

1 **OC Resolution 2014-01 Urging That the Term “African American” be changed to “American of**
2 **African Descent” in Surveys**

3 Whereas, The term “African American” does not adequately describe a particular ethnic group; and

4 Whereas, Many individuals in this ethnic group prefer not to be classified as “African Americans”; now,
5 therefore, be it

6 *Resolved*, That the O’ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i urge the use of the term
7 “American of African Descent” in surveys conducted by the Affirmative Action Committee of the O’ahu
8 County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i; and be it

9 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Democratic members of the Hawai’i State
10 Legislature and the members of the Hawai’i Congressional delegation.

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1 **OC Resolution 2014-02 O'ahu County Democrats Celebrates the Passage of Marriage Equality**

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3 *Whereas*, The O'ahu County Democrats have strongly supported Marriage Equality for over two decades
4 by including it in our Platform and the passage of resolutions supporting its passage into law; now
5 therefore be it

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7 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i officially commends and
8 thanks the Honorable Neil Abercrombie, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, for the leadership he showed
9 on September 9, 2013 when he called a Special Session to convene on October 28, 2013 to decide the
10 destiny of Marriage Equality in the Aloha State; and be it

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12 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i officially commends and
13 thanks the Democrats of the Hawai'i State Legislature who served during the Second Special Session of
14 2013 and strongly supported the O'ahu County Platform by voting for the passage of Marriage Equality;
15 and be it

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17 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i calls upon its members
18 to celebrate, as they each see fit, on December 2, 2014, which is the historic first anniversary of Marriage
19 Equality finally being legally recognized in the Aloha State; and be it

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21 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to each O'ahu County Democrat who is a member
22 of the Hawai'i State Legislature, as well as to the Honorable Neil Abercrombie, Governor of the State of
23 Hawai'i, and to the Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and the 2014
24 convention resolutions committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

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1 **OC Resolution 2014-03 Regarding the Necessity for Communication Between the Public and the**
2 **Board of Education**

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4 Whereas, The education of the children of the State is a major priority and concern of the people of the
5 State; and

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7 Whereas, Since the origin of the Board of Education, a public petition item on the Board Meeting agenda
8 has enabled parents, teachers, students, and the general public to bring matters of concern to the
9 attention of the Board; and

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11 Whereas, The present Board has abolished that item, effectively making it impossible to notify the Board
12 of problems that concern teachers, students and the general public; and

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14 Whereas, The present agenda items listed are unclear and non-specific, making it difficult to ascertain
15 what testimony the Board will accept; and

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17 Whereas, Board meetings are now held at times and locations that make it difficult for parents and
18 teachers to attend; now, therefore, be it

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20 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Governor of
21 the State of Hawai'i to request that the Board of Education reestablish the public petition item on the
22 Board's Meeting Agenda, so that the knowledge and interests of the community may be made available
23 to the members of the Board of Education; and be it

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25 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to each O'ahu County Democrat who is a member
26 of the Hawai'i State Legislature, the Chair and all members of the Board of Education, as well as to the
27 Honorable Neil Abercrombie, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Lt.
28 Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and the 2014 convention resolutions committee of the Democratic Party
29 of Hawai'i.

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1 **OC Resolution 2014-04 Regarding the Status of School Librarians**

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3 Whereas, Numerous studies have demonstrated that when economic, educational, and other community
4 variables are taken into an account, students from schools with credentialed librarians, adequate staff
5 support, resource-rich school libraries and open access outperform students who lack these resources;
6 and

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8 Whereas, More free voluntary reading improves comprehension, vocabulary, and the acquisition of
9 information; and

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11 Whereas, A full-time qualified School Librarian makes a critical difference in boosting the reading and
12 writing scores of the most vulnerable students; and

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14 Whereas, Test scores show that the majority of public school students in Hawai'i are reading below grade
15 level; and

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17 Whereas, School Libraries and qualified school librarians are diminishing at an alarming rate, and there
18 are now only 172 certified librarians for 255 public school libraries; and

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20 Whereas, It has proven difficult to obtain accurate information from the Department of Education
21 regarding the status of school libraries with certified school librarians so that the situation may be
22 addressed; now, therefore, be it

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24 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Governor to
25 request the Board of Education to ensure that each school has a school library, and determine staffing
26 levels at each library including the number of certified Masters of Library Science (MLS) librarians,
27 assigned clerical staff, budgets for library materials, and official student populations for 2014-15, and that
28 this information be made publicly available; and be it

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30 Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Legislature to
31 set aside adequate funding outside of the student-weighted formula to ensure that students from every
32 school community have a fully-equipped library with a full-time credentialed MLS school librarian, be it

33
34 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to each O'ahu County Democrat who is a member
35 of the Hawai'i State Legislature, the Chair and all members of the Board of Education, as well as to the
36 Honorable Neil Abercrombie, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Lt.
37 Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and the 2014 convention resolution committee of the Democratic Party
38 of Hawai'i.

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1 **OC Resolution 2014-05 Urging the Party and Legislators to work together to Pass Public**
2 **Financing of Elections**

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4 Whereas, The O'ahu County Democrats support the public financing of elections; and

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6 Whereas, The effort to pass "Voter Owned Elections" bills has gone on for many years; and

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8 Whereas, The Legislature in 2008 passed a bill for a pilot program of public financing of county council
9 elections on Hawai'i Island; and

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11 Whereas, The experience on Hawai'i County has demonstrated public financing can provide a helpful
12 alternative for candidates to run viable campaigns, without having to spend inordinate time soliciting
13 contributions from special interests; and

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15 Whereas, The option to use public funding for elections has benefited both incumbents and challengers;
16 and

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18 Whereas, The 2013 and 2014 sessions were both close to passing a bill which would have provided the
19 option of public financing for candidates to the State House, but failed to reach agreement on a final draft;
20 now, therefore, be it

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22 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly urges the
23 Democratic legislators to work during the interim to reach an agreement on passing legislation to provide
24 the public financing option for candidates to the state House as an expansion of the program; and be it

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26 *Resolved*, That O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly urges the State
27 Democratic Party to make passage of public financing of elections a priority for the 2015 legislative
28 session; and be it

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30 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all O'ahu Democratic members of the Hawai'i
31 State Legislature.
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1 **OC Resolution 2014-06 Requesting Neighborhood Boards to Support the Development of**
2 **Community-Based Disaster Preparedness Plans**

3 *Whereas*, Hurricane 'Iniki of 1992 was a Category 4 storm, causing \$1.8 Billion in damages; and

4 *Whereas*, Hurricane 'Iniki was headed for O'ahu before it veered off to strike Kaua'i, still causing major
5 damage on the Wai'anae Coast; and

6 *Whereas*, The damage included knocking out broadcast stations and normal communications; and

7 *Whereas*, A hurricane could strike O'ahu during the coming storm season, possibly with greater ferocity
8 due to climate change; and

9 *Whereas*, The strength of a hurricane striking O'ahu could have broad, deep, and lasting impacts
10 preventing recovery over a long period; and

11 *Whereas*, Without an undamaged urban Honolulu to send relief, as in the case of 'Iniki on Kaua'i, the
12 impacts on O'ahu and the entire state are likely to be much harder to overcome; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges all neighborhood
14 boards to support and participate in the community-based efforts to support the development of disaster
15 preparedness plans for their neighborhood, understanding that before aid can come from outside
16 sources, communities must respond by helping their own people to safety, providing food, water,
17 emergency medical care and supplies, chainsaws to clear a path for emergency vehicles, child care and
18 elder care for those in need, and other basic services those communities know for themselves; and be it

19 *Resolved*, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes disaster
20 response plans have long-term implications of adapting to a new lifestyle of internal community reliance
21 for basic necessities, employment, power and transportation while the economy rebuilds; and be it

22 *Ordered*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all 33 neighborhood boards on O'ahu, the
23 Neighborhood Commission, the Department of Emergency Management, the Mayor of the City & County
24 of Honolulu, and all members of the Honolulu City Council.