



**Democratic Party of Hawai'i
2018 Platform**
as adopted at the 2018 DPH State
Convention, May 27, 2018



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1 **PLATFORM OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**
2 AS APPROVED AT THE 2018 STATE CONVENTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I
3 MAY 26, 2018, WAIKOLOA, HAWAI'I

4
5 **I. PREAMBLE**
6

7 The abiding values of the Democratic Party are liberty, social justice, economic justice, and protection of
8 the environment, and compassion and respect for the dignity and worth of the individual. At the heart of our
9 Party lies a fundamental conviction that Americans must not only be free, but they must live in a fair society.
10 These values compel us to integrate democratic ideals in all aspects of economic, social, educational, and
11 cultural life in our communities, our State and our Nation. These principles must always be protected. As
12 the Party of the People, we Democrats commit ourselves to these values. We are facing increased global
13 challenges economically, ecologically, and socio-culturally. We, therefore, adopt a worldview that is
14 sensitive to and addresses these challenges that is not based on short-term economic gains. This Platform
15 outlines guiding principles for all members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH").
16

17 The Democratic Party of Hawai'i holds that our Party and our Government shall strive for the following
18 ideas and values:
19

- 20 1. Support and provide for a strong economy;
- 21 2. Preserve and strengthen the future of agriculture in Hawai'i;
- 22 3. Support strong labor practices, good jobs and a living wage;
- 23 4. Support measures to drastically reduce income and wealth inequality;
- 24 5. Protect and restore the civil and human rights of each person;
- 25 6. Support the rights of Native Hawaiians and the preservation of Native Hawaiian culture;
- 26 7. Support the eradication of discrimination;
- 27 8. Reform our Government, supporting transparency in government and free, fair, and democratic
28 Elections;
- 29 9. Provide an excellent, free public education for students at every level;
- 30 10. Support a comprehensive approach to ending poverty;
- 31 11. Provide high quality and free healthcare for every human being;
- 32 12. Protect and preserve Hawai'i's environment;
- 33 13. Achieve energy sustainability;
- 34 14. Adopt transportation policies that improve our quality of life;
- 35 15. Support military relations that honor and provide for all military personnel and veterans while
36 protecting our *'āina*;
- 37 16. Support fair and just foreign policy that promotes peace.
38

39 Based on the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we also join in support of the following:

- 40 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- 41 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;
- 42 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- 43 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,
- 44 5. Achieve gender diversity and equality, and empower all women and girls and those that do not adhere
45 to the gender binary;
- 46 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- 47 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- 48 8. Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and living wage
49 for all;
- 50 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
- 51 10. Reduce inequality among our people and communities;
- 52 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
14. Conserve and wisely use the oceans, seas and marine resources in a sustainable manner;
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss;
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

II. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES ACTION PLANKS

1. REBUILD THE MIDDLE CLASS AND STAMP OUT ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INEQUITIES (including minimum wage of \$15 per hour by 2020 with cost of living increases thereafter; paid Family/Sick Leave by 2020; Provide Affordable Health Insurance for all (Single-Payer Universal HealthCare Insurance); Make quality public education and vocational school alternatives a REAL priority including at-risk and youth with special needs; diversify the economy; eliminate tax loopholes for the wealthy and raise tax on income over \$200,000; reinstate full percentage of Public Land Trust Revenues set aside for the betterment of Native Hawaiians (20% of public lands annual revenues); legalize recreational cannabis; make affordable housing affordable; prevent discrimination; and substantially increase statutory exemptions from attachment or execution of real and personal property).

2. MAKE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR CULTURAL ASSETS A HIGH PRIORITY - advance measures to re-establish healthy Climate and Environment for humans and fellow species (including ban on use of chemicals that harm our marine waters such as oxybenzone; address climate change crisis, ban use of polystyrene for food uses, protect indigenous and organic food farms from contamination; require truth in labeling on all agricultural products and 50% Hawai'i grown to be labeled as Hawai'i grown; advance "Buy Local" and "Blue Zone Project" and other community wellness programs; restrict marine aquarium harvesting; give priority to alternative energy and nature based solutions such as promoting use of compost and recycling policies and avoidance of incarceration; restrict the use of insecticides and herbicides deleterious to the web of life and implement the State biosecurity plan to address invasive species; protect and preserve our fragile ecosystems and cultural assets by requiring environmental and cultural assessments in advance of all development; advance set asides for Native Hawaiian Cultural Reserves and Parks, and reclaim ancient trails across the island).

3. MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER NOW – in schools and on the streets and in our homes (including advancing gun control measures such as ban on assault weapons and full background checks for all; make elimination of police corruption a priority; advance restorative justice programs for offenders and oppose privatization of prisons and provide an effective means of assisting victims of domestic violence).

4. TAKE BACK OUR GOVERNMENT (including measures to allow for direct democracy citizen initiatives with the appropriate protections to eliminate influences and impacts of "Big Money;" demand that all legislation be entitled to at least one hearing; require record of all legislative votes; advance open government measures; and raise ethical standards and campaign finance reforms).

III. OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

A. EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING

EDUCATION

We believe that the future of our State as well as our Country depends upon an educated and knowledgeable citizenry. We support the prioritization of our resources toward providing quality public education and library services to every student, regardless of learning capacity or ability to pay, in an

1 environment conducive to the learning process. These resources shall be made available at every level,
2 from pre-school through higher education, including life-long learning. Educational facilities must be
3 maintained, renovated and built to 21st century innovations so that our students learn in well-designed,
4 safe environments.

5
6 Education shall be respected as a valuable resource and those pursuing a profession in education shall be
7 compensated with a competitive wage based on National standards while taking into consideration our
8 State's cost of living. We support hiring the most qualified teachers, administrators and specialists for our
9 educational system. We also support partnerships with universities and colleges that prepare educators
10 and provide advanced degrees in Hawai'i or elsewhere who provide practicum support and or access.

11
12 We believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable
13 about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize
14 cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our
15 health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects,
16 cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations. We view standardized tests as just
17 one way of evaluating learning and support multiple measures, including performance assessments such
18 as portfolios and observations.

19
20 Consistent with these goals, we seek to make public college, public university, trade, mentorship and
21 apprenticeship programs available to all seeking further education tuition free.

22
23 We need to ensure that our students are safe in our schools, free from bullying and discrimination, to include
24 but not limited to, disability, gender bias, weight, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender
25 expression, and/or religion. We support policies in all our schools that protect, honor and address the
26 needs of transgender and gender nonconforming students. We need to ensure that they have access to
27 proactive positive behavior supports rather than reactive responses.

28
29 We believe children's early years are particularly important and support increased funding for birth to grade
30 3 education and early childhood teacher education. There is to be coordination of departments so that there
31 is Continuity of Care that includes medical providers when appropriate.

32
33 We support an additional dedicated source of funding for the Department of Education. We support
34 maximizing access to Federal funds to offset the State cost to provide specialized support.

35
36 We cannot support the practice of unfunded mandates from the Federal government.

37
38 We support adequate funding for mandatory public education Pre-K through 12. We do not support the use
39 of tax monies in a voucher program or tuition tax credits for private education Pre-K-12. Use of tax monies
40 for vouchers or tuition tax credits may have the effect of reducing support for public education and
41 weakening church and state separation. We support the constitutional separation of church and state in
42 education, which has been a cornerstone of democracy.

43 44 **MAKING DEBT-FREE COLLEGE A REALITY**

45 Democrats are unified in their strong belief that every student should be able to go to college, public
46 university, trade, mentorship and apprenticeship programs debt-free and a working family should not have
47 to pay any tuition to go to public colleges, universities and other trade schools. We will also make community
48 college free. The State government will push more colleges and universities to take quantifiable, affirmative
49 steps in increasing the percentages of racial and ethnic minority, low-income, and first-generation students
50 they enroll and graduate.

1 Achieving these goals depends on State and Federal investments in both students and their teachers.
2 Whether full-time or adjunct, faculty must be supported to make transformative educational experiences
3 possible.
4

5 **GUARANTEEING UNIVERSAL PUBLIC PRESCHOOL AND QUALITY SCHOOLS FOR EVERY CHILD**

6 Democrats believe we must have the best-educated population and workforce in the world. That means
7 making childhood education and universal preschool a priority, especially in light of new research showing
8 how much early learning can impact life-long success. Democrats will invest in early childhood programs
9 like “Early Head Start” and provide every family with access to high-quality childcare and high-quality
10 preschool programs. We support efforts to raise wages for childcare workers, and to ensure that early
11 childhood educators are experienced and high-quality.
12

13 We also support increased investment in after-school summer learning programs which help working
14 families, keep kids safe, and inspire learning at a time when many students are left unsupervised. We must
15 find ways to encourage mentoring programs that support students in reaching their full potential. Mentoring
16 is a strategy to ensure that children living in poverty have the encouragement and support to aim high and
17 enter the middle class.
18

19 We will focus on group mentoring which is a low-cost, high-yield investment that offers the benefit of building
20 a supportive network of peers who push one another towards success.
21

22 Democrats believe all students should be taught to high academic standards. Schools should have
23 adequate resources to provide programs and support to help meet the needs of every child. We will hold
24 schools, districts, communities and the State accountable for raising achievement levels for all students –
25 particularly low-income students, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students, English Language
26 Learners, and students with disabilities.
27

28 Democrats recognize and honor all the professionals who work in public schools to support students’
29 education – teachers, education support professionals, and specialized staff. We know that good teachers
30 are essential to improving student learning and helping all students to meet high academic standards.
31 Democrats will launch a campaign to recruit and retain high-quality teachers. We will ensure that teachers
32 receive the tools and ongoing professional development they need to succeed in the classroom and provide
33 our children with a world-class education. We also must lift up and trust our educators, continually build
34 their capacity, and ensure that our schools are safe, welcoming, collaborative, and well-resourced places
35 for our students, educators, and communities.
36

37 We will invest in high-quality STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) classes,
38 community schools, computer science education, arts education, and expand distance learning models and
39 career pathways. We will end the school-to-prison pipeline by opposing discipline policies which
40 disproportionately affect Asian Americans, Filipino Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders,
41 students with disabilities, and youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning,
42 intersexual and asexual (“LGBTQIA”). We will support the use of restorative justice practices that help
43 students and staff resolve conflicts peacefully and respectfully while helping to improve the teaching and
44 learning environment. And we will work to improve school culture and combat bullying of all types.
45

46 DPH is committed to eliminating opportunity gaps – particularly those that lead to students from low-income
47 communities arriving on day one of kindergarten several years behind their peers. This means advocating
48 for labor and public assistance laws that ensure poor parents can spend time with their children. This means
49 raising household incomes in poor communities. It means ensuring children have healthcare, stable
50 housing free of contaminants, and a community free of violence to minimize the likelihood of cognitive
51 delays. It means enriching early childhood programming to prepare children in areas such as literacy,
52 numeracy, civic engagement and emotional intelligence. It means supporting equitable and adequate State

1 funding for public education and expanding Title I funding for schools that see a large number of high
2 concentrations of children in poverty. It means ending curriculum gaps that maintain and exacerbate
3 achievement gaps.

4 5 **LABOR**

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

8
9 As the party of working people in Hawai'i, we work to protect labor rights and social security; to ensure fair
10 labor practices, a living wage for all workers, equal pay for equal work and fair taxation; we encourage
11 legislation to raise the minimum wage and paid family and sick leave; to protect employees' rights to
12 organize and bargain collectively with their employers; to oppose the outsourcing of Hawai'i's jobs; to
13 promote employment opportunities and sustainable growth; to assist the economically disadvantaged and
14 advocate for sound trade and economic policies; to train our local workforce in diversified and
15 environmentally responsible industries, and build our workforce for jobs in emerging technologies, in green
16 industries, in renovation, and in green construction, so that their jobs are not dependent on ever-expanding
17 real estate developments.

18
19 We believe that workers need to be safe and free from any form of discrimination, harassment or abuse in
20 the workplace. We seek legislation that will achieve these goals.

21
22 We support strict enforcement of union contracts and worker rights to unionize, to strike without job loss, to
23 have a safe workplace, to mediate and arbitrate disputes, and the repeal of the anti-labor Taft-Hartley Act.

24
25 We support automatic dues payment to unions, repeal of all "right to work" laws and strict laws against
26 employers requiring credit checks or social media passwords for employment purposes. We seek
27 protection of undocumented workers from prosecution, deportation or job loss for reporting employer labor
28 law violations. We support the Jones Act.

29
30 We seek programs that prepare people with disabilities for independent and productive lives. We are
31 committed to the elimination of glass ceilings that prevent women and minorities from advancing to the
32 highest levels of government, education and business. To rapidly move returning veterans, students, and
33 the unemployed into jobs, we urge the creation of paid internship programs for students.

34 35 **RAISE INCOME AND RESTORE ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS**

36 **RAISING WORKERS' WAGES**

37 We believe that the current minimum wage is a starvation wage and must be increased to a living wage.
38 No one who works full time should have to raise a family in poverty. We should earn at least \$15 an hour
39 and have the right to form or join a union and will work in every way we can – in Congress and the Federal
40 government, in the State Legislature and with the private sector – to reach this goal. We also support
41 creating one fair wage for all workers by ending the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers and people with
42 disabilities.

43 44 **PROTECTING WORKERS' FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

45 The Democratic Party believes that when workers are strong, Hawai'i is strong. Democrats will make it
46 easier for workers, public and private, to exercise their right to organize and join unions. Democrats believe
47 that consumers, workers, students, retirees, and investors who have been mistreated should never be
48 denied their right to fight for fair treatment under the law.

49 50 **SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES**

51 We will fight to secure equal pay for women which will benefit all women and their families, particular women
52 of color who are disproportionately impacted by discriminatory pay practices, and against other factors that

1 contribute to the wage gap. And we will combat the discrimination they face on and off the job. DPH will
2 make sure that Hawai'i finally enacts paid family and medical leave by passing a family and medical leave
3 law that would provide all workers at least 12 weeks of paid leave to care for a new child or address a
4 personal or family member's serious health issue. We will fight to allow workers the right to earn at least
5 seven days of paid sick leave. We will also require employers to provide paid vacation through legislation.
6

7 Our work and family policies must also help family caregivers. We will ensure that family caregivers have
8 the support, respite care, and training they need to support their loved ones. We will create a strong stable
9 paid caregiving workforce to help meet families' needs, by raising wages, improving access to training, and
10 giving workers the opportunity to come together to make their voices heard in support of a stronger system.
11

12 **EXPANDING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMEOWNERSHIP**

13 DPH will continue to fight for those families who suffered the loss of their homes. We will help those who
14 are working toward a path of financial stability and will put sustainable home ownership into the reach of
15 more families. DPH will also combat the affordable housing crisis and skyrocketing rents in many parts of
16 the State, which are leading too many families and workers to be pushed out of communities where they
17 work.
18

19 We will preserve and increase the supply of affordable rental housing by expanding incentives to ease local
20 barriers to building new affordable rental housing developments in areas of economic opportunity. We will
21 substantially increase funding to construct, preserve, and rehabilitate affordable housing rental units. Not
22 only will this help address the affordable housing crisis, it will also create good-paying jobs in the process.
23 DPH believes that we should provide more state resources to the people struggling most with unaffordable
24 housing: low-income families, people with disabilities, veterans, and the elderly.
25

26 We will expand programs to prevent displacement of existing residents, especially in Native Hawaiian and
27 Pacific Islander communities; create affordable and workforce housing; and preserve neighborhood-serving
28 nonprofit organizations and small businesses. We will reinvigorate housing production programs, repair
29 public housing, and increase funding for rental assistance programs. We will fight for robust funding to end
30 homelessness in our cities and counties once and for all, through targeted investment to provide the
31 necessary outreach, social series, and housing options for all populations experiencing homelessness. We
32 will engage in a stronger, more coordinated, and better funded partnership among Federal, State, and local
33 governments to end chronic homelessness.
34

35 **ENSURING A SECURE AND DIGNIFIED RETIREMENT**

36 DPH believes that it should be easier to save for retirement and prepare for unforeseen risks and expenses.
37 We will defend the right of workers to collect their defined benefit pensions and make sure workers get
38 priority and protection when pension plans are in distress.
39

40 Seniors should not have to choose between putting food on the table, keeping a roof over their heads, or
41 buying the medication that they need to stay healthy. We strongly support funding critical programs to help
42 seniors remain independent in their own home and communities. We are also committed to fighting the
43 immense problem of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
44

45 **BUILDING 21ST CENTURY INFRASTRUCTURE**

46 If we are serious about reversing the decline of the middle class, we need major Federal investments to
47 rebuild our crumbling infrastructure and put our communities back to work in decent paying jobs in both the
48 public and private sectors. The climate emergency and the need to expand the middle-class demand that
49 we make the most ambitious investment in Hawai'i infrastructure. We will put our communities to work
50 updating and expanding our roads, bridges, public transit, airports and passenger and freight rail lines. We
51 will build 21st century energy and water systems, modernize our schools, continue to support the expansion
52 of high-speed broadband networks. We will protect communities from the impact of climate change and

1 help to mitigate its effects in investing in green and resilient infrastructure. We will address the backlog of
2 deferred maintenance in the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Hawaiian
3 Home Lands. We will protect public health and safety by modernizing drinking and wastewater systems.
4 These investments will create secure, good-paying middle-class jobs today.

5
6 DPH will fight to ensure resources and programs are adequately targeted to provide economic
7 development, job training, and critical infrastructure investment in areas of greatest need.

8 9 **FOSTERING A MANUFACTURING RENAISSANCE**

10 DPH believes that one of the best ways to innovate, prosper, and create good-paying jobs is to make more
11 in Hawai'i, which is why we firmly support Hawaiian manufacturing with a "Made in Hawai'i" plan. We must
12 revitalize hard-hit manufacturing communities; create thriving hubs of manufacturing and innovation
13 throughout *Hawai'i*; and claw back tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, using the proceeds
14 to reinvest in communities and works at home instead. DPH is proud of rescuing the agricultural industry
15 from collapse with coffee, macadamia nuts, avocados, bananas, guavas, papayas, tomatoes and other
16 fruits. In addition, other revitalized manufacturing industries involve bread, candy, dairy products, juices
17 and soft drinks, indigenous food, printed materials (mostly newspapers), refined petroleum, stone, clay,
18 glass products, clothing, jewelry, woodcraft, fabricated metals and shipbuilding.

19 20 **CREATING FAIR, WELL-PAYING CLEAN ENERGY JOBS**

21 We must help *Hawai'i's* workers and businesses compete for jobs and investments in global clean energy,
22 high-tech products, internet technology products and advanced manufacturing. We must make Hawaiian
23 manufacturing more internationally competitive by making it the greenest and most efficient in the world,
24 including by investing in industrial energy efficiency.

25 26 **PURSUIING OUR INNOVATION AGENDA: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND** 27 **MATHEMATICS (STEAM)**

28 DPH supports ambitious public and private investments in science, technology, engineering, arts, and
29 mathematics. We are focused on creating clean energy jobs with fair, well-paying wages in our
30 communities. Entrepreneurship and innovation are fundamental to our future economic growth – in the
31 information technology (IT) industry as well as energy, manufacturing, transportation, health, retail,
32 services, and other sectors. We will nurture the next generation of scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs,
33 especially women and people of color, to make sure that Hawai'i out-competes and out-innovates the rest
34 of the world with our bold innovation agenda.

35
36 New technologies are already transforming our economy. We must harness these forces so that they
37 create higher-paying jobs, bring more people into the workforce, and reduce inequality. We need to
38 educate our people and train our workers; support entrepreneurship and promote inclusion in the digital
39 economy; attract and retain talented people from all over the world; and invest in research and
40 development, innovation hubs, as well as in getting ideas to market. We also need to ensure that all
41 students can learn computer sciences by the time they graduate from high school.

42
43 High-speed internet connectivity is not a luxury, it is a necessity for 21st century economic success, social
44 mobility, education, healthcare, and public safety. DPH will finish the job to connect every household in
45 Hawai'i to high-speed broadband, increase internet adoption, and help hook up anchor institutions so they
46 can offer free WiFi to the public. We will take action to help Hawai'i widely deploy 5G technology for faster
47 internet connections to underserved areas and enable the Internet of Things and other transformative
48 technologies.

49
50 DPH supports the University of Hawai'i in its mission to increase awareness in science, technology and
51 exploration to better understand our place in the universe and inspire and educate generations of young
52 people in Hawai'i to pursue a career in science.

1 **SUPPORTING HAWAII'S SMALL BUSINESS**

2 By supporting small business and entrepreneurship, we can grow jobs faster in Hawaii. We will cut red
3 tape that holds back small business and entrepreneurs. We will open up access to credit because we know
4 that small businesses are some of the best job creators in our State. We will provide tax relief and tax
5 simplification. Democrats will provide targeted funding and support for entrepreneurship and small
6 business growth in underserved communities. We realize the critical importance of small businesses as
7 engines of opportunity for women, people of color, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and people in
8 rural Hawaii and will work to nurture entrepreneurship.
9

10 **CREATING JOBS FOR HAWAII'S YOUNG PEOPLE**

11 To the extent permitted under Federal law, Democrats will make investments to spur the creation of jobs
12 for our young people ages 16 to 24. The unemployment rate of Native Hawaiian, Asian American, Filipino
13 American and Pacific Islander teenagers and youth with disabilities are far too high. Democrats will provide
14 funding for a range of local programs that will put young people to work and create new career opportunities.
15

16 **REMOVE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITIES AND ENDING SYSTEMIC ETHNIC AND RACIAL**
17 **INJUSTICE**

18 Democrats will promote ethnic and racial justice through fair, just and equitable governing of all public-
19 serving institutions and in the formation of public policy. We will push for a societal transformation to make
20 it clear that all lives matter and that there is no place for racism in our State.
21

22 **CLOSING THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC WEALTH GAP**

23 Hawaii's economic inequality problem is even more pronounced when it comes to racial and ethnic
24 disparities in wealth and income. DPH believes it is long past time to close this racial wealth gap. Disparities
25 in wealth cannot be solved by the free market alone, but instead government must play a role in eliminating
26 systemic barriers to wealth accumulation for different racial groups and improving opportunities for people
27 from all racial and ethnic backgrounds to build wealth. State policies must remove barriers to achieving
28 sustainable homeownership and provide for greater diversity in State contracting practices, incentivize and
29 expand access to retirement investment programs, increase opportunities for quality jobs and education
30 and challenge the deeply rooted structures that perpetuate and exacerbate current disparities and ultimately
31 impair and depress Hawaii's economic growth and security.
32

33 **REFORMING OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

34 Instead of investing in more jails and incarceration, we need to invest more in jobs and education and end
35 the school-to-prison pipeline. We will remove barriers to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully
36 re-enter society by "banning the box," expanding reentry programs and restoring voting rights. "Banning
37 the Box" would allow applicants the opportunity to demonstrate their qualifications before being asked about
38 their criminal records.
39

40 The "war on drugs" has led to the imprisonment of hundreds of people in Hawaii, disproportionately people
41 of color, without reducing drug use. Whenever possible, DPH will prioritize prevention and treatment over
42 incarceration when tackling addiction and substance use disorder. We will build on effective models of drug
43 courts, veterans' courts, and other diversionary programs that seek to give nonviolent offenders
44 opportunities for rehabilitation as opposed to incarceration.
45

46 We encourage the Federal government to remove cannabis from the list of "Schedule I" Federal controlled
47 substances and to appropriately regulate it providing reasoned pathway for future legalization. We support
48 policies that will allow more research on cannabis, as well as reforming laws to allow legal cannabis
49 businesses to exist without uncertainty.
50

51 We have been inspired by the movements for criminal justice that directly address the discriminatory
52 treatment of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and other disadvantaged ethnicities to rebuild trust in the
53 criminal justice system. We require that convicted Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and all other races
54 and ethnicities who reside within the State of Hawaii remain incarcerated in the State of Hawaii.
55

1 We support reforms to our criminal justice system, including but not limited to bail reform, that encourage
2 the reintegration of formally incarcerated individuals into greater society and reduces their rate of recidivism.
3

4 **AGRICULTURE**

5 Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands
6 must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an
7 integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible
8 development of ocean resources and aquaculture to achieve sustainability in our State, of our marine
9 resources and ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

10
11 This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the Native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an
12 integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and
13 ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster
14 agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive
15 species and to encourage reduced holding times. We need to ensure food safety, strive towards food
16 security and strive to set the highest standards for food quality and nutrition.

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

18
19 Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life-sustaining resource, we must protect its ecological
20 balance while promoting the cultivation of ocean resources as a step toward greater self-sufficiency.
21

22
23 Fresh water free of pollutants shall be available to all. To ensure wise use and equitable distribution of our
24 precious water, we must stress water conservation and alternative patterns of water treatment and
25 consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation, water storage reservoirs, and the use of rain
26 barrels by the public.

27
28 As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and
29 diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety.
30

31 We recognize the essential link between the availability of adequate and affordable water and low-cost
32 electrical power as essential components of viable agricultural businesses.
33

34 We support land use planning and infrastructure development to support sustainable diversified agriculture,
35 including low cost inter-island transportation of agricultural products.
36

37 We likewise support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification and value-
38 added products.
39

40 We support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step towards preserving high-grade
41 productive lands for current and future needs.
42

43 We support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at point
44 of entry.
45

46 We promote solid waste policies that divert green waste and food scraps for making invasive species-free
47 compost and enhanced mulch available to our farmers, landscapers, and residents.
48

49 To support the development of new generations of farmers, we support increased availability of training in
50 agriculture and related business requirements at centers of education around the state. We support making
51 available incentives and low-cost loans to enable new farmers to establish farming operations.
52

1 Small farmers are the backbone of Hawai'i's agricultural future. We support the establishment of agricultural
2 parks and clustered farming lots to allow small farmers to share required utilities and utilize fertile land
3 efficiently. We support the establishment of community-supported food hubs for drying, canning, freezing,
4 and distribution of agricultural crops and produce.

5
6 We support the development of agricultural land trusts to keep land in farming in perpetuity and to keep
7 land costs down.

8 9 **ECONOMICS & COMMERCE**

10 Availability of financial support and a capable educated people are critical to our economic expansion and
11 diversification. The management of businesses should be ethical and responsive to the community with
12 transparency for investors and shareholders guaranteeing sound, healthy management. Innovation through
13 the generation of intellectual property should be the goal of our economic diversification.

14
15 We must simplify government processes to encourage beneficial business development. We need to give
16 priority to the development of "green" sustainable industries, diversification of our tourism market, and local
17 business ownership. We need financial literacy and asset building programs to strengthen our *'ohana*.
18 Green commerce includes, but is not limited to, biodegradable or recycling packaging. We need to pursue
19 relationships with the information technology industry. We must invest in world-class higher education to
20 stimulate our economic resources and we must reduce our dependence on tourism, real estate
21 development, and military. A truly diversified economy will help to create diversified job market.

22 23 **TECHNOLOGY**

24 We recognize that the responsible use and development of technology in all its manifestations offers
25 immense potential for our community. We encourage research, development, and educational programs to
26 promote technological proficiency and innovation. We support Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and
27 Mathematics (STEAM) initiatives in our public, private and charter schools as these prepare the next
28 generation to address the needs of our state.

29
30 We maintain that State and local government databases should be integrated to promote efficiency in
31 government. We support both net neutrality to ensure free and open access to the internet, and the
32 protection of personal data as a personal right.

33 34 **TRANSPORTATION**

35 We recognize the necessity of providing a safe, efficient transportation infrastructure. We endorse efforts
36 to promote less reliance on imported fossil fuel and to support energy-efficient methods of transportation.
37 Therefore, we support County, State, and Federal efforts to provide more efficient and punctual methods
38 of public transportation, to include but not limited to: sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, bicycle paths and
39 lanes, mass transit, highways, airports, and ferry systems. We support the allocation of resources including
40 public funds to address all necessary transportation issues, including increased funding for mass transit.
41 We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on the automobile by employing private and public use of
42 alternative modes of travel. We encourage efforts to provide better vehicle and pedestrian safety. We
43 support initiatives that will provide our State with more fuel-efficient vehicles, affordable mass transit and
44 well-identified bike lanes. In order to be best served by mass transit, we must recognize the importance of
45 the integration in an urban setting of any new modes of mass transportation with existing and future public
46 streets and highways, bike lanes, retail establishments and services, and truly-affordable housing – while
47 maintaining a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all future high-density developments.

48
49 We support the development of alternative emergency options for potential evacuation, with special
50 attention to rural areas that only have one access point.

1 **GLOBAL ECONOMY AND INSTITUTIONS**

2 DPH will protect and grow the global economy. We believe we must be responsible stewards and work with
3 our partners to prevent another worldwide financial crisis.
4

5 DPH believes that global institutions – most prominently the United Nations – and multilateral organizations
6 have a powerful role to play and are an important amplifier of American strength and influence. Many of
7 these organizations need reform and updating and as such, we cannot turn our back on the international
8 system that our country built. It has provided decades of stability and economic growth for the world and
9 for America.

10
11 **B. HEALTHCARE, HOUSING, AND SOCIO-CULTURAL WELLBEING**

12
13 **HEALTHCARE**

14 We believe that healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and our healthcare system must put people before
15 profits. The high costs of insurance and insufficient coverage mean that many people do not have access
16 to the care they need, which creates devastating social costs that are also a significant economic burden
17 to the State.

18
19 Therefore, we support robust funding of the Hawai'i Health Authority (HHA) or other State Health Agency
20 to design a statewide, unified, cost-effective healthcare system that includes comprehensive healthcare
21 services for all, and then submit that design to the legislature for evaluation.
22

23 Such a universal, comprehensive healthcare system would: (1) Unify the delivery of healthcare in Hawai'i
24 by establishing a single network, benefit structure, reimbursement system, drug formulary, and prior
25 authorization policies; (All state-regulated payers would be required to pay into this unified system, including
26 Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, and health insurance provided by the state and counties, and commercial
27 health insurance plans funded by employers and individuals.); (2) provide parity of mental and physical
28 health coverage; (3) provide cost-effective regulation of comprehensive health care delivery systems with
29 an administrative overhead of less than 3%; (4) include and protect all women's healthcare needs including
30 reproductive rights and the healthcare needs of the LGBTQIA community; (5) provide preventative health
31 programs; (6) provide long-term care, dental, and vision care; and (7) provide healthcare to Compact of
32 Free Association (Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau) (COFA) citizens and
33 other non-citizens lawfully residing in Hawai'i on an equal basis with US citizens and permanent residents.
34

35 We urge Hawai'i's Medicaid Program to join an existing multi-state prescription drug discount purchasing
36 group as Medicaid, and then, via the HHA's or other State Health Agency's ability to create a unified
37 statewide system, enable delivery of that discount to all state residents.
38

39 On the Federal level, we support a universal single-payer healthcare system similar to or better than HR
40 676, Expanded and Improved Medicare For All, wherein all individuals residing in the United States and
41 U.S. territories are provided with comprehensive healthcare services.
42

43 **REDUCING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS**

44 We will crack down on price gouging by drug companies and cap the amount that consumers have to pay
45 out-of-pocket every month on prescription drugs. We will prohibit anti-competitive "pay for delay" deals that
46 keep generic drugs off the market, and we will allow individuals, pharmacists, and wholesalers to import
47 prescription drugs from licensed pharmacies in Canada and other countries with appropriate safety
48 protections. Democrats will also fight to make such that Medicare will negotiate lower prices with drug
49 manufacturers.
50

51 **ENABLING CUTTING-EDGE MEDICAL RESEARCH**

52 DPH believes that we must accelerate the pace of medical progress, ensuring that we invest more in our
53 scientists and give them the resources they need to invigorate our fundamental studies in the life sciences

1 in a growing, stable and predictable way. We must make progress against the full range of diseases,
2 including diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer's, HIV an AIDS, cancer, and other diseases, especially chronic ones.
3

4 **COMBATING DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION**

5 We must confront the epidemic of drug and alcohol addiction, specially the opioid and crystal
6 methamphetamine (Ice) crisis and other drugs plaguing our communities, by vastly expanding access to
7 prevention and treatment, supporting recovery, helping community organizations, and promoting better
8 practices by prescribers. DPH is committed to assisting people struggling with addiction in Hawai'i to find
9 and sustain healthy lives by encouraging full recovery and integration into society and working to remove
10 common barriers to gainful employment, housing and education. We will continue to fight to expand access
11 to care for addition services and ensure that insurance coverage is equal to that of any other health
12 conditions. We should also do more to educate our youth as well as their families, teachers, coaches,
13 mentors, and friends to intervene early to prevent drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. We should help
14 State and local leaders establish evidence-based, age-appropriate, and locally-tailored prevention
15 programs. These programs include school-based drug education programs that have been shown to have
16 meaningful effects on risky behavior; community-based peer mentorship and leadership programs; and
17 after-school activities that deter drug use and encourage life skills.
18

19 **TREATING MENTAL HEALTH**

20 We must treat mental health issues with the same care and seriousness that we treat issues of physical
21 health, support a robust mental health workforce, and promote better integration of the behavioral and
22 general health care systems. Recognizing that maintaining good mental health is critical to all people,
23 including young people's health and development, we will work with health professionals to ensure that all
24 children have access to mental health care. We must also expand community-based treatment of
25 substance abuse disorders and mental health condition and fully enforce our parity law.
26

27 **SECURING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, RIGHTS, AND JUSTICE**

28 DPH is committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights and justice. We believe
29 unequivocally that every woman should have access to quality reproductive healthcare services, including
30 safe and legal abortion – regardless of where she lives, how much money she makes, or how she is insured.
31 We believe that reproductive health is core to women's, men's and young people's health and wellbeing.
32 We condemn and will combat any acts of violence, harassment, intimidation of reproductive health
33 providers, patients, and staff. We will defend the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which extends affordable
34 preventative healthcare to women, including no-cost contraception and prohibits discrimination in
35 healthcare based on gender.
36

37 We will address the discrimination and barriers that inhibit meaningful access to reproductive healthcare
38 services, including those based on gender, sexuality, race, income, disability, and other factors. We
39 recognize that quality, affordable, comprehensive healthcare, evidence-based sex education and a full
40 range of family planning services help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, and thereby, also
41 reduce the need for abortions.
42

43 **ENSURING LONG-TERM CARE, SERVICES, AND SUPPORTS**

44 We face a long-term care crisis that prevents too many seniors and people with disabilities from being able
45 to live with dignity at home or in their communities. The vast majority of people who are aging or living with
46 a disability want to do so at home, but face challenges finding and affording the support they need to do
47 so. Programs that emphasize independence rather than institutionalization must be better structured to
48 support them. DPH will take steps to strengthen and expand the home care workforce, give seniors and
49 people with disabilities access to quality, affordable long-term care, services, and supports, and ensure that
50 all of these resources are readily available at home or in the community.
51

52 **PROTECTING AND PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH**

53 Investment in our State's crumbling public health infrastructure is critical to ensuring preparedness for
54 emerging threats; for preventing disease, illness, and injury in communities; and for promoting good health
55 and wellbeing. Inadequate access to public health services has a disparate impact on poor, rural and
56 minority communities where public health services are a significant source of healthcare. DPH will fight for

1 increased investments in public health to better address emerging threats and the needs across our State.
2 We will ensure adequate funding of public health education at the undergraduate, graduate, and medical
3 school levels as well as adequate funding of residency training programs in public health, preventative
4 medicine, and its subspecialties.

5
6 We must take a number of proactive steps so that all people – regardless of location, income or history –
7 have the opportunity to live full, healthy lives. Democrats will fight for increased investments and
8 coordination in public health to better address emerging threats as well as persistent needs across our
9 State. Health equity among the communities remains elusive – higher income is strongly associated with
10 longer life expectancy and the gap in life expectancy between the richest and poorest people is increasing.
11 We continue to see unacceptable differences in health outcomes by race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.
12 A growing body of research demonstrates the link between social factors – such as poverty, unemployment,
13 experience of discrimination, and housing instability – and poor health. DPH will continue to pursue policies
14 addressing these social factors and empowering communities to respond to their most pressing health
15 needs.

16
17 We cannot support the provisions that continue the practice of denying women coverage for abortion
18 services. All women’s healthcare decisions should be made by the patients and their doctors, and not
19 restricted by the government. Contraceptives and preventative cancer screening should be easily available
20 to all women.

21
22 We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities
23 through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all
24 age groups, as well as on better nutrition.

25
26 We also support the establishment of adequate mental health and statewide drug rehabilitation programs
27 set up in conjunction with policing policies aimed at enabling all who seek assistance to obtain whatever
28 support assistance is needed to allow them to remain free of drug dependence.

29
30 We support fair and equitable access to medical cannabis to be administered by the Department of Health,
31 State of Hawai‘i.

32
33 We support the passage and enforcement of laws banning both medical and therapeutic treatments for the
34 purpose of forcing sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression conversions, such as
35 conversion therapy (aka reparative therapy), for minors and adults at the State and Federal level. We
36 believe that everyone should have the opportunity to live a true and authentic self.

37
38 We applaud the passage of the “Our Care, Our Choice Act” which gives terminally ill and mentally capable
39 adult patients the right to make their own end of life choices which includes medical aid in dying. We support
40 all efforts to ensure that all terminally ill and mentally capable adult patients can make their own end of life
41 choices, including full access to medical aid in dying.

42 43 **DRUG POLICY REFORM**

44 We support legalization and regulation of cannabis and other cannabis derivatives. We support research
45 and adoption of successful crime reduction strategies currently implemented in other States and Nations.

46 47 **HOUSING**

48 Housing is a basic human right and we believe that adequate, accessible, affordable, and safe housing
49 should be available to all residents of Hawai‘i. Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to individual
50 income is the basis of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy. Recent and past real estate
51 bubbles have fueled disproportionate rent increases, a key contributor to homelessness. Therefore, we
52 support efforts to promote truly affordable housing for all citizens who rent. We also need economically
53 affordable housing and encourage increased support to this end including preservation of existing housing

1 stock. To this end, we support policies which re-think the current formula to determine “affordability” as this
2 formula puts both rentals and sales out of the reach of most working families in Hawai‘i. We strongly urge
3 that the definition of “affordable” be amended to 20%-25% of monthly income for all income brackets.
4

5 We support the statutory “Senior Circuit Breaker Refundable Tax Credit” or other relief to ensure that senior
6 citizens are not taxed out of their homes. We insist on a substantial increase in the statutory exemptions
7 from attachment or execution of personal residences.
8

9 We believe in the concept of “Housing First” to develop affordable, stable housing and support services to
10 break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options.
11

12 We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawai‘i’s homeless population to get
13 them off the streets and reintegrated into society with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups
14 including, but not limited to, Native Hawaiian, Asian and Filipino American, Pacific Islander, aged-out foster
15 kids, youth, returning veterans, the aged, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning,
16 Intersexual and Asexual (LGBTQIA) homeless youth population. We believe in the concept of “Housing
17 First” and in developing affordable housing policies and programs like “Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion
18 (LEAD).”
19

20 **HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

21 The inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the foundations of freedom,
22 justice, and peace. We support affirmative action, the full implementation of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964
23 and 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
24

25 We believe that the concept of “*‘ohana*” and “Family” includes people regardless of sexual orientation, blood
26 relation, marital status, or gender, gender identity or gender expression, who choose to join together to offer
27 one another moral, spiritual and economic support.
28

29 We support full equality and nondiscrimination with respect to duties, benefits and responsibilities
30 regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.
31

32 We believe in women's equality and right to privacy, including but not limited to, equal access to
33 reproductive services and care, shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence, and the right of
34 rape victims to emergency contraception in the emergency room.
35

36 We support the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and
37 Asexual (LGBTQIA) community to full equality under the law. We support and celebrate the passage of
38 Marriage Equality at the State and Federal Level. We oppose any efforts to repeal Marriage Equality. We
39 call upon all to work towards a society where members of the LGBTQIA community are accepted and
40 honored for who they are.
41

42 We support the full implementation of a law that allows members of the transgender community to amend
43 their birth certificates to accurately reflect their self-identified genders. We support changes in the law that
44 ensure that no one makes a decision for a person of what their gender is but that individual.
45

46 We support removing or expanding the choices for gender markers on birth certificates, state IDs and driver
47 licenses. We believe in equality and justice for individuals that do not adhere to the gender binary and their
48 right to privacy. We will work towards a world that embraces gender diversity. We support consensual
49 custody rights for children born through IVF and adoptive rights of transgender and gender non-binary
50 people.
51

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

5
6 We support initiatives that enhance access and equity in education, employment, and business
7 opportunities intended to lift families and individuals out of poverty and remove existing barriers to equal
8 opportunity in our communities.

9
10 We support legislation and best practice policies that prioritize the safety, security and well-being of our
11 foster children, who are our most vulnerable *keiki* in our community. This is the paramount consideration
12 when making decisions regarding the time frame, criteria and justification for reunification and family
13 placement. We will always respect family and familial bonds, but reunification with every biological family
14 is not always the safest, most secure or in the best interests of every child. This is especially true in
15 aggravated circumstances cases involving drug use history, physical abuse, sexual abuse and unstable
16 housing. We strongly support the efforts of parents and all people to recover and reorganize their lives for
17 the better, but our ultimate concern must also be for the short and long-term safety and wellbeing of our
18 foster children.

19 20 **ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

21 DPH is committed to ending the scourge of violence against women wherever it occurs – whether in our
22 homes, streets, schools, military, workplace, or elsewhere. We will support comprehensive services for
23 survivors and increase prevention efforts in our communities and on our school campuses. DPH will fight
24 to bring an end to sexual assault – wherever it occurs, including on campuses – because everyone deserves
25 a safe environment where they can learn and thrive, not live in fear. We will provide comprehensive support
26 to survivors and ensure a fair process for all on-campus disciplinary proceedings and in the criminal justice
27 system. We will increase sexual violence prevention education programs that cover issues like consent
28 and bystander intervention, not only in college, but also in secondary school.

29 30 **HONORING NATIVE HAWAIIANS**

31
32 Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai'i and deserve a just relationship with the State and
33 Federal Governments. We support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing
34 practices. We value and wish to foster the preservation of our host culture. We support the efforts of Native
35 Hawaiians to pursue self-determination. We also support their right to pursue the international rights of
36 Native Hawaiian people.

37
38 We acknowledge the past injustices and the misguided, harmful Federal and State policies and actions
39 based on outdated and discredited values and beliefs that resulted in the destruction of the Hawaiian
40 Nation's economies, social, and religious systems, the taking of their lands, and the creation of
41 intergenerational trauma that exists to this day. We believe that we have a moral and profound duty to
42 honor, respect, and uphold our sacred obligation to the Hawaiian Nation State and the Hawaiian people.

43
44 DPH also supports efforts for self-governance and self-determination of Native Hawaiians whose values
45 are the foundation of the Hawaiian Islands. We support proactive actions by the Federal and State
46 governments to enhance Native Hawaiian culture, health, language, and education. We recognize and
47 honor the contributions and sacrifices made in service to our county by Native Hawaiians.

48
49 We support the continued engagement and empowerment of the Native Hawaiian community in decisions
50 related to county and state affairs.

51
52 We support Hawaiian language immersion schools that contribute to the revitalization and continuation of
53 the Hawaiian language and appropriate assessments that accurately reflect Hawaiian language immersion

1 students' progress and support the Hawaiian language immersion program. We support Hawaiian-focused
2 schools and courses that provide culturally-based education in order to maximize choices in life and work.
3 We support educational programming and efforts that embody Hawaiian values, language, culture and
4 history as a foundation to prepare students for success in college, career and communities.
5

6 We support the construction and use of micro housing units on Hawaiian home lands approved by the
7 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and leased to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries who meet the minimum
8 Hawaiian blood quantum requirement, notwithstanding county zoning laws. We support multi-level housing
9 in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and agribusinesses for Native Hawaiians by creating ag-tech zones
10 to promote agricultural innovation and diversify the State's agricultural systems for domestic consumption
11 and export.
12

13 We support Native Hawaiians in their efforts to secure justice from our Federal and State governments to
14 repair harms endured by the Hawaiian People and the *'āina* since 1893. We support the right of Native
15 Hawaiians to self-determination, including the formation of their chosen governmental entity.
16

17 **IMMIGRATION**

18 We believe that our nation should have a fair immigration policy that recognizes the diversity of our country
19 and the contribution that immigrants make and have made in the sciences, arts, and culture. We support
20 an immigration policy that provides a reasonable and timely path to citizenship for immigrants who follow
21 the rule of law. We support a path to US citizenship for Dreamers (children of undocumented citizens.) We
22 encourage policies that avoid militarization of our borders. We abhor policies that would deny education
23 and health and human services to immigrant children. We must ensure that immigrant children are never
24 separated from their families and are treated with fairness and respect in our schools and healthcare
25 system. Immigration laws should not discriminate based on sexual orientation, gender identity or
26 expression.
27

28 We oppose racial profiling and encourage policies that avoid the militarization of our borders and deplore
29 policies that would deny education and health and human services to immigrant children. We need to
30 ensure that immigrant children, whether their parents are documented or undocumented, are treated with
31 fairness and respect in our schools and in our healthcare system.
32

33 We recognize that most undocumented residents are simply looking for a better life for their families. We
34 support a national immigration policy that holds employers that violate immigration law accountable and
35 provides penalties proportionate to their responsibility.
36

37 We support the United States embracing and welcoming refugees to our shores.
38

39 **PROMOTING ARTS AND CULTURE**

40 Our community is enriched by the encouragement of diverse arts and cultural activities that communicate
41 both a regional and universal vision. Through multi-cultural and multi-generational participation in the arts,
42 we strengthen our *'ohana*, promote tolerance, and add vitality to the economy through cultural tourism. To
43 this end, we support sufficient public funding for the arts, individual artists, arts and cultural organizations,
44 and educational enterprises.
45

46 DPH is proud of our support for arts funding and education. Investments in the arts strengthens our
47 communities and contributes to Hawai'i's rich cultural heritage. We will continue to support public funding
48 for the Arts and Humanities and for programs providing art and music education in primary and secondary
49 schools. Hawai'i prospers when we protect and promote the unique artistic and cultural contributions of the
50 artists who create and preserve Hawai'i's heritage.
51
52
53

1 **C. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING**

2
3 **ENVIRONMENT**

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

9
10 We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen
11 involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and
12 environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

13
14 The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to the health
15 and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment,
16 which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

17
18 We support the protection of our *'āina* against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and
19 expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for
20 water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh
21 water resources.

22
23 We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems
24 and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone
25 Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of
26 coastal resources.

27
28 We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private
29 stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

30
31 We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates
32 and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change.
33 This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous
34 peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological
35 knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.

36
37 Cesspools throughout the State of Hawai'i threaten drinking water supplies, coral reefs and the health of
38 people who swim and surf in our island waters. They create a serious public safety issue, environmental
39 problem and economic danger that is exacerbated by the effects of climate change. We support septic
40 tank upgrades and wastewater sewage systems where feasible by 2025.

41
42 **ENERGY**

43 We seek to achieve energy sustainability based on renewable energy sources. We must encourage the
44 use of clean alternative fuel sources to include our public transportation systems. We must increase the
45 use of public transit, telecommuting, car and vanpooling, ridesharing, biking, walking, and other forms of
46 transportation thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. We must also urgently develop the use
47 of a variety of cost-effective energy providing systems, encourage transit-oriented development, and
48 support tax incentives that encourage renewable energy initiatives.

49
50 We oppose any tax breaks to fossil fuel industries.

51

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

5
6 Electricity rates in Hawai'i are among the highest in the Nation even though we enjoy an abundance of
7 sunshine year-round. Electric utility companies and cooperatives must open the grid to alternative power
8 sources including solar panels and geothermal energy. We support the effort of our government officials to
9 require utilities to provide for the maximum, comprehensive, integrated use of renewable energy and
10 associated technologies such as storage and smart grid technologies.

11
12 **COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE BUILD A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY, AND SECURE ENVIROMENTAL**
13 **JUSTICE**

14 We are committed to getting 100 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources within a decade. We
15 will cut energy waste in homes, schools, hospitals, and offices through energy efficient improvements;
16 modernize our electric grid; and make manufacturing the cleanest and most efficient in the world. These
17 efforts will create hundreds of new jobs and save families and businesses money on their monthly energy
18 bills. We will transform Hawai'i's transportation by reducing fossil fuel consumption through cleaner fuels,
19 vehicle electrification, and increasing the fuel efficiency of cars, boilers, ships, and trucks. We will make
20 new investments in public transportation and build bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across our urban
21 and suburban areas. We believe that the tax code must reflect our commitment to a clean energy future
22 by preserving and extending tax incentives for energy efficiency and clean energy.

23
24 Democrats believe that carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases should be priced to reflect
25 their negative externalities, and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and help meet our
26 climate goals. Democrats are committed to defending, implementing and extending smart pollution and
27 efficiency standards and fuel economy standards for automobiles and heavy-duty vehicles, building codes
28 and appliance standards. We are also committed to expanding clean energy research and development.

29
30 We will work to expand access to cost-saving renewable energy by low-income households, create good-
31 paying jobs in communities that struggled with energy poverty, and oppose efforts by utilities to limit
32 consumer choice or slow clean energy deployment. We will streamline State permitting to accelerate the
33 construction of new transmission lines to get low-cost renewable energy to market, and incentivize wind,
34 solar, and other renewable energy.

35
36 **PROTECTING OUR PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS**

37 DPH believes in the conservation and collaborative stewardship of our shared natural heritage: the public
38 lands and waterways, the oceans, mountains and all that makes Hawai'i's great outdoors priceless. We
39 need policies and investments that will keep Hawai'i's public lands public, strengthen protections for our
40 natural and cultural resources, increase access to parks and public lands for all people, protect native
41 species and wildlife, and harness the immense economic and social potential of our public lands and
42 waters.

43
44 DPH will approach conservation of our public lands and waters in a way that reflects the diversity of our
45 State, by actively engaging all people in the great outdoors and protecting natural landscapes and cultural
46 sites that tell the story of Hawai'i's complex history. To help meet these goals, we will work to build a
47 diverse workforce in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) that manage Hawai'i's public
48 lands, waters, and cultural sites.

49
50 Democrats oppose efforts to undermine the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act to protect
51 threatened and endangered species.

52
53 Agricultural practices have a significant impact on our water, land, oceans, and climate. Therefore, we
54 believe that in order to be effective in keeping our air and water clean and combating climate change, we
55 must enlist farmers as partners in promoting conservation and stewardship.

1 **CONFRONT GLOBAL THREATS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP**

2 Climate change poses an urgent and severe threat to our National Security, and DPH believes it would be
3 a grave mistake for the United States to wait for another nation to take the lead in combating the global
4 climate emergency. According to the U.S. military, climate change is a threat multiplier that is already
5 contributing to new conflicts over resources, catastrophic natural disasters, and the degradation of vital
6 ecosystems across the globe. DPH recognizes the catastrophic consequences facing our State, our
7 country, our planet, and civilization.

8
9 We believe that Hawai'i must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. We are committed
10 to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat. Our
11 generation must lead the fight against climate change and we applaud Hawai'i's leadership in joining the
12 historic Paris Climate Accord. We will not only meet the goals set in Paris, we will seek to exceed them
13 and push other countries to do the same by slashing carbon pollution and rapidly driving down emissions
14 of potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons. We will support other States and developing countries
15 in their efforts to mitigate carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, deploy more clean energy, and
16 invest in climate resilience and adaptation.

17
18 **D. WELLBEING OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OF THE GOVERNED**

19
20 **PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS**

21 It is a core principle of the Democratic Party to maximize voter participation for all Americans. Our
22 democracy suffers when nearly two thirds of our citizens do not or cannot participate. Democrats believe
23 we must make it easier to vote, not harder.

24
25 We will bring our democracy into the 21st century by expanding early voting and vote-by-mail, implementing
26 universal automatic voter registration and same day registration and making Election Day a national
27 holiday. We will restore voter rights for those who have served their sentences. And we will continue to
28 fight against discriminatory voter identification laws which disproportionately burden young voters, diverse
29 communities, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, low-income families, people with disabilities, the
30 elderly, and women.

31
32 **GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REFORM**

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

39
40 We believe that a government based on the will of the people but respecting the rights of all is a potential
41 solution to its citizens' needs and should not be denigrated as an option to a completely laissez-faire society.
42 Thus, fair and equitable taxation is essential for good government, as providing services to society is worthy
43 of financial support. We believe that this will adequately, efficiently, courteously, openly and fairly
44 administer to the needs of the people. We support the incorporation of *ho'oponopono*, ethics in
45 government, and a fair, voter-verifiable, fully transparent and auditable voting system. We also support
46 enforcement of all sunshine laws and transparency in sessions and meetings that discuss and make policy.

47
48 This includes the protection of funding for the televising of public hearings at the State and County levels,
49 as well as the funding of the Public Access Room at the Legislature.

50
51 We support limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations, corporations, and
52 individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all elections, to ensure that the power
53 to bring positive change to our county and State lies in the hands of individual voters. We do not believe
54 that money equals "free speech."
55

1 We must ensure the security of our electoral process with regards to electronic infiltration and manipulation.

2
3 We support the separation of State and Church as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of
4 America in the First Amendment as well as Article VI, and believe this right is meant to support equality and
5 not erode it. We also oppose any legislation that weakens that wall. Separation of State and Church is
6 meant to ensure that no single religion can impose its particular beliefs on members of the general
7 population.

8
9 We believe in the constant renewal of both the Democratic Party and electoral reform in Hawai'i state
10 government through the re-institution of multi-member legislative districts. The result would provide
11 opportunities for both experienced as well as new candidates for elective office to serve, thus reflecting the
12 changing demographics of Hawai'i.

13
14 Notwithstanding claims of national security, the policy of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i is to demand the
15 President and Congress of the United States, in order to uphold due process and its application to any
16 place "subject to [United States'] jurisdiction", to remove all prisoners at Guantanamo to the United States,
17 provide them with a fair civilian trial, and forthwith close the detainee facilities at Guantanamo that have
18 offered unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment.

19 20 **SAFETY, SECURITY, NATURAL DISASTERS & OTHER EMERGENCIES**

21 We support safety and security in all dimensions as a basic function of government. We support just law
22 enforcement and enhancement of crime prevention, without compromising civil liberties. This
23 encompasses the full protection of the law, including enforcement of victim's rights, restitution, counseling,
24 therapy, Orders of Protection, and shelters for victims and survivors of domestic violence and other criminal
25 wrongs. We support appropriate training for all law enforcement officers and agency personnel. We support
26 full enforcement of the State of Hawai'i's hate crimes statute.

27
28 We demand the protection of the people of Hawai'i and their property against natural and man-made
29 disasters. We believe in the science of climate change, affirm human activity as its primary cause and main
30 driver, and support emergency preparedness and planning efforts to mitigate its impacts. This includes
31 investment in early warning systems, emergency management and response systems, and adequate
32 emergency sheltering.

33 34 **E. NATIONAL SECURITY, THE MILITARY, PEACE AND VETERANS' RIGHTS**

35 36 **NATIONAL ISSUES**

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

41
42 We consider it imperative that our National Government re-establish regulations and guidelines, such as
43 the Glass-Steagall Act, assuring that financial institutions operate fairly and transparently, and that they do
44 not jeopardize the larger public interest in pursuit of their private gain. We endorse the principle that if such
45 institutions are "too big to fail," then they are too big. We support the enactment and vigorous enforcement
46 of laws that penalize those corporations (and their executives and directors) who have
47 defrauded the public.

48
49 We believe that private ventures that may potentially endanger the environmental security of the planet
50 should be closely and firmly regulated and monitored in their activities by the Federal Government. The
51 Federal agencies responsible for such oversight must be adequately funded and staffed and must also
52 receive appropriate and expert public oversight. The Gulf oil spill is the most compelling case in point.

1 We support Federal initiatives, both from Congress and from the future administrations that would mitigate
2 the catastrophic cultural, economic, and environmental damage created by Federal policies on
3 globalization.

4
5 We condemn the deeply flawed process by which our Government has decided to use our military forces
6 in acts of preventive war.

7
8 Companies that shut down their operations and move to another place should be forced to make their
9 abandoned employees and communities whole and to pay their fair share of taxes. Companies, which
10 move their headquarters to foreign countries to avoid paying their fair share of taxes, should be sanctioned
11 and fined.

12
13 We ask that federal policies that violate the U. S. Constitution and/or international law, many of which were
14 initiated by the previous Republican administration, be reexamined. Where they are found to be detrimental
15 to our civil rights, and to human rights in general, and unless they are clearly essential to prevent clear and
16 present danger to our national security, we call for their abolition.

17 **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

18
19 We support a foreign policy that respects Constitutional process and rights, honors human dignity, promotes
20 adherence to international agreements, and integrates diplomatic, economic, military, educational and
21 cultural policies. We support a fully funded, prompt, orderly and complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops and
22 military contractors from Iraq. We oppose measures that compromise full withdrawal and endorse
23 diplomatic efforts with all parties in the region. We recognize that regime change can be more harmful and
24 is not always the best policy.

25 **FOREIGN POLICY**

26
27 We support a strong foreign policy that promotes peace, human rights, international cooperation and the
28 rule of law. We believe that war should be a last resort but, when deemed necessary, should occur only
29 within the confines of international law and international cooperation.

30 **U.S. MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

31
32 The Armed Forces in Hawai'i and their families sacrifice to serve and defend our country and to help us in
33 time of need. We encourage the continuation of efforts to coordinate military activities with affected
34 communities. Hawai'i should honor their service by strongly supporting the best possible care of wounded
35 and disabled veterans. We therefore support efforts to fully fund the Hawai'i Office of Veterans Services
36 and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA).

37
38 We support our Veterans and our Veterans organizations and efforts to keep our Veteran's Hospitals fully
39 funded.

40
41 We oppose further attempts to privatize VA healthcare. We support supplementing VA healthcare with
42 community care when needed. However, we support the VA as the primary medical care coordinator.

43
44 We support the expansion of the presumption of herbicide exposure for veterans who served in the territorial
45 waters of Vietnam during the Vietnam War, collectively known as Blue Water Veterans.

46
47 We honor the service of all our military members.

48
49 We support the efforts of our Congressional Delegation to extend benefits for our Reservists and National
50 Guard who have suffered brain injury and/or PTSD. We support efforts to protect our troops from sexual
51 predators who commit sexual assault and command rape within their service branches and support
52 specialized treatment for victims of such crimes.

1 We oppose war profiteering and the privatization of combat through employment of paramilitary contractors,
2 especially the award of no-bid or sole source contracts.

3
4 We support the protection of our *‘āina* against destruction by military use.

5
6 We support the best training for our military; however, we urge protection of our *‘āina* from long-term
7 degradation and prevention of harm to our cultural and community assets.

8
9 We support full funding for the Veterans Treatment Court Program throughout the state. Many veterans
10 struggle with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other illnesses due to their military service. The
11 loss of the structure and camaraderie of military life can further complicate these illnesses. As a result,
12 some veterans enter the justice system. We, therefore, want all Democrats to support full funding for the
13 Veterans Treatment Court Program throughout the state, which assists these veterans in their reintegration
14 to society.

15
16 **SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AND KEEP FAITH WITH OUR VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS**

17 Our country has a sacred, moral responsibility to keep faith with all our veterans and wounded warriors.
18 We must take care of those who have their lives on the line to defend us. That is why we will push for more
19 educational benefits and job training, end chronic homelessness and combat suicide, and protect and
20 preserve the post-9/11 G.I. Bill for future generations. We will also ensure that reservists and Guard
21 members are treated fairly when it comes to employment health, education benefits, deployment, and
22 reintegration.

23
24 We will fight for every veteran to have timely access to high-quality health care and timely processing of
25 claims and appeals. We must also look for more ways to make certain the VA provides veteran-centric
26 care, such as providing women with full and equal treatment, including reproductive health services;
27 expanding mental health programs; continuing effort to identify and treat invisible, latent, and tox wounds
28 of war; treating post-traumatic stress; and expanding the post-9/11 veteran’s caregiver program to include
29 all veterans.

30
31 **A STRONG MILITARY**

32 DPH welcomes and honors all Americans who want to serve and will continue to fight for their equal rights
33 and recognition. We commit ourselves to insuring fair treatment for LGBTQIA veterans, including by
34 proactively reviewing and upgrading discharge records for veterans who are discharged because of their
35 sexual orientation. Our military is strongest when people of all races, religions, sexual orientations, and
36 gender identities are honored for their service to our country.