

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS FOR HAWAI'I COUNTY –
HCC 1

WHEREAS, the Community Health Centers (FQHC) provides access to affordable health care services to anyone all regardless of their ability to pay and cover a service area encompassing all of Hawai'i County; and

WHEREAS, many private physicians do not provide services to uninsured or Medicaid patients forcing these patients to go to the hospital emergency room or go without care; and

WHEREAS, the Community Health Centers have limited capacity and provide care to a fraction of those in need; and

WHEREAS, the federal 330e grants for the Community Health Centers only cover about 30% of the operating budget and the Community Health Centers must rely upon Medicaid, Medicare and privately insured patients to balance their budgets and maintain services; and,

WHEREAS, the community goal for establishing a community health center in West Hawai'i was to complete the "Circle of Care" for the uninsured and low-income patients on the Big Island, by having the WHCHC provide services to North/South Kona and South Kohala and join the Hamakua Clinic and Bay Clinic that already serve the other areas of the Big Island;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party endorses developing the infrastructure (facilities, equipment, and staff) of the Hawai'i County Community Health Centers so they can adequately serve residents who do not currently have access to health care and in so doing complete the Hawai'i County "Circle of Care."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party will support initiatives to secure additional financial support from the State of Hawai'i, the federal government, private foundations, corporations and individuals in order to maintain and expand the scope of health care services in Hawai'i County.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR TRUTH-IN-LABELING FOR KONA COFFEE – HCC 2

WHEREAS, The unique climatic and soil conditions of the Kona region on the Island of Hawai'i are ideal for the cultivation of coffee; and

WHEREAS, the care, skill and cultivation practices of Kona coffee farmers, most of whom operate small family-owned farms, have resulted in recognition of Kona coffee as one of the world's premier specialty coffees; and

WHEREAS, existing Hawai'i statutes allow unfair and deceptive business practices which are used to deceive consumers into believing that packages containing 90% foreign coffee are "Kona coffee"--thereby damaging the reputation for quality which Kona coffee farmers have built over generations of growing this heritage crop; and

WHEREAS, by way of example, HRS 486-120.6 permits the use of the "Kona" name on packaging of a coffee blend having as little as 10% coffee from Kona and 90% coffee from unidentified foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, by way of further example, in their December 2004 edition the writers of Consumer Reports confused "Kona coffee blends" with "Kona coffee" and concluded that Kona coffee can be "second rate" on the basis of a mistaken belief that "Kona blends" are "Kona coffee"; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i should provide the same type of protections to its specialty crop farmers, specifically including Kona coffee farmers, as the State of California has provided to Napa Valley grape growers in Cal. Bus. and Prof. Code, Section 25241 ("Napa Truth-in-Labeling law"); and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature made a factual finding in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 102 (2007) that "existing labeling requirements for Kona coffee causes consumer fraud and confusion and degrades the 'Kona coffee' name"; and

WHEREAS, no other region anywhere in the world (other than Hawai'i) permits the use of the name of one of its specialty agricultural crops with as little as 50% (let alone 10%) genuine content; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i County Council has adopted two resolutions (Resolution No. 18-06 of December 20, 2006, and Resolution 417-07 of November 20, 2007) requesting the Legislature to amend current law to require any coffee labeled "Kona Coffee Blend" to have a minimum 75% Kona Coffee; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Hawai'i County Democratic Party Convention (Resolutions # 06-02, May 6, 2006) and the 2006 Hawai'i State Democratic Convention (Resolution # 37, May 26, 2006) both adopted resolutions urging state legislators to amend HRS 486-120.6 to end the damage being done to the Kona coffee reputation by deceptive labeling and business practices; and

WHEREAS, ignoring the requests of Kona's coffee farmers, the requests of the Hawai'i County Council, the request of the Hawai'i County Democratic Party, and the request of the Hawai'i State Democratic Party, the State Legislature in the last 3 legislative sessions has failed to provide a single committee hearing for open and democratic consideration of pending bills for Truth-in-Labeling for Kona coffee;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawai'i County Democrats express their deep disappointment in the State Legislature's failure in the last 3 sessions to provide committee hearings for, and failure to enact, pending Truth-in-Labeling bills for Kona coffee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawai'i County Democrats urge members of the Hawai'i County delegation in the State Legislature to support Kona's coffee farmers by introducing and vigorously working for adoption of Truth-in-Labeling legislation for Kona coffee, including a minimum of 75% Kona coffee in any coffee package labeled as a "Kona coffee blend" and prominent identification on labels of the country or region of origin of the non-Kona portion in such blends; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawai'i County Democrats urge the State Legislature to enact, in the 2009 legislative session, Truth-in-Labeling legislation as described in the preceding paragraph; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Hawai'i County Democratic party shall cause to be mailed to each Democratic Party member of the State Legislature a copy of this Resolution within 20 days after the 2008 County Convention.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING EQUALITY AND JUSTICE REGARDING SEXUAL
ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY – HCC 3

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stated in its Platform of 2006: " We believe all human beings should have the right to have their basic needs supplied and have the right to be treated equally, with no discrimination on the basis of age, ethnicity, skin color, race, sexual orientation or gender identity."

WHEREAS, the Preamble to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's 2006 Platform states: "The abiding values of the Democratic Party are liberty, social justice, compassion and respect for the dignity and worth of the individual;

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes and supports fairness, and as stated in our 2006 Platform: "fairness is not a slogan; it requires constant attention to detail, dedication, and hard work. It requires aloha";

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has a profound respect for the individual. We recognize that responsible, individual freedom, compatible with the rights of others, is fundamental to our democracy;

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports families. We believe that individuals are best nurtured within families of caring people. We therefore support those policies, services, and institutions that strengthen families;

WHEREAS, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Caucus was unanimously recognized as an official caucus of the Party by the Central Committee at its January 12, 2002 meeting; and the Caucus has honorably served with dedication and commitment to the values of the Party over the past 6 and half years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawai'i County Committee will continue to support and work with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus to promote justice and equality regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity on issues and concerns such as:

Government Operations, Government Rule-Making and Practices, Government Funding and Appropriations, and Welfare and Social Service Benefits; Hate Crimes; Relationship Rights and Responsibilities; Parenting, Adoption and Definitions of Family; Family Equality, Employment; Housing; Public accommodations; Health; Education; Tourism; Economic Development; and Serving our Country in Military Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawai'i County Committee is committed to work with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Caucus to achieve our mutual and laudable goals of justice freedom and equality for all;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic elected officials and candidates and the Resolutions Committee of the State Democratic Convention.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE IDENTITY OF HAWAII-GROWN
SPECIALTY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS – HCC 4

WHEREAS specialty agricultural crops such as coffee, tropical fruit, macadamia nuts, chocolate and vanilla constitute the fastest expanding area of agricultural production on the Hawai'i Island and in the rest of the state;

WHEREAS the care, skill and cultivation practices of Hawai'i specialty crop farmers, most of whom operate small family-owned farms, have built a reputation for quality among consumers of specialty agricultural products;

WHEREAS loopholes in certain Hawai'i statutes allow unfair and deceptive business practices which are used to deceive consumers into believing non-Hawai'i agriculture products have been grown in Hawai'i--to the damage of the reputation for quality of Hawai'i-grown specialty crops;

WHEREAS, by way of example, HRS 486-119 permits the deceptive labeling of foreign-grown macadamia nuts and non-Hawai'ian fruit juices as "Made In Hawai'i" if 51% or more of the value is added by in-state processing--even though none of the food products have been grown here;

WHEREAS, by way of further example, HRS 486-120.6 permits the use of the "Kona" name on packaging of a "coffee blend" having as little as 10% coffee from Kona and 90% coffee from unidentified foreign countries;

WHEREAS, by way of still further example, in their December 2004 edition the writers of Consumer Reports confused "Kona coffee blends" with "Kona coffee" and concluded that Kona coffee can be "second rate" on the basis of a mistaken belief that "Kona blends" are "Kona coffee";

WHEREAS the State of Hawai'i should provide the same type of protections to its specialty crop farmers as the State of California has provided to Napa Valley grape growers in Cal. Bus. and Prof. Code, Section 25241 ("Napa Truth-in-Labeling Law");

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawai'i County Democrats urge our state legislators to amend HRS 486-119 and HRS 486-120.6 to prevent this deceptive misuse of the identity of Hawai'i specialty agricultural products and to prevent the resulting damage to the reputation of Hawai'i-grown agricultural products from continuing.

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE STATE'S SUPER-DELEGATES TO VOTE IN PROPORTION TO THE
STATE'S PRIMARY PRESIDENTIAL POLL. – HCC 5

WHEREAS on the election held on February 19, 2008, Senator Barack Obama received 74% of the votes, and Senator Hillary Clinton received 24% of the votes.

WHEREAS preceding February 19, over a dozen public debates were broadcast on television, the internet, and reported on by national, state, and local media, such that the state's voters had ample information from which to make their decisions.

WHEREAS the vote on February 19, 2008 brought in historical levels of voter turnout for democratic presidential polls, and added more new party members than at any time in the state's history.

WHEREAS the new members represent a cross-section of our state's demographics according to age, race, gender, rural, and urban, and so fairly represent the will of the people.

WHEREAS the state's super-delegates would harm the party, diminish the credibility of the party, and lose financial support of new party members should they not vote in proportion to the voice of the membership.

BE IT RESOLVED that the unpledged delegates (also known as super-delegates) to the August 2008 national convention shall cast votes in proportion to the results of Hawai'i's presidential preference poll.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY TRAINING ROUTES OVER HAWAI'I
ISLAND – HCC 6

WHEREAS, Hawai'i Island has limited land area that can be called sparsely populated;

WHEREAS, most coastal areas of Hawai'i Island are populated with small towns and small farms and are not sparsely populated;

WHEREAS, any Military Training Route (MTR) for high-speed low altitude aircraft training will require at least two crossings of the coast of Hawai'i Island;

WHEREAS, the US Air Force has proposed an MTR that crosses populated areas containing several thousand dwellings and occupants;

WHEREAS, the proposed MTR will subject all living things along the route, including endangered species such as the i'o to excessive levels of noise and vibration at any hour of the day or night from low-altitude aircraft flying at speeds over 400 mph;

WHEREAS, such noise and vibration will adversely impact residents, visitors, livestock and wildlife and may also damage ancient Hawai'ian heiau;

WHEREAS, the proposed MTR conflicts with airspace now heavily used by tour and civilian light aircraft, which would be placed in danger from wake turbulence and also from possible collision with military aircraft using the MTR;

WHEREAS, the possibility of devastating aircraft crashes on Hawai'i Island will be increased by the proposed MTR;

WHEREAS, the training needs of the Air Force can continue to be met at existing training facilities in other locations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawai'i Democratic Party is against any establishment of Military Training Routes that have significant adverse effects on human, animal and plant populations under or near such routes

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed Air Force Military Training Route over Hawai'i Island will have such significant adverse impacts that it shall not be implemented.

RESOLUTION ON FOOD SUSTAINABILITY – HCC 7

WHEREAS, the state of Hawai'i currently imports over 85% of the food consumed by visitors and residents alike on a daily basis;

WHEREAS, as recently as the early 1960's the state of Hawai'i was producing almost 50% of the food consumed in the state;

WHEREAS, the Island of Hawai'i with its fertile soils and diverse agricultural zones, created by difference in elevation as well as annual precipitation differences in relation to prevailing winds, has the capability of producing a broad variety of crops. Fruit trees such as apples can be grown at the 6,000 level on the windward slopes of Mauna Kea, cool weather crops such as broccoli and cabbage in Volcano, and tropical fruits and vegetables can be produced at lower elevations. Much of the land once occupied by the sugar industry can also be used for ranching;

WHEREAS, the Island of Hawai'i is losing its last egg producer and is down to only two dairy farms;

WHEREAS, the state of Hawai'i in its Sustainability 2050 Plan has stated the need for greater food self sufficiency with 85% of all fruits and vegetables locally produced;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the state and county create incentives to give a competitive advantage to diverse agricultural producers on Hawai'i Island. These incentives can include but not be limited to; zoning enforcement to keep agricultural land in agriculture, low cost leases on state and county land to farmers growing locally consumed foods, rebates on imported feeds for the local livestock industry, increased visibility for labeling to let consumers know where the foods in local super markets are grown, and marketing plans to increase public demand for locally produced foods.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PUNA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN – HCC 8

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i County General Plan adopted in 2005 called for the preparation of Community Development Plans based on grassroots and other community input on the specifics of managing growth and coordinating the delivery of government services in each of the island districts;

WHEREAS, Puna is the fastest growing district in the state of Hawai'i , with a population increase of 37 percent in seven years, a population projected to surpass the county seat in Hilo, in less than 10 years. Yet Puna, an area larger in sized than the Island of Oahu, has the least infrastructure of any district in Hawai'i County, a factor that optimistically presents a planning opportunity;

WHEREAS, between 1958 and 1973 more than 52,500 subdivision lots were created. These lots were almost all of a sub standard nature with no power, water or sewers and unpaved roads;

WHEREAS, the Puna Community Development Plan (PCDP) was developed from public input gathered in more than 130 small group meetings, held throughout Puna, county-sponsored day long workshops, written reports from citizen-based working groups, and considered in concert with previous government and private policy and planning efforts as well as ongoing consultation with professional planners;

WHEREAS, the PCDP was released in draft form in February 2008 after more than two years of research and commentary solicited on issues, concerns and ideas compiled by a Steering Committee made of Puna citizens appointed by the Mayor and approved by the County Council;

WHEREAS, the PCDP deliberations and decisions in conjunction with the consulting planners resulted in a template addressing growth management, protection and enhancement of the aina and its inhabitants and sustainable approaches to transportation and building that delineate goals, objectives and actions in the short-term, mid-range, and long term;

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i County Democratic Party acknowledges that the 2008 draft PCDP reflects the balanced approach of economic, environmental, and community goals envisioned in the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan being considered by the 2008 State Legislature

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the implementation recommendations of the PCDP, which can serve as a model to other districts that are currently working on their plans, should be followed by the respective county and state departments that are responsible for each of the specific goals. These implementation action items should be completed within the timeline laid out in the plan.

RESOLUTION FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE – HCC 9

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has a long, proud tradition of supporting broadened availability and access to health care for all;

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i is committed to supporting steps that encourage health for all as a human right and need;

WHEREAS, Hawai'i enjoys the unique advantage of insurance premiums for health coverage that are lower than other states even though the cost of services is usually higher, due to the broad base of insured and the relatively lower proportion of unpaid services that must be covered through increased insurance premiums;

WHEREAS, current Hawai'i state law does not extend any mandate for employer-provided coverage, even partly paid by the employee, when the employee works less than 20 hours per week

WHEREAS, many employers have reduced the working hours of employees to less than 20 hours per week, thus shifting the burden of costs and responsibility to the government, the providers, and the community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports the expansion, planning and establishment of universal health care for all Hawai'i residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the employment laws of Hawai'i be revised to define part-time employees as non-excludable;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawai'i members of Congress, and Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature and candidates for these positions.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A COMMISSION ON DRUG POLICY – HCC 10

WHEREAS, the overall situation regarding the use of drugs in our society and the crime and misery that accompany it has continued to deteriorate for several decades;

WHEREAS, our society has continued to attempt, at enormous financial cost and loss of civil liberties, to resolve drug abuse problems through the justice system, with the accompanying increase of prisons and numbers of inmates.

WHEREAS, the huge untaxed revenues generated by the illicit drug trade are undermining legitimate governments worldwide;

WHEREAS, the present system has spawned a cycle of hostility by the incarceration of disproportionate numbers of Pacific-Islanders, and other minority groups;

WHEREAS, in our society's zeal to pursue our criminal approach, legitimate religious and medical uses for the relief of pain and suffering of patients have been suppressed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that our society must recognize drug use and abuse as the medical and social problems they are, and that they must be treated with medical and social solutions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an objective commission be immediately empowered by the Governor and the Hawai'i State Legislature to recommend revisions of the drug laws of this State of Hawai'i in order to reduce the harm our current policies are causing.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM IRAQ – HCC 11

WHEREAS in 2003 the Bush Administration launched a war of choice in Iraq on the basis of manufactured and false intelligence; and

WHEREAS thousands of American citizens and many thousands more Iraqi citizens have been killed in this war of choice; and

WHEREAS three years of U.S. occupation of Iraq have wasted billions of dollars of American and Iraqi resources; brought chaos to Iraq; jeopardized US national security; and brought disgrace to the office of President of the United States and discredit in the world community to America's commitment to our national ideals;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Hawai'i County Democrats write to each member of the Hawai'i congressional delegation, provide a copy of this resolution to each, and urge each to work vigorously to bring U.S. troops home from Iraq now.

RESOLUTION MALAMA HALOA – HCC 12

WHEREAS, kalo is the older brother of kanaka maoli (and of all of us in Hawai'i); and

WHEREAS, kalo is the embodiment of oha (corms growing from the older plant), and ana (conjunctive connoting regeneration or procreation), or ohana; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature considered a moratorium on genetically modifying our older brother; and

WHEREAS, over 7,000 people representing the interests of of hundreds of thousands came out to voice their support of the moratorium on native kalo;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XII, section 7 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, the State of Hawai'i has a duty to "reaffirm and protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by ahupua'a tenants who are descendants of native Hawai'ians who inhabited the Hawai'ian Islands prior to 1778;" and

WHEREAS, recombinant DNA modification of any taro species runs the risk of endangering indigenous kalo with genetically altered kalo;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Democratic Party recognizes and supports the native Hawai'ians' uniform opposition to the desecration kalo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Democratic Party acknowledges the State's obligation to reaffirm and protect the survival of kalo, a foundation of native Hawai'ian custom and tradition as well as the main staple in the native Hawai'ian diet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Democratic Party urges the State to fulfill its Constitutional responsibilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports a moratorium on recombinant DNA modification, or the testing, planting or growing of recombinant DNA taro; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this resolution be transmitted to every elected official in the state of Hawai'i, all candidates for political office and all administrative agencies in the state of Hawai'i, including the University of Hawai'i, the federal Department of Agriculture, and the Hawai'i Farm Bureau.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR THE COUNTY OF HAWAII
– HCC 13

WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii is overly dependent on the importation of petroleum fossil fuels for electricity production and transportation fuel, and

WHEREAS, continued rises in oil prices will severely and negatively impact the economy of the County, and

WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii has abundant untapped renewable energy resources, such as geothermal, wind, cellulosic biomass, solar, and hydro, and

WHEREAS, these untapped renewable energy resources could supply enough energy to provide all our countywide electric power needs and substantial quantities of transportation fuel without using food crops or prime agricultural lands for fuel supplies, and

WHEREAS, use of liquid transportation fuel can be reduced greatly by constructing transportation infrastructure that uses electricity as its energy supply, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Hawaii immediately adopt a policy of actively promoting, by all feasible means, renewable energy facility construction at all scales, from home systems to larger independent power producing plants, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Hawaii will promote electrified mass transit, electric energy conservation, plug-in hybrid vehicles, electric vehicles and all other possible means of reducing petroleum and other fossil fuels within the County.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A NEW HOSPITAL IN WEST HAWAII — HCC 14

WHEREAS, by several key measures, the healthcare infrastructure in West Hawai'i is fragile:

the area is classified as "medically underserved" by Federal standards;
the area has only recently (2005) received funding for a community health center, providing it the same federal support that has been enjoyed for years by the rest of Hawai'i County and the State;
medical specialists are difficult to attract and retain in the West Hawai'i high cost-of-living area;
the Kona Community Hospital facility is in a state of rapid deterioration;

WHEREAS, the lack of a first class full service hospital contributes to the problems of an inadequate medical infrastructure and the difficulty of attracting specialists to the area;

WHEREAS, in 1990 Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, through its Certificate of Need Program refused to build a new hospital in West Hawai'i because it was not needed:

from 1990 to 2000, the North and South Kona population increased from 29,942 to 37,132 and is projected to reach 62,049 by 2020;

WHEREAS, the current facility lacks certain critical treatment capacities such as cardiac intervention and neurosurgery for trauma victims that result in fatalities;

WHEREAS, the lack of a first class full service hospital contributes to the problems of an inadequate medical infrastructure and the difficulty of attracting specialists to the area;

WHEREAS, the combination of rapid population growth, serious gaps in the healthcare infrastructure, and the long planning and development time for hospitals, make it necessary to act now;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i County urges the legislature to immediately develop plans to build a new full service hospital in West Hawai'i.