice for long-range planning and environmental stewardship; and he advanced landmark environmental protections, including the Waiahole Ditch case in which the Hawai‘i Supreme Court articulated the Public Trust Doctrine; and he guided HTF’s 2004 Clean Water Act lawsuit that resulted in a 25-year Consent Decree ensuring long-term environmental safeguards; and his leadership contributed to the Hawai‘i Supreme Court’s reversal of the Waikīkī Kyoya Hotel variance, and his advocacy helped protect Kāwainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh, safeguarding critical natural and cultural resources; and

Whereas, Chuck’s depth of knowledge in land-use law, planning, and Hawai‘i’s General and Development/Sustainable Plans, and his unwavering tenacity in standing up for land and water rights, left an impact on Hawai‘i that cannot be overstated; and

Whereas, Chuck was an active member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i and a respected voice on environmental and land-use issues, frequently offering his expertise to Party members, caucuses, and committees; and

Whereas, Chuck spent his final days surrounded by family and friends, passing away at his home in Kailua on April 13, 2025; and he is survived by his wife, Leigh Nuzzo; his children Cheryl An Prentiss, Kenneth Charles Prentiss (Gail), and Cynthia An Sharkey (Scott); his grandchildren Taylor, Rylie, Sarah, Annemarie, Lauren, Alyssa, Nathan, and Dylan; his stepdaughter Maile Nuzzo Pardue (Edd); and his step-granddaughter Alana Pardue; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i honors the life, service, and legacy of Charles “Chuck” Armando Prentiss, expresses its deepest gratitude for his decades of leadership and public service, and extends heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all who were touched by his life; and be it

Ordered, That a copy of this Resolution be presented to his family in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the State of Hawai‘i and the communities he so faithfully served.

NP 2026-47 Honoring Clarence Kukauakahi “Ku” Fook Tam Ching

WHEREAS, Clarence Kukauakahi “Ku” Fook Tam Ching descended from the chiefly lines of Liloa and ‘Umi of Hawai‘i, Manokalanipō of Kaua‘i, Kakuhihewa and Kualii of O‘ahu, and Lonoikahaupu, ancestor of Queen Lili‘uokalani, and was born on September 16, 1940, in Pauoa, Honolulu to Clarence Ing Fook Ching and Julia Keano Ching, grew up in Pauoa, attended Pauoa Elementary School, and graduated from the Kamehameha Schools in 1954; and he later took the Hawaiian name Kukauakahi in honor of his kūpuna when he began his study of Lua, and his early cultural formation included time at the Bishop Museum, grounding him in ‘ike kupuna that shaped his lifelong service to the lāhui; and

Whereas, Ku Ching was a practicing attorney in the State of Hawai‘i, applying his legal training to advance Native Hawaiian rights, protect public trust resources, and support community efforts grounded in justice, culture, and ‘āina stewardship; and he served as a Trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs from 1986 to 1990, contributing to the OHA Blueprint and advancing the rights and well-being of Native Hawaiians, and he continued to serve the community through cultural advisory roles, including at Pōhakuloa Training Area and on the Board of the Pasifika Foundation Hawai‘i; and

Whereas, Ku Ching, as a respected cultural practitioner and environmental advocate who protected sacred and historic sites such as Kaniakapupu and Uluhaimalama, helped build the voyaging canoe Hawai‘i Loa, and co-originated and led Huaka‘i i Nā ‘Āina Mauna, strengthening the movement to protect Maunakea, Pōhakuloa, and other wahi pana across the pae ‘āina; and

Whereas, Ku Ching as a plaintiff in Hawai‘i Supreme Court case Clarence Fook Tam Kukauakahi Ching and Maxine Kahaulelio v. David Y. Ige, Suzanne D. Case, and the State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, (DLNR), 145 Hawai‘i 148, 449 P.3d 1146 (2019),, which resulted in a landmark ruling requiring the State of Hawai‘i to fulfill its constitutional duty to protect and preserve public trust lands at Pōhakuloa Training Area by ensuring the cleanup of military-generated debris on leased state lands; and

Whereas, Ku Ching was also a named plaintiff in the pending federal action Wai Ola Alliance: Clarence Fook Tam Kukauakahi Ching; Maxine Kahaulelio; et al. v. United States Department of Defense; United States Navy; and Defense Logistics Agency, Civil No. 1:22-cv-00272-LEK-RT (D. Haw.), alleging violations of the Federal Clean Water Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) for unpermitted Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon discharges into Pearl Harbor and Hālawā Stream caused by major fuel releases from the Red Hill Underground Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, including the catastrophic spills of 2014 and 2021 and chronic leakage throughout its 80-plus-year operational life; and

Whereas, Ku Ching’s environmental advocacy extended into the work of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i through the Environmental Caucus, which helped initiate and organize the formation of Wai Ola Alliance, connecting his cultural and environmental leadership directly to the Party’s public-trust and environmental-justice mission; and

Whereas, Ku Ching passed away on September 16, 2025, and is survived by his brother, four children, seven grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter, who continue to honor his commitment to justice, culture, and the ‘āina, and profound legacy of service, cultural leadership, and environmental protection that continues to guide and uplift the people of Hawai‘i; now, therefore,

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i honors the life, legacy, and contributions of Clarence Fook Tam Kukauakahi “Ku” Ching, and expresses its deepest appreciation for his lifelong dedication to justice, culture, and the ‘āina; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to his ‘ohana, friends, and community members who carry forward his work and memory.

NP 2026-48 Honoring Nate Yuen (1960–2022)

Whereas, Nate Yuen was a beloved environmental advocate, hiker, photographer, and community leader whose life embodied aloha 'āina, humility, kindness, and a rare ability to make everyone he met feel loved, supported, and seen; and

Whereas, Nate's life was a testament to mālama 'āina, and his efforts to protect and preserve Hawai'i's natural beauty left an indelible mark on the people and places he cherished; and he was a dedicated hiker, photographer, and environmental justice activist who often journeyed to remote parts of the islands to document rare native plants and animals, sharing his mana'o and passion with thousands; and

Whereas, Nate was a Sierra Club member since 1999 and served on the Executive Committee for six years, most recently as Chapter Outings Chair, helping rebuild the outings program after the pandemic, and he contributed to nearly every major Sierra Club campaign during his decades of involvement; and

Whereas, Nate authored the long-running "Nate's Adventures" series in the Sierra Club's *Mālama i ka Honua* newsletter beginning in 1999, inspiring readers with his explorations, observations, and deep knowledge of Hawai'i's natural world; and

Whereas, Nate joined the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club in 1998 and was a Lifetime Member, known as the "Gentle Warrior" naturalist whose photography, native-plant expertise, and mentorship shaped generations of hikers and conservationists; and

Whereas, Nate supported numerous environmental, Native Hawaiian rights, and social justice organizations, including the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club, The Nature Conservancy, O'ahu Search and Rescue, Conservation Council for Hawai'i, Hawai'i People's Fund, Aha Aloha 'Āina, Hui Aloha 'Āina, Hawai'i Conservation Alliance, and many others; and

Whereas, Nate's thoughtful preparation and principled positions strengthened the Sierra Club Political Committee, where he was respected for his integrity and willingness to speak for minority viewpoints when needed; and

Whereas, Nate was an active supporter of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, frequently engaging with Party members, caucuses, and committees on environmental protection, conservation policy, and Native Hawaiian rights, and his work helped inform and strengthen DPH's environmental and social justice positions; and

Whereas, Nate passed away unexpectedly and far too young at the age of 61 in August 2022, and the outpouring of aloha that followed was immense, with hundreds across the islands joining the search and later gathering for his Celebration of Life, honoring the way he always showed up for others; and his legacy continues through the people he inspired, the landscapes he helped protect, and the ongoing use of his photography and storytelling to educate future generations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i honors the life, service, and legacy of Nate Yuen, expresses its deepest gratitude for his decades of environmental leadership, community service, and aloha 'āina, and extends heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all who were touched by his life; and be it

Ordered, That a copy of this Resolution be presented to his family in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to Hawai'i and the communities he so faithfully served.

NP 2026-49 Honoring Nelson Ho (1950–2024)

Whereas, Nelson served as statewide chair of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i and also served on the national Sierra Club board, contributing decades of leadership to environmental protection efforts across the islands; and

Whereas, Nelson served on the boards of the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and the Pono Hawai'i Initiative, strengthening statewide advocacy for conservation and community-based environmental policy; and

Whereas, Nelson grew up in Nu'uuanu after his family moved from Philadelphia during his infancy, graduated from Roosevelt High School and UH Mānoa, and relocated to Hawai'i Island in 1979; and

Whereas, Nelson was active in the 1980s with the Sierra Club and the Pele Defense Fund to prevent environmental damage from geothermal development, and later worked for the State of Hawai'i and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on invasive species control; and

Whereas, From the 1990s onward, Nelson was a leading critic of the management of Maunakea by UH and DLNR, and he participated in the Thirty Meter Telescope protests in 2015 and 2019; and

Whereas, Nelson also lobbied against the Hawai'i Superferry in the 2000s, contributing to public scrutiny that ultimately led to the project's termination following a court ruling requiring an environmental assessment; and

Whereas, Nelson wrote numerous opinion pieces for Hawai'i newspapers, including the *Hawai'i Tribune-Herald* and the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, where his final published piece critiqued state environmental leadership decisions; and

Whereas, Nelson taught environmental studies at Hawai'i Community College and was appointed Deputy Director of the Hawai'i County Department of Environmental Management by Mayor Harry Kim, who praised Nelson's integrity, work ethic, and commitment to truth; and

Whereas, Nelson was an avid hiker, kayaker, photographer, and lover of literature, science, ecology, and astronomy, and was known for his charisma, humor, and deep dedication to the 'āina and to community wellbeing; and

Whereas, Nelson was an active supporter of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, frequently engaging with Party members, caucuses, and committees on environmental protection, land management, and Native Hawaiian rights, and his decades of advocacy helped inform and strengthen DPH's environmental and social justice positions; and

Whereas, Nelson Ho, a prominent Hawai'i Island environmental and political activist, passed away on January 2, 2024, at Hilo Medical Center at the age of 73, after a long illness; and

Whereas, Nelson is survived by his wife Jennifer and stepdaughter Hi'iaka Kahalewai, who continue to honor his legacy of service and aloha 'āina; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i honors the life, service, and legacy of Nelson Ho, expresses its deepest gratitude for his decades of environmental leadership, community advocacy, and principled public engagement, and extends heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all who were touched by his life; and be it

Ordered, That a copy of this Resolution be presented to his family in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to Hawai'i and the communities he so faithfully served.

NP 2026-50 Honoring Dr. Philip “Phil” J. Barnes (1945–2026)

Whereas, Philip “Phil” Barnes, a respected community advocate, organizer, educator, and dedicated member of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i, was born in Indianapolis on April 29, 1945, to William Barnes, Sr. and Cecilia Doyle Barnes, and earned his bachelor’s degree from Purdue University, his master’s degree from Indiana University, and two doctoral degrees from the University of Miami; and

Whereas, Phil passed away in his beloved Hilo on January 19, 2026, leaving a legacy of service, compassion, and unwavering commitment to social and economic justice; and he was a longtime resident of Hawai‘i Island who devoted decades to community empowerment, civic engagement, and grassroots organizing, always centering the needs of working families, kūpuna, and underserved communities; and

Whereas, Phil served the Hawai‘i County Democratic Party with distinction, including eight years as County Chair, and contributed to precinct, district, county, and state-level leadership through many years on the State Central Committee, as well as through his service on the Rules, Resolutions, and Platform Committees at numerous Hawai‘i County Democratic Party Conventions; and

Whereas, Phil inspired and guided Party members in organizing community events, rallies, and civic actions—including Democratic Party Grand Rallies, Women’s March events, and the “Stand Up Hawai‘i – A Rally for Democracy” held at the Mo’oheau Bandstand on May 17, 2025; and

Whereas, Phil was a tireless advocate for progressive values, including environmental protection, affordable housing, equitable economic development, and transparent, accountable government, and his dedication extended into nonprofit and community initiatives focused on sustainability, civic education, and democratic participation; and

Whereas, Phil supported the Down Syndrome of Louisville and the Kindness Warrior Walk—particularly the Will’s Walkers team—in honor of his grandson, and he was a long-serving member of the Sierra Club and an active member of Indivisible Hawai‘i, working to protect the environment and uphold constitutional principles; and

Whereas, Phil spent more than 20 years teaching Hawaiian Studies and authored *A Concise History of the Hawaiian Islands*, dedicated “to the residents of Hawai‘i of all races who are working together to expand the spirit of Aloha in the 21st Century,” and he was admired for his kindness, humility, humor, generosity, and deep aloha for the people of Hawai‘i; and

Whereas, Phil is survived by his wife, Diane Fournier of Hilo; his daughter, Brooke Barnes; and his grandson, Will, of Cincinnati, Ohio, along with friends, colleagues, and community members who continue to honor his memory; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i honors the life, service, and legacy of Dr. Philip “Phil” Barnes, expresses its deepest gratitude for his decades of leadership, advocacy, and community service, and extends heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all who were touched by his life; and be it

Ordered, That a copy of this Resolution be presented to his family in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to Hawai‘i Island and to the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

NP 2026-51 Honoring Abeline “Abby” Madrid Shaw (1947–2025)

Whereas, Abeline “Abby” Madrid Shaw, born April 13, 1947, to Venancio and Rosenda Madrid, passed away on March 25, 2025, at Kahala Nui’s Hi’olani Care Center; and she was raised with her seven siblings in the Līhu’e Sugar Plantation Camp in Hanamā’ulu, Kaua’i, graduated from Kaua’i High School, and earned a B.Ed. (1970) and M.A. in Communications (1971) from the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, where she later served as an Instructor at the University of Hawai’i; and

Whereas, Abby’s early legal experience included service as a Legal Aid Intern and as a law clerk at Ashford & Wriston, and she later served as Judiciary Administrative Staff Attorney for the Hawai’i Supreme Court; and inspired by her work clerking for the Speaker of the Hawai’i House of Representatives, Abby entered the William S. Richardson School of Law (WSRSL) and graduated in 1976 as a member of the law school’s first graduating class and its first Filipino graduate; and

Whereas, Abby devoted her 49-year legal career to public service, beginning as a law clerk to Hawai’i Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Menor, and subsequently serving the State of Hawai’i as Deputy Attorney General, Special Assistant to the Governor in Human Resources, and Director of the Progressive Neighborhood Program; and she was appointed Deputy Director of the Department of Health, overseeing Hawai’i’s twelve hospitals and expanding access to medical and emergency care for rural and neighbor-island communities; and

Whereas, Abby later served the City and County of Honolulu as First Deputy Corporation Counsel, Director of the Department of Community Services, and Chief of Staff to Mayor Jeremy Harris, and in 2004 addressed the United Nations General Assembly in support of the campaign to ban nuclear weapons; and

Whereas, Abby was among the original members of FilVetREP and served as FilVetREP Region 11 Deputy Director, helping lead Hawai’i’s advocacy for Filipino World War II veterans; and she was recognized as a towering presence in Hawai’i’s 1980s veterans’ equity movement, raising public awareness of Filipino WWII veterans’ service and sacrifice, and her leadership helped lay the groundwork for the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act; and she pioneered FilVetREP’s education program in Hawai’i, strengthening public understanding of Filipino veterans’ contributions, and she continued to promote the veterans’ cause into her final years; and she played a key role in the 2017 and 2018 Hawai’i Congressional Gold Medal presentations, during which more than one hundred Filipino World War II veterans and widows were honored for their service; and

Whereas, Abby was a leader in Hawai’i’s Filipino community, serving as Chair of the Filipino Community Center (FilCom), President of the Hawai’i Filipino Lawyers Association, an officer of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce, and a member of numerous nonprofit boards, including organizations dedicated to youth, public health, education, women’s leadership, Filipino community advancement, and veterans’ advocacy; and

Whereas, Abby’s excellence was recognized early when she was named the most outstanding Filipino graduate of Kaua’i High School in 1965, and in 2024 she was honored as one of the eight most outstanding alumni of WSRSL at its 50th Anniversary Celebration; and

Whereas, Abby’s life was fueled by pride in her Filipino heritage, her commitment to justice, and her unwavering devotion to her family and community, and she spent her final days surrounded by the love of family and friends; and she survived by her husband Cuyler; her daughter Renee (Thomas Schoen), who serves as First Deputy Corporation Counsel in Hilo; her grandchildren Christina, Emily, Caleb, and Bethany; her siblings Angel Madrid (Gloria), Jose Madrid (Juliet), Petra Barbosa, Bertha Madrid, and Juanita Abara; and many nieces and nephews; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai’i honors the life, service, and legacy of Abeline “Abby” Madrid Shaw, expresses its deepest gratitude for her decades of leadership and public service, and extends heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and all who were touched by her life; and be it

Ordered, That a copy of this Resolution be presented to her family in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to the State of Hawai’i and the communities she so faithfully served.