

NTLINTL 08-01 PRESERVE OUR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH

Whereas, respect for the civil liberties guaranteed by the United States Constitution in our Bill of Rights is a fundamental tenet of democracy; and

Whereas, the Republican Bush Administration has attempted to suppress the rights of American citizens to free speech and peaceable assembly by herding those with views adverse to the Bush Administration into distant and isolated “protest zone” locations; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party of the State of Hawai‘i (of the United States of America) hereby condemns attempts to eviscerate our Bill of Rights and affirmatively pledges that the Democratic Party shall never seek to exclude or isolate the views of American citizens by establishing separate “protest zones” to restrict the rights of citizens to be heard or otherwise restrict citizens’ rights at any of its political gatherings.

NTLINTL 08-02 DEFENDING CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DISSENT

Whereas, federal policies adopted since September 11, 2001, including provisions in the USA PATRIOT Act (Public Law 107-56) and related executive orders, regulations and actions threaten these fundamental rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America by:

- Allowing “sneak and peek” or “black bag” searches, in which the subject of the search warrant is unaware that their property has been searched;
- Limiting the traditional authority of federal courts to curb law enforcement abuse of electronic surveillance in anti-terrorism investigations and ordinary criminal investigations;
- Granting law enforcement and intelligence agencies broad access to personal medical, financial, library and education records with little if any judicial oversight;
- Authorizing the indefinite incarceration of citizens and non-citizens based on mere suspicion, or designated by the President as “enemy combatants” without access to counsel or courts; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Hawai‘i Democratic Party actively supports the efforts of the State of Hawai‘i and all those who are working to protect our civil liberties by the repeal of those provisions of the Patriot Act and similar legislation which subvert processes and curtail civil liberties; and

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this approved resolution be distributed to all elected Democratic office holders in Hawai‘i, as well as the four members of the Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation, and to the Governor of Hawai‘i.

NTLINTL 08-03 SUPPORTING REPEAL OF “DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL”

Whereas, tens of millions of people from diverse backgrounds have served in the United States military; and

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

Whereas, millions of men and women who have served honorably and have been discharged honorably have been homosexual or bisexual; and

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

Whereas, the current “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy has drummed out actual or suspected homosexual, bisexual and transgendered service personnel who wish for nothing more than to serve their country’s security needs; and

Whereas, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” harms our national security; and

Whereas, our country has spent more than \$360 million implementing the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy; and

Whereas, other national security agencies and allied foreign militaries allow homosexual, bisexual, and transgendered people to serve openly; and

Whereas, there have been no studies that confirm that sexual minorities have adverse effects on morale or have a diminished capacity to serve alongside their heterosexual counterparts and 79% of Americans agree that gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve openly; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i opposed the counter productive ‘witch hunts’ that have been conducted under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy of the United States Armed Forces; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports the repeal of the discriminatory “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy; and

Be It Further Resolved that concurrent with the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, the United States military review all policies and regulations for the purpose of eliminating discrimination in the military based on sexual orientation, identity or preference; and

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

NTLINTL 08-04 CALLING FOR SUPPORT FROM HAWAI'I'S U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE WITH HONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM THE U.S. ARMY AND NO NEW COURT MARTIAL FOR U.S. ARMY LIEUTENANT EHREN K. WATADA

Whereas, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has previously passed resolutions opposing the Bush Administration's doctrine of preemptive war, which only serves to put our military in harm's way and increase international instability; and

Whereas, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has previously passed resolutions demanding an immediate end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq; and

Whereas, on June 22, 2006, U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant Ehren K. Watada was the first commissioned officer to public refuse deployment to the Iraq War and Iraq's Occupation which he believes is illegal and his term of service ended December 2007; and

Whereas, Lt. Watada's February 2007 military court martial came to an abrupt end when a mistrial was declared at Ft. Lewis, Washington; and

Whereas, U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) introduced on April 24, 2007 along with 21 cosponsors H. Res. 333, the Articles of Impeachment against Vice President of the United States, Richard B. Cheney alleging that he "purposely manipulated the intelligence process to deceive the citizens and Congress of the United States by fabricating a threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction to justify the use of the U.S. Armed Forces against the nation of Iraq in a manner damaging to our national security interests;" and

Whereas, on November 8, 2007, U.S. District Court Judge Benjamin Settle issues a Preliminary Injunction to stay any court martial proceedings pending the outcome of the habeas corpus petition and noted: "... This case concerns an alleged violation of the Fifth Amendment Double Jeopardy Clause, which cannot be said to fall within a set of affairs that that are peculiar to the jurisdiction of the military authorities... The same Fifth Amendment protections are in place for military service members as are afforded to civilians... To hold otherwise would ignore the many sacrifices that American soldiers have made throughout history to protect those sacred rights;" and

Whereas, thousands from Honolulu to Seattle to San Francisco to Los Angeles to New York to Tokyo, etc. have already voiced their support for Lt. Watada (including Former U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Denis Halliday, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, reverend Al Sharpton, Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Cindy Sheehan, retired Col. Ann Wright, Professor Noam Chomsky, Fr. Daniel Berrigan, Martin Sheen, Ed Asner, Former U.S. Representative Cynthia McKinney, Willie Nelson, Susan Sarandon, Harry Belafonte, Tim Robbins, Hawai'i JACL, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Code Pink, Amnesty International, and others; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization and Iraq Ministry of Health survey of 9,345 households in 1,000 neighborhoods across Iraq estimates that 151,000 Iraqis have died in violence between March 2003 and June 2006 along with some 4,000 U.S. troops to day; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes the courage and conviction of U.S. Army Lieutenant Ehren Watada and his principled stand against the Iraq War and the U.S. Occupation of Iraq, and demands his immediate release with Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army and no new military court martial; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i requests for the Hawai'i U.S. Congressional Delegation (U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka as well as U.S. Representatives Neil Abercrombie and Mazie Hirono) to provide their full support for this initiative and resolution; and

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawai'i Congressional delegation and the Resolutions Committee of the State Democratic Convention.

NTLINTL 08-05 URGING AN EVEN-HANDED POLICY TOWARDS ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Whereas, the United States and Israel have a longstanding and special relationship; and

Whereas, the issue of Israel and an independent Palestinian state have been divisive among the membership of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; and

Whereas, both peoples have an equal right to exist and defend themselves as socially and economically viable nations—free from foreign threat, interference, or domination; and

Whereas, through its 60 years of existence Israel has endured violence and terrorism against its residents and has defended itself by military incursions into Palestine territories, devastating Palestinian communities and individuals; and

Whereas, Palestinians have endured 60 years of dispossession and over 40 years of Israeli military and settler occupation, and have responded with indiscriminate acts of violence directed against Israeli civilians, creating fear and anger among Israeli communities and individuals; and

Whereas, a just peace will result when both peoples live behind secure and defensible borders; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that to break this unending cycle of violence, the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i calls upon the United States to play a meaningful role as an honest broker and press for immediate, sustained action to end the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Democratic Party affirms its commitment to open, civil and respectful dialogue on this critical issue, both within the party and in the broader community; and

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of Hawai‘i’s Congressional delegation.

NTLINTL 08-06 CALLING FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM IRAQ

Whereas, the Bush Administration manufactured, distorted and simplified intelligence in a way that led Americans to seriously misunderstand the nature of the Iraq threat after the suicide attacks by Al Qaeda upon American civilians and institutions on September 11, 2001; and

Whereas, the “war on terror” is continuing to endanger the values and constitutional principles on which the United States was founded by employing a pre-emptive war doctrine against a non-perpetrator nation state rather than against the terrorist organization that launched the attacks of September 11,2001; and

Whereas, unilateral military action by the U.S. against Iraq has seriously damaged national security by alienating large segments of the world population and isolated the U.S. from important friends and allies; and

Whereas, well over 500 billion dollars spent on the war and occupation has saddled U.S. citizens with an unsupportable and growing burden of national debt and weakened our economy; and

Whereas, it is illegal under international law according to both the Geneva and the Hague Conventions for any nation to invade another nation, seize its assets, and sell those assets; and

Whereas, much of the costs of infrastructure building and the war budget have escaped congressional review and there has been a pattern of corruption in awarding government contracts to contractors with direct personal and business ties to members of the Bush Administration; and

Whereas, the costs and damage to human life already include over 4,000 U.S. Service members killed, 30,000 more wounded, and at least 80,000 Iraqi civilians killed since 2003; and

Whereas, American military leaders have stated that the war in Iraq cannot be won and continued presence of American troops is destabilizing Iraq into civil war; and

Whereas, it is a right and obligation for the United States citizens to disagree with a president who deceived our country into a war that violates international law, subverts our constitutional system of checks and balances, and weakens our social, economic and national security; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Hawai‘i Democratic Party calls for the complete withdrawal of American troops from Iraq to commence immediately and to be accomplished within the shortest possible time that will minimize injury and deaths of American troops; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Democratic Party support the following measures to restore control of the Iraqi government and assets to Iraqi citizens:

- The United States will ask the United Nations for peacekeeping troops to rotate into Iraq, allowing all U.S. troops to return home.
- The United States will renounce any plans to privatize Iraq assets under foreign corporate or governmental control.
- The United States will not establish permanent bases in Iraq.
- The United States will ask the United Nations to handle the transition to Iraq self-governance and assist in developing safe, free and fair elections.
- The United States will join international efforts to help over 2 million refugees from Iraq caught in a humanitarian crisis who have fled to refugee camps in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon in the wake of American attacks on Iraq.

NTLINTL 08-07 OPPOSING PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION ON IRAN AND ENCOURAGING A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION

Whereas, while Iran is a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Iran's insistence on pursuing the enrichment of uranium has given rise to the suspicion, and recently direct accusations by the White House, that Iran is pursuing a nuclear weapons program—in a similar drum-beat manner as the Bush Administration has done in Iraq through the constant refrain of “Saddam has weapons of mass destruction,” thus laying out a justification for the invasion of Iraq; and

Whereas, all five powers—the United States, Russia, France, and the United Kingdom—have unequivocally agreed that Iran must comply with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty; and

Whereas, the unity in the nonproliferation goal has not meant an agreement between the United States and Western Europe on the one hand, and Russia and China on the other hand, as to how the United Nations should seek to defuse the crisis and solve the problem arising out of Iran's nuclear program; and

Whereas, Russia and China oppose the threat or the use of sanctions and consider such as a pretext for the eventual use of force; and

Whereas, Iran's President Mahmud Ahmadinejad sent a 18 page letter to President Bush last year, the first communication between the two nations in three decades and has visited the United States, and the White House has declined to have direct talks with Iran's President and has continued to voice that Iran is a threat to the United States; and

Whereas, President Bush has stated that the United States will continue to seek a solution through diplomatic means, the President has refused to rule out sanctions and the use of force; and

Whereas, national media are again quoting unnamed “sources” daily on Iran and heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf, that illustrate the potential Iranian aggression to U.S. presence there—thus leading to potentially justifying the use of force. Recently the Washington Post reported that the Joint Chiefs Chairman states that the U.S. is preparing military options against Iran; and

Whereas, the Administration and the Congress are now cognizant that the use of force did not solve the Iraqi problem, and that the expansion of the U.S. Iraqi military operation into Iran will likely trigger a regional conflict of dire consequences, that will go beyond the mere interruption of oil production, economic disruptions, large numbers of civilian casualties and global instability, and other unknown calamities; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the President and our leaders in Congress to pursue a diplomatic solution through the United Nations, and we urge the President to commence direct talks with the Iranian Government to avoid any further escalation of U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf.

NTLINTL 08-08 RESOLUTION TO CLOSE DOWN THE DETENTION CAMP IN THE U.S. NAVAL BASE AT GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

Whereas, it is now over seven years since the first detainees were transferred to the detention camp at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and

Whereas, every stage of their ordeal, their dignity, humanity and fundamental rights have been denied; and

Whereas, despite widespread international condemnation from such respective bodies as the United Nations and the European Union, hundreds of people of more than 30 nationalities are still detained; and

Whereas, those hundreds of people are neither prisoners of war, who are treated under the Geneva Convention, nor accused criminals, who have the right to lawyers and a trial; and

Whereas, it is without question, that governments have a duty to protect the safety of the public and therefore take all reasonable and lawful steps to prevent acts of terror and bring to justice those responsible for committing or planning such acts; and

Whereas, Guantanamo is emblematic of the U.S. government's failure to fulfill that duty; and

Whereas, those hundreds of people are being called "enemy combatants," held without charge and with little hope of obtaining a fair trial; and

Whereas, Guantanamo Bay is regarded worldwide as an icon of lawlessness, a legal and moral disgrace and a symbol of injustice and abuse; now, therefore

Be It Resolved the Democratic Party of Hawai'i declares the detention camp in the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, must be closed down.

NTLINTL 08-09 COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

Whereas, the Bush Administration has repeatedly violated numerous treaties concerning the protection of human rights; and

Whereas, the full protection of human rights is a fundamental aspect of the U.S. Constitution; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i calls upon the National Democratic Party to work for the full execution and implementation by the United States of the following human rights treaties:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948
- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1965
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966
- Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity of 1968
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, Geneva of 1980
- Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984
- Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction of 1993
- Convention on the Prohibition of the use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction of 1997

NTLINTL 08-10 INVESTIGATE INTELLIGENCE MANIPULATION AND WAR PROFITEERING

Whereas, the war in Iraq has resulted in the loss of over 2,300 American lives, more than 17,000 wounded soldiers, and has cost the American people \$270 billion; and

Whereas, the basis for going to war as Iraq's alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction and the President made a series of misleading statements regarding threats posed by Iraq, which it now appears he knew were false; and

Whereas, the Vice President's Chief of Staff, Lewis Libby, has been indicted on five counts of perjury, obstruction of justice, and making false statements in connection with the disclosure of the identity of a CIA operative, and that disclosure was part of a pattern of Administration efforts to discredit critics of the Iraq war; and

Whereas, the American people have spent \$20.9 billion to rebuild Iraq with much of the money squandered on no-big contracts for Halliburton and other favored contractors; and

Whereas, Halliburton received a sole-source contract worth \$7 billion to implement the restoration of Iraq's oil infrastructure, and a senior Army Corps of Engineers official wrote that the sole-source contract was "coordinated with the Vice President's office," and the Republican Controlled Government Reform Committee voted to reject a subpoena by Democratic Members appropriately seeking information on communications of the Vice President's office on awarding contracts to Halliburton; and

Whereas, prisoner abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, Guantanamo, and Afghanistan have seriously damaged the reputation of the United States; and

Whereas, the oversight of decisions and actions of other branches of government is an established and fundamental responsibility of Congress; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Hawai'i Democratic Party calls upon the U.S. Congress to comply with their oversight responsibilities, demand they conduct a thorough investigation of abuses relating to the Iraq War; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Hawai'i Democratic Party condemns Congress' refusal to conduct oversight of the Executive Branch; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Hawai'i Democratic Party calls upon the U.S. Congress to implement a thorough independent investigation of the apparent manipulation of intelligence and efforts to facilitate war profiteering by the White House with an eye toward bringing criminal charges against those who may have misled the public.

INTINTL 08-11 FORBID FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Whereas, on 8 July, 1996 the International Court of Justice (ICJ), or World Court, drawing on international agreements such as The Hague Conventions, Geneva Conventions, and Genocide Convention, issued its Advisory Opinion on the legal status of the threat or use of nuclear weapons which concluded that:

- The threat or use of nuclear weapons is generally contrary to international humanitarian law;
- No circumstances had been identified in which the use of nuclear weapons would not violate humanitarian law;
- There is no distinction in law between threat and use of nuclear weapons; the limited use of low yield nuclear weapons would tend to escalate to all-out use of high yield nuclear weapons;
- The Nuremberg Charter of 1945 applied to nuclear weapons. Thus it is the duty of citizens to uphold the law relating to nuclear weapons or military personnel to obey it even if given a contrary order by a superior or by his or her national government;
- There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control; and

Whereas, on 10 December, 1996 the United Nations General Assembly, in response to the ICJ Advisory Opinion, called for negotiations in 1997 leading to the early conclusion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention; and

Whereas, the United States is therefore acting illegally by:

- Retaining the option to use nuclear weapons first in future conflicts;
- Issuing orders to its military personnel to prepare for the illegal use of nuclear weapons;
- Making conditional plans to use nuclear weapons which, because of their yield, would necessarily violate international humanitarian law; and

Whereas, the threat of nuclear weapons serves to justify and encourage the proliferation of nuclear weapons and further destabilize international affairs, resulting in decreasing our national security; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i directs its elected officials to enact a law making it illegal for the President or military to use nuclear weapons except in a case where another country uses nuclear weapons against the United States first.

NTLINTL 08-12 RESOLUTION TO PURSUE CONCRETE MEASURES WITHIN CONGRESS TO DETERMINE ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONSEQUENCES FOR TORTURE

Whereas, the Democratic National Committee, convened in Chicago on August 19, 2006, unanimously condemned the use of torture by any agent or agencies of the U.S. Government; and

Whereas, the Democratic National Committee further called for accountability for those whose policies were seen to authorize the use of torture; and

Whereas, there has been credible public information in the media that Messieurs Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld and then National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice among others personally approved or presided over meetings that approved interrogation techniques such as waterboarding that are forbidden by Army Field Manuals and have been illegal under U.S. statute for over 100 years and violate international conventions; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party of the County of Hawai'i and the State of Hawai'i calls on the Democratic National Committee and appropriate Party and Congressional leaders to pursue urgently and forthwith concrete measures to determine accountability and consequences for likely violation of law, treaty, and the U.S. Constitution; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and of the United States invite all candidates for the office of the United States to declare their positions on accountability of the Chief Executive and the Commander-in-Chief before the law in times of war and in times of peace.

NTLINTL 08-13 REPUDIATE PRESIDENT BUSH'S PREEMPTIVE WAR DOCTRINE

Whereas, military conflicts in the twentieth century alone have killed millions of people, most of them innocent civilian women and children; and

Whereas, the United States spends more than the next twenty nations combined on military preparations; and

Whereas, the United States has conducted a unilateral, preventative (preemptive) war against Iraq without the approval of the U.N. and many of our allies; and

Whereas, non-violent methods of resistance have been successful in conflicts where violence did not succeed, ranging from India's struggle for independence, to breaking down the walls of the Cold War, to the great strides made towards integration in the United States; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that we strengthen security in our country and the world community by:

- Rejecting President Bush's doctrine of preventative, unilateral war;
- Working with the world community through the United Nations; and
- Supporting international agreements such as the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions, the Small Arms Treaty, the International Criminal Court, the Land Mines Treaty, Nuclear, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the Kyoto Climate Treaty; and

Be It Further Resolved that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Senator Daniel Inouye, Senator Daniel Akaka, Representative Mazie Hirono, and Representative Neil Abercrombie.

NTLINTL 08-14 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS: MEN AND WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THOSE MEN AND WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE WHO HAVE COME BEFORE THEM

Whereas, working families in Hawai‘i and the United States have paid a heavy price for the U.S. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan with the deaths of thousands of U.S. military personnel and many more thousands and thousands more seriously injured from the start of war in Iraq on March 19, 2003 and the war against terrorism launched in Afghanistan shortly after the terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; and

Whereas, it is a known fact Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction, and the government in Iraq had no meaningful ties to those who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon; and

Whereas, the Bush Administration has used the Iraq War and the “War on Terrorism” as a platform to advocate restrictions on civil liberties; and

Whereas, the Bush Administration has attacked valid and realistic criticism of the Iraq War and the “War on Terrorism” by falsely and viciously labeling those voices in opposition unpatriotic, and soft on terrorism and even un-American; now, therefore

Be It Resolved when the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i speaks out in a democratic society against wrong and deceitful government policies it is doing so through patriotism and in a purposeful act of rightful reordering of national priorities toward the human needs of our people; and

Be It Further Resolved the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i recognizes the courage of U.S. military personnel who face extraordinary dangers in the U.S. war in Iraq and, also, in the war on terrorism being fought simultaneously in Afghanistan; and

Be It Further Resolved the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i calls upon current and future Administrations and U.S. Congress to provide first rate training and equipment for our troops both on and off the field and to support to the fullest extent possible our service personnel and their families with a well funded military and veterans’ facilities and benefits, including but not limited to the Webb G.I. Bill.

NTLINTL 08-15 ENSURE VETERAN'S BENEFITS AND RIGHTS

Whereas, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands united in support of our troops at home and abroad; and

Whereas, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i continues our long standing commitment to our veterans; and

Whereas, we believe the government should consistently and fairly keep its promises to our soldiers; now, therefore

Be It Resolved to enact bills ensuring:

- Adequate funding for veterans' health care
- Enhanced specialized treatment and research for service-related illnesses such as mental illness, spinal cord injuries, amputees, Agent Orange, and depleted uranium
- A complete GI bill of rights, promoting and funding education, home loans, complete medical treatment, and start-up loans for small businesses
- Military retirement pay and disability compensation can be received concurrently without a tax
- Increased support to homeless veterans
- The end to "stop loss" and forced continuation of military service past the time for which the soldier contracted
- Protection from forced experimental vaccinations
- Screening for radiological and toxicological substances upon return from any theater of war in which DU was used

NTLINTL 08-16 PROTECT HAWAI'I AND SOLDIERS FROM DEPLETED URANIUM

Whereas, through four wars (Gulf War I, Sarajevo, Afghanistan, and Gulf War II), the U.S. military has deployed over a thousand tons of penetrators made of depleted uranium (DU), a radioactive, heavy metal waste product resulting from the uranium enrichment process; and

Whereas, uranium in solid form is an alpha-radiation emitter and a heavy metal which poses a small risk to humans in solid form, but the uranium dust, smoke and oxides which result from the use of DU penetrators poses a substantial, toxic and radioactive risk to all who inhale or ingest it; and

Whereas, at least 221,000 veterans are on disability as a result of injuries and illnesses incurred during military operations in the Persian Gulf combat theater, and there is credible concern that some of the illness called "Gulf War Syndrome" may be caused by the inhalation of DU dust and smoke; and

Whereas, a current study shows that U.S. Gulf War Veterans' children have a much higher likelihood of having three specific types of birth defects: two types of heart valve abnormality occurring to children of male veterans and genital-urinary defect to children born of female veterans; and

Whereas, many, if not most, of our troops currently in Iraq and Afghanistan are being exposed to depleted uranium dust; and

Whereas, the use of depleted uranium weapons results in the release of air-borne depleted uranium particles, which have registered at elevated levels in places as far away as Britain and DU dust and smoke affects both civilians and soldiers in inhumane ways, causing damage to vital organs and to unborn children and future generations and contaminates the environment, agricultural land and water necessary for sustenance; and

Whereas, the use of live fire DU weapons in Hawai'i for training purposes has the potential to pollute the land in the same way that spreading radioactive lead-paint dust over our 'aina would have polluted; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i calls on all federal and state representatives and senators to take all steps necessary to ban the use of depleted uranium in weapons, ban the sale of depleted uranium weapons, ban and criminalize the use of depleted uranium in consumer products and airplanes, ban live-fire DU weapons testing in Hawai'i and everywhere ban storage and transport of DU in the State of Hawai'i and grant medical testing for veterans and others suffering from contamination and provide for the clean up of contamination in Kosovo, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

NTLINTL 08-17 BALANCE THE BUDGET BY ROLLBACK OF TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY AND CORPORATIONS

Whereas, military expenditures, corporate giveaways and tax cuts for the wealthy have, in a few short years, taken us from a surplus situation to the worst deficit in history; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party calls upon our representatives in the United States Congress to vote to repeal the 2003 tax breaks that benefit only upper-income taxpayers and corporations; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Democratic Party calls upon our representatives to fully fund Veteran benefits, adequate armor and equipment, and good pay for our soldiers and veterans; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Democratic Party calls upon our representatives to reduce spending on expensive boondoggles such as the Star Wars Defense System and other over-priced projects that amount to taxpayer subsidies to the defense industry and corporate friends of the current Administration; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Democratic Party calls upon our representatives in the United States Congress to vote against any future tax breaks for wealthy Americans or large corporations, which erode the funding available for critical domestic priorities.

NTLINTL 08-18 OPPOSE PRIVITIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Whereas, Social Security has for nearly 70 years provided a predictable, guaranteed benefit to millions of older and disabled workers and their survivors; and

Whereas, this benefit funded exclusively by Social Security payroll taxes paid by workers and their employers is one that can and should be safeguarded for generations to come; and

Whereas, the Bush Administration claims that radical changes to Social Security, including privatization, are necessary to avert its bankruptcy, the Bush Administration has not provided any objective evidence to corroborate this claim. Social Security is not headed for disaster; and

Whereas, it is the financial strain privatization would impose that would pose serious and long lasting peril to the stability of the Social Security program; and

Whereas, privatizing Social Security would add \$2 trillion to the already runaway federal deficit while the Bush Administration's proposed changes to Social Security will do nothing to enhance this program's solvency—and, in fact, in order to restore solvency to a privatized Social Security program, younger workers' benefits would have to be cut by 26% to 45%, a prospect that is totally unacceptable; and

Whereas, analyses of privatization proposals show that younger workers will get hit twice: once with a reduction in Social Security benefits and again with the burden they will be forced to carry to pay off the grossly expanding federal debt; and

Whereas, popular assumptions that Social Security will “run out” before younger workers can collect the benefits they have earned are not supported by reality because Social Security taxes to be collected and money owed to the Social Security system are adequate to allow full payments to be paid until 2042 so that additional modest adjustments would further stabilize this important program; and

Whereas, privatizing Social Security and reducing benefits would jeopardize not only young workers' long-term retirement benefits, but also the disability and survivor benefits provided by this program, and because 13 million Americans currently rely upon such benefits, have allowed them to live with dignity and security and it is safe to assume that few of them ever anticipated needing this life-saving benefit; and

Whereas, workers have earned this benefit by paying into it over time, they should not be guinea pigs for a flawed social experiment—indeed, significant changes to a program of such consequence demand informed discussion, not just sound bites, platitudes or scare tactics; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party continue to work with members of Congress, as well as with the labor movement and other allies, to strengthen Social Security and to maintain it as a defined benefit to ensure that it will provide its promised benefits for future generations to come.

NTLINTL 08-19 LICENSEES MUST PROVIDE CANDIDATE AIR TIME

Whereas, TV and radio campaign ads appear to have a large effect on votes; and

Whereas, the more money a candidate has, the more ads that candidate can buy; and

Whereas, a candidate's ability to attract campaign donations—especially large donations from corporations—is now a determining factor in elections; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party supports a plan to require all FCC licensees to give equal and adequate airtime for every candidate without cost.

NTLINTL 08-20 ENSURE FAIR MEDIA

Whereas, it used to be a FCC rule that in order to receive and retain a FCC license for radio or TV that licensees must abide by the fairness doctrine which mandated they give equal time to opposing viewpoints; and

Whereas, under Ronald Regan, the FCC dropped the Fairness Doctrine as a licensing condition; and

Whereas, in 1987 Ronald Regan vetoed a Congressional bill requiring the FCC airwaves licensees such as radio and TV stations to apply the fairness doctrine; and

Whereas, in 1989 President George Bush threatened to veto it a second Senate bill intended to revive the Fairness Doctrine; and

Whereas, the lack of a Fairness Doctrine has allowed a few powerful media corporations such as Fox News to engage in nonstop political propaganda which is entirely one-sided and falsely presented as news; and

Whereas, our media is now primarily in the hands of a few corporations; and

Whereas, a free and diverse media is necessary for an informed electorate; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party urges its lawmakers to:

- Support re-instituting the Fairness Doctrine as a condition of TV and Radio licensing;
- Support public television and radio and ensure it is protected from government interference;
- Repeal the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and enacting law to remedy inequities in media control and use;
- Enact a law requiring all broadcast license holders to provide adequate free airtime to political candidates as a condition of getting their FCC license; and
- Forbid single market cross-media ownership (between radio and television, or between broadcast and print media);
- Require license holders to provide one hour daily of primetime, commercial-free local news programming
- Continue to support for community-level, non-profit, and non-commercial radio and TV nationwide.

NTLINTL 08-21 ENSURE INTERNET NEUTRALITY

Whereas, allowing internet service providers to block, slow, or degrade access to websites for monetary gain will destroy the level playing field the internet provides; and

Whereas, Network Neutrality is the guiding principle that preserves the free and open Internet and prevents Internet providers from speeding up or slowing down web content based on its source, ownership or destination; and

Whereas, allowing telecoms to be Internet gatekeepers, deciding which websites go fast or slow and which don't load at all, is detrimental to the free exchange of information; and

Whereas, without Network Neutrality, the telecoms who want to discriminate in favor of their own search engines, Internet phone services, and streaming video—while slowing down or blocking their competitors will slow or block the internet for the rest of us; and

Whereas, the telecoms want to reserve express lanes for their own content and services—or those from big corporations that can afford the steep tolls—and force websites such as our own MauiDemocrats.org to load slowly unless we pay them huge fees; and

Whereas, as a consequence of a 2005 decision by the Federal Communications Commission, Net Neutrality—the foundation of the free and open Internet—was put in jeopardy and cable and phone company lobbyists are pushing to block legislation that would reinstate Net Neutrality; and

Whereas, the Democratic Party and independent voices and political groups are especially vulnerable because costs will skyrocket to post and share video clips, silencing bloggers and amplifying the big media companies. Political organizing could be slowed by the handful of dominant Internet providers who ask advocacy groups or candidates to pay a fee to join the “fast lane;” now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party supports the bipartisan “Internet Freedom Preservation Act 2008 (HR5353) to protect Net Neutrality; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Democratic Party supports legislation ensuring Network Neutrality and which prohibits telecoms from pay for speed, preferential or differential internet speeds or blocking of content based on their own criteria and not their customer's request.

NTLINTL 08-22 NONGAG RULE IN FOREIGN AID FOR HEALTHCARE

Whereas, the Global Gag Rule (officially known as the Mexico City Policy) restricts U.S. aid by terminating U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funds for any non-U.S.-based NGOs involved in voluntary abortion activities, even if these activities were undertaken with non-U.S. funds and the Helms Amendment has restricted U.S. funds from being used for abortion or voluntary sterilization activities overseas since 1973; and

Whereas, under the Global Gag Rule, it is illegal for an organization that receives donations from USAID to lobby its own government for decriminalization of abortion, though it would be able to lobby for stricter punishment for women who have undergone voluntary abortions and the intention of the policy is to limit the speech and action of foreign-based NGO recipients by depriving them of all U.S. government funds if they carry out certain acts deemed undesirable by the U.S. administration; and

Whereas, in essence, if an organization is dependent on U.S. aid, or if it is concerned about potential funding, it is prevented from participating in the democratic process of its own country unless it agrees with the current U.S. government on abortion issues; and

Whereas, blanket prohibitions of abortion and violations of doctor-patient confidentiality have been deemed inconsistent with internationally recognized human rights norms by the UN's Human Rights Committee and Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee); and

Whereas, the Global Gag Rule also imposes rules and restrictions on foreign NGOs that would not be accepted as legal in the United States; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party and its Congressional lawmakers shall work for the repeal of the Global Gag Rule and the Helms Amendment as conditions of Foreign Aid receipt.

NTLINTL 08-23 REJECT THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION'S ANTI-WORKER AND ANTI-ENVIRONMENT PRACTICES

Whereas, the negotiations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are conducted by Trade Ministers and Trade Representatives and other officials charged with promoting trade, to the exclusion of officials charged with the representation of other interests such as public health, labor rights or environmental protection; and

Whereas, trade and investment disputes at the WTO by non-elected panels in secret process that have the authority to override local, state and federal law, is outside and above U.S. courts; and

Whereas, in all cases decided by the WTO in the last four years, the dispute panels have favored corporate interests over public interests and have overruled domestic laws protecting the environment, human health, endangered species and local economies; and

Whereas, the "National Treatment" concept of the WTO could prohibit the use of domestic procurement preferences and subsidies and other benefits to local businesses for the purposes of encouraging local economic development; and

Whereas, by attacking domestic laws, the WTO is actually dismantling the democratic process under the guise of a trade pact; and

Whereas, a broad and growing global movement has formed to challenge the WTO's ability to establish free trade rules that threaten human health, fragile ecosystems, labor and human rights, democratic institutions and local economies; and

Whereas, the State of Hawai'i is the home to a major seaport and is actively interested in the promotion of international trade as a means to improve the quality of life for all people and not as a means for creating a race to the bottom of public health standards, environmental protection and labor rights; now, therefore

Be It Resolved by the Democratic Party of Hawai'i to oppose the further expansion of the powers of the WTO to overrule the sovereign policies of nations, states and local governments and to oppose those existing provisions which inhibit Federal, State, and Local Governments in protecting their workers, environment, and citizen health.

NTLINTL 08-24 OPPOSE WORLD BANK OVERRIDES OF ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND LABOR PROTECTIONS

Whereas, the World Bank controls more investment capital and, together with its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, has more economic and social policy influence in the developing world than any other institution; and

Whereas, World Bank policies of forced privatization, user fees, fiscal austerity, deregulation and liberalization (collectively known as structural adjustment) have undermined job security, food security, public health, and people's livelihoods for the past sixty years, with particularly harmful effects on women; and

Whereas, the World Bank has promoted a narrowly defined export-led growth model that has widened the gap between the rich and poor globally and within countries; and

Whereas, by keeping the governments of less developed countries dependent on new infusions of capital from high-income countries, the World Bank has reinforced an external allegiance of these governments, making them more accountable to the World Bank managers than to their own people and with policymaking in the hands of unelected officials, there is no real chance of either meaningful development or democracy taking place in many of these countries; and

Whereas, the World Bank refuses to cancel 100% of the debt of impoverished countries, despite the illegitimacy of the debt and its negative effects on the poor; and

Whereas, World Bank lending for oil wells, gas pipelines, mines, and large dams has displaced millions of people and resulted in human rights abuses, impoverishment of local communities and nations and damaged the environment all over the world; and

Whereas, the World Bank is an undemocratic institution, which makes decisions in secret and which is therefore neither accountable to the majority of people in the developing countries where it operates, nor to the taxpayers who contribute to it directly; and

Whereas, the majority of the resources available for lending by the World Bank come from the sale of World Bank bonds to institutional investors, including pension funds, and these resources are used to carry out the aforementioned policies and practices; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Administration to work with the World Bank to uphold Federal, State or local rules protecting the environment, citizen health, public utilities, and labor standards.

NTLINTL 08-25 RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION OF CRIMINAL ACTS BY THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION

Whereas, it has been alleged that the Bush Administration has committed numerous high crimes and misdemeanors, while in office; and

Whereas, the timetable for proceed effectively with impeachment proceedings are now impractical; now, therefore

Be It Resolved the Bush Administration be strenuously investigated both now and after Inauguration Day 2009 for laws broken by the Bush Administration during its tenure; and

Be It Further Resolved that all parties found to have broken laws of the United States be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

NTLINTL 08-26 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD CALL TO PUT ON TRIAL FORMER ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN YOO, WHOSE TORTURE MEMOS LED TO THE COMMITMENT OF WAR CRIMES

Whereas, during John Yoo's time in the Justice Department's office of Legal Counsel, he authored various controversial memos in which he would interpret the legality of torture and decreed that enemy combatants could be denied protection under the Geneva Conventions; and

Whereas, in a memorandum written the same month George W. Bush invaded Iraq, John Yoo said the Department of Justice understands U.S. criminal laws do not apply to the President's detention and interrogation of enemy combatants. According to Yoo, the federal statutes against torture, assault, maiming and stalking do not apply to the military in the conduct of war; and

Whereas, the federal maiming statute makes it a crime for someone "with intent to torture, maim, or disfigure" to "cut, bite, slit on the nose, ear, or lips, or cut out or destroy an eye, or cut off or disable a limb or any member of another person." It further prohibits individuals from "throwing or pouring upon another person any scalding water, corrosive acid, or caustic substance: with like intent: and

Whereas, John Yoo also narrowed the definition of torture so the victim must experience intense pain or suffering equivalent to pain associated with serious physical injury so severe that death, organ failure, or permanent damage resulting in loss of significant body functions will likely result; and

Whereas, John Yoo's definition contradicts the definition in the Convention Against Torture, a treaty the U.S. has ratified which is thus part of the U.S. law under the Constitution's Supremacy Clause; and

Whereas, John Yoo said self-defense or necessity could be used as a defense to war crimes prosecutions for torture, notwithstanding the Torture Convention's absolute clear wording that states any form of torture in all circumstances, even in wartime, is prohibited; and

Whereas, John Yoo's memos to George W. Bush provided and supported the basis for the Administration's torture of prisoners; and

Whereas, John Yoo's complicity in establishing the policy that led to the torture of prisoners constitutes a war crime under the U.S. War Crimes Act; and

Whereas, John Yoo's memos violate U.S. law and establish expansive definition of presidential power; and

Whereas, the National Lawyers Guild, the oldest and largest public interest/human rights lawyers' organization in the United States, sees John Yoo as the man ultimately responsible for the fact the Bush Administration officials all the way up to the Vice President Dick Cheney signed off on using harsh interrogation techniques against suspected terrorists after asking the Justice Department to endorse their legality; now, therefore

Be It Resolved that Congress should repeal the provision of the Military Commissions Act that would give John Yoo immunity from prosecution for torture committed from September 11, 2001 to December 30, 2005 and he be investigated for violation of U.S. law and fully prosecuted for criminal acts.