

REPORT OF THE CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
to the
O'ahu County Democrats, Democratic Party of Hawaii

April 20, 2024

The voting members of the Resolutions Committee ("RC") include: Co-Chair Larry Meacham, Co-Chair Brenden Kinoshita, Melodie Aduja, Mary Brewer, John Buckstead, Will Caron, Jon Chinen, Jeanne Ohta, Makana Paris, Doug Pyle, Martha Randolph, Patricia Stolfa, Patrick Smith, Jane Sugimura, and Michele Golojuch.

Betty Vega served as the Zoom Administrator for the RC.

At its March 28, 2024, meeting, the RC appointed an ad hoc subcommittee for the limited purpose of making non-substantive edits and revisions, as needed, to correct spelling and grammar and to conform with the convention submission rules, the posted and published resolutions of the county, and the format described in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*. The ad hoc subcommittee was also authorized to consult with the authors of the resolutions submitted to address concerns raised by the RC and make recommendations to the RC for substantive amendments for approval. The members of the ad hoc subcommittee included: Makana Paris, Melodie Aduja, Martha Randolph, Will Caron, and Doug Pyle.

The RC held a total of three two-hour meetings scheduled from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on the following dates: Thursday, March 28, 2024; Monday, April 1, 2024; and Sunday, April 7, 2024. The ad hoc subcommittee met twice, once on Saturday, March 30, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and once on Friday, April 5, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In total the RC considered and debated a total of nineteen (19) subject matter resolutions. The majority of the voting members of the RC voted to recommend fourteen (14) resolutions for adoption by the O'ahu County Convention hereby attached as Exhibit "A". Five (5) resolutions, hereby attached as Exhibit "B," did not receive a majority vote by the voting members of the RC are therefore not recommended for adoption.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee

Committee Co-Chair

Committee Co-Chair

Meeting dates and members in attendance:

March 28, 2024 - Called to Order at 6:00 p.m.; Recessed at 8:00 p.m.

Voting Members - Larry Meacham (Co-Chair and Presiding Officer), Brenden Kinoshita (Co-Chair and Scribe), Melodie Aduja, Mary Brewer, John Buckstead, Will Caron, Jon Chinen, Jeanne Ohta, Makana Paris, Doug Pyle, Martha Randolph, Patricia Stolfa, and Jane Sugimura.

Guests/Observers - Ala Burdick, Aria Castillo, and Larry Smith.

April 1, 2024 - Called to Order at 6:00 p.m.; Recessed at 8:00 p.m.

Voting Members - Larry Meacham (Co-Chair and Presiding Officer), Brenden Kinoshita (Co-Chair and Scribe), Melodie Aduja, Mary Brewer, John Buckstead, Will Caron, Jon Chinen, Jeanne Ohta, Makana Paris, Doug Pyle, Martha Randolph, Patrick Smith, Patricia Stolfa, and Jane Sugimura.

Guests/Observers - Ala Burdick, Larry Smith, Marion Poirier, and Richard Poirier.

April 7, 2024 - Called to Order 6:00 p.m.; Adjourned 7:02 p.m.

Voting Members - Larry Meacham (Co-Chair and Presiding Officer), Brenden Kinoshita (Co-Chair and Scribe), Melodie Aduja, Mary Brewer, John Buckstead, Will Caron, Jon Chinen, Jeanne Ohta, Makana Paris, Doug Pyle, Martha Randolph, and Patricia Stolfa.

Guests/Observers - Bill South.

EXHIBIT "A"

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Resolution No.	Title
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2024-05	Supporting Continuous Monitoring of Toxic Chemicals Released by Landfills and Waste Incinerators
2024-06	Requesting the Office of the Governor to convene a Working Group to plan for the cleanup of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in State Lands and Waters and to Protect Public Health and the Environment
2024-07	Urging the Department of Health to require Wastewater Treatment Facilities to test reclaimed water and sewage sludge for PFAS, Microplastics, and Heavy Metals
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2024-09	Urging State Agencies that Monitor Pollution Levels to Adopt More-Transparent Procedures
2024-10	Urging the Department of Health and University of Hawai'i to Establish a PFAS Testing Grant Program

- 2024-12 Requesting Democratic Candidates to Pledge to Conduct Fair Campaign Practices
- 2024-13 Promoting and Upholding the Aloha Spirit in Our Democratic Campaigns
- 2024-14 Urging President Biden to Immediately Reinstate Funding for the UNRWA
- 2024-15 Urging President Biden to Take Specific Actions to Achieve Peace in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories of Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem
- 2024-17 Urging the State of Hawai'i to Reduce U.S. Department of Defense Leases

2024-01: Urging the Hawaii State Energy Office to study non-burn alternatives to combustible fuels

Whereas, It is important to use Hawaii state taxpayer funds wisely in order to create the most good without speculative investments, unnecessary subsidies, or promotion of energy technologies or fuels that conflict with the state's climate change goals or the peoples' constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment under Article XI, Section 9 of the Hawai'i Constitution; and

Whereas, Energy consumption sectors tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration are electricity, transportation, and industrial, commercial, and residential heating; and

Whereas, Technology exists to meet the needs of the electricity sector using conservation, efficiency, solar, wind, and energy storage, which can be made as firm as needed with added storage capacity; and

Whereas, Residential and commercial cooking, space and water heating needs are easily electrified with existing technology, including ground- and air-source heat pumps and hybrid electric water heaters; and

Whereas, Industrial heating needs are increasingly possible to meet through a combination of concentrated solar, electricity, and – if necessary – green hydrogen sources from wind and solar; and

Whereas, Land-based transportation, even heavy trucking, is now possible to fully electrify so that it can be powered on clean, non-burn, electricity sources; and

Whereas, Ocean-based transportation is now possible to fully electrify, even international cargo ships with batteries and some with stationary wind masts; and

Whereas, Inter-island air travel is possible with electric sea gliders, as Hawaiian Airlines is exploring, though inter-continental air travel is the one sector that is hardest to convert to clean energy, though Airbus aims to bring to market the world's first hydrogen-powered commercial aircraft by 2035; and

Whereas, Combustible carbon-based fuels release greenhouse gasses as well as other harmful air pollutants, and the production of burnable fuels has many other environmental implications including use of land for fuel instead of food, water and soil depletion, spread of genetically modified organisms, and – if using waste streams to make fuel – toxic chemical releases and solid waste byproducts; and

Whereas, Technologies to turn waste into fuels are highly speculative, controversial, and polluting, and typically fail to operate at a commercial scale, usually falling apart technically, economically, or both; and

Whereas, When all carbon releases are accounted for, the climate impacts of biomass and waste-based biofuels are close to, or greater than, the climate impacts of petroleum products they would replace; and

Whereas, Investing in "transition" fuels only builds up an economic interest that makes it harder, politically and economically, to move to the next step where burnable fuels are ultimately replaced; and

Whereas, It is wise to spend public funding first on clean, combustion-free solutions that already exist, focusing on energy sectors where those solutions are not yet fully implemented; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Energy Office to conduct a study of the different energy consumption sectors to determine which can be most quickly and cost-effectively decarbonized through additional public investment in combustion-free alternatives; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Chief Energy Officer, and Hawai'i State Legislators for the island of O'ahu who are members of the Democratic Party.

2024-02: Supporting Safe Management of Incinerator Ash

Whereas, Waste incineration facilities reduce every 100 tons of trash to about 30 tons of ash; and

Whereas, H-POWER is Hawai'i's only trash incinerator, operating in O'ahu's Campbell Industrial Park, burning up to 2,600 tons of waste per day, making it one of the nation's largest waste incinerators, and H-POWER's ash is currently dumped in the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill in Honokai Hale; and

Whereas, Fly ash from trash incinerators is regulated as hazardous waste in several other nations, but in the U.S., the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) used to categorically define incinerator ash as non-hazardous, even though tests showed that fly ash qualified as hazardous over 90% of the time and bottom ash would test hazardous 36% of the time due to leaching of toxic lead or cadmium; and

Whereas, Since a 1994 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that incinerator ash must be handled as hazardous waste if it tests hazardous, EPA changed the test and allowed mixing of fly and bottom ashes and changed the test methods to enable incinerator ash to pass the test; and

Whereas, EPA staff admit that the ash testing regulations (which require testing only for what leaches out of incinerator ash at a certain pH in short-term lab tests) are based solely on whether people will be exposed by consuming water that has passed through ash and leached into groundwater and, ultimately, to drinking water supplies – and that ash testing regulations are not based on exposures from touching incinerator ash, or inhaling or ingesting ash particles; and

Whereas, Testing “non-hazardous” does not mean that ash is safe, “non-toxic” or biologically “inert”; and

Whereas, Incinerator ash is typically handled by workers with no respiratory protection, trucked to a landfill in trucks where some ash can blow or spill during transit, dumped from trucks where ash dust usually rises in a cloud that wind can carry, and is finally used as daily cover material for itself, instead of a tarp or clean soil to prevent wind from blowing ash into the community; and

Whereas, The City is currently working with Covanta to develop an ash “recycling” facility at Campbell Industrial Park where incinerator ash would be exempted from being handled as waste, and would be used to build roads or for other purposes that can put workers, the public, and the environment in more contact with incinerator ash than would occur if it were properly contained and landfilled responsibly; and

Whereas, Roads and other construction materials are not forever, and will erode and eventually be broken up, releasing more ash particles, without cautionary warnings about toxicity, and without special handling appropriate for material containing fine particles of highly toxic dioxins and furans, and toxic metals like arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, and mercury; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Department of Health and the City to appropriately handle the incinerator ash (a type of “solid waste” as per HRS Section 342H-30) in any manner other than proper containment in a landfill unless the ash is remediated to such a level that it does not pose a risk to public health and safety by ensuring the ash is first treated to remove dioxins/furans, PFAS, mercury and other toxic contaminants to the point where the remaining ash has no detectable levels of such toxic chemicals for which there is no known safe dose and that trucking and landfilling must at least use secure tarps to ensure that ash cannot be blown by wind into the community; and be it further

Resolved, That the City is hereby urged to cease all activities in pursuit of any effort to “recycle” or “reuse” H-POWER incinerator ash unless it is properly remediated as described above; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Director of Health, Hawai'i State Legislators for the island of O'ahu who are members of the Democratic Party, and the Mayor and City Council of the City and County of Honolulu, who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and the Director of the City Department of Environmental Services.

2024-03: Supporting Safe Management of Ash and Debris especially from the August 2023 Maui Wildfires

Whereas, Ash from the burning of county waste at H-POWER, and the burning of vegetation, homes, vehicles and other property during the Lahaina Wildfires contains dioxins/furans, cancer-causing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, PFAS/PFOA, and toxic metals; and

Whereas, This ash, if not properly contained, can expose people who touch it, and that wind and rain can carry it further exposing people, and animals, and placing our land and ocean environments at risk; and

Whereas, Dumping of this ash and debris in a temporary landfill in Olowalu risks further contamination as plastic-wrapped waste in “burritos” easily break and tear when dumped, spreading dust into the air; and

Whereas, Continuing to use the Olowalu landfill to temporarily dump this waste and later excavate it for transportation to a permanent site greatly increases costs of waste handling, causing costs that are likely to require substantial State financial support; and

Whereas, According to the U.S. EPA, Central Maui Landfill, recently designated by the County of Maui as the permanent disposal site, has enough space to last until 2039, and about 600,000 tons of waste from the August 2023 Maui wildfires represents about two years of waste disposal; and

Whereas, Properly executed Zero Waste programs could cut municipal waste and recyclable material disposals by more than half in just a handful of years, stretching out the life of the county’s landfill; and

Whereas, Toxic ash can blow off the top of a landfill if not properly contained, it is discouraged to use this ash as alternative daily cover material in place of soil or tarps to safely cover landfilled waste at night; and

Whereas, Many thousands of truck trips will be necessary to transport waste from a temporary landfill, risking traffic problems, spillage and leaching of toxic ash, and increasing the state’s carbon footprint; and

Whereas, High-temperature processes such as pyrolysis or incineration create new toxic chemicals including dioxins, furans and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, chemical pollutants like nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, and acid gasses, and make existing toxic chemicals like PFAS and heavy metals more available to be inhaled or ingested, and using these technologies to manage material that has already burned simply compounds the problems caused by the initial burning of these materials; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O’ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i urge the Department of Health to enforce HRS Section 342H-30 so that H-POWER ash and waste from the August 2023 Maui wildfires are not managed in any manner other than the safe containment in a landfill, that trucking of this ash is in leak-proof containers, that such waste may not be used as alternative daily cover material at a landfill, and that secure tarps are used to prevent toxic ash from blowing off the landfill; and be it further

Resolved, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA are hereby encouraged to contain the remaining waste as soon as possible in trucking-ready containers at- or near-site until ready to be transported for final disposal, to discontinue the use of Olowalu as a temporary disposal site, to ensure that waste is transported in sealed containers to avoid spills and leaks, to decontaminate trucks before departing landfills to ensure that toxic chemicals are not tracking off-site, to transport waste to the landfill at night to minimize traffic concerns, and to abandon consideration of pyrolysis, gasification, or incineration as waste management methods unless protective of human health and the environment; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Lt. Governor of Hawai’i, the Director of Health, Hawai’i State Legislators who are members of the Democratic Party, the Honolulu District Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Regional Administrator for Region 9 of FEMA, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu and Maui, and Chairs of the City and County Councils.

2024-05: Supporting Continuous Monitoring of Toxic Chemicals Released by Landfills and Waste Incinerators

Whereas, Waste combustion facilities are among the largest sources of industrial air pollution; and

Whereas, At H-POWER, the only waste combustion facility in the State, only four air pollutants are monitored on a continuous basis, while just ten others are tested only once per year under optimal operating conditions, while many others go untested, including PFAS and various toxic metals; and

Whereas, Monitoring once a year is inadequate because it may severely underestimate pollution levels, as shown by the Covanta Delaware Valley waste incinerator in Chester, PA where testing with continuous monitors as well as conducting annual stack tests has shown actual emissions of hydrochloric acid to be 62% higher as shown through continuous monitoring than what annual stack tests indicate; and

Whereas, Emissions of dioxins, the most toxic chemicals known to science, which are 140,000 times more toxic than mercury according to EPA, are released from waste incinerators; and

Whereas, Studies from Europe, where dioxins have been measured using continuous sampling, show that actual emissions from waste incinerators are 30 to 1,290 times higher than what is extrapolated from annual stack tests conducted during normal operating conditions in the U.S., in part due to the failure to capture data when emissions are highest during startup, shutdown, and malfunction times; and

Whereas, Kona winds blow H-POWER's air pollution toward residents on O'ahu for nearly one full day out of every week, resulting in significant levels of exposure, and the emissions blown out to sea includes highly toxic dioxins and mercury that bioaccumulate in animal fat such as fish people consume; and

Whereas, The U.S. EPA is making continuous monitoring of toxic pollutants at municipal waste incinerators optional in their new regulations under development; and

Whereas, The costs to public health of asthma, cancer, and lives shortened by fine particulate matter and other pollutants released from waste incinerators are in the tens to hundreds of millions of dollars per year, far in excess of the modest cost to gather accurate information on these emissions; and

Whereas, Technology exists to continuously monitor or continuously sample over 20 major pollutants that are not monitored continuously or at all, and to transparently provide that data on a public website; and

Whereas, Covanta has been reporting their continuous emissions monitoring data for the few pollutants they monitor that way at many of their incinerators around the United States, though this transparency is not yet happening at H-POWER, the only trash incinerator in Hawaii, which is operated by Covanta; and

Whereas, Landfills also have toxic air emissions that go unmonitored and are of concern to nearby communities, some of which have been shown to suffer reduced life expectancy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Department of Health to continuously monitor and scrub emissions at incinerators and landfills in the state, including assessing the costs, identifying what technologies are commercially available for continuous monitoring or sampling for the chemical pollutants numbered 4 through 23 in SB 2101 of 2024 and which chemicals have test methods or performance standards available for them, and to evaluate the difference in annual emissions calculated using continuous monitoring/sampling vs. annual stack tests where data exists on these chemical pollutants at other incinerators in the U.S. and Canada; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Director of Health, Hawai'i State Legislators for the island of O'ahu who are members of the Democratic Party, and the Mayor and City Council of the City and County of Honolulu who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

2024-06: Requesting the Office of the Governor to convene a Working Group to plan for the cleanup of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in State Lands and Waters and to Protect Public Health and the Environment

Whereas, Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are increasingly understood to pose serious toxicity to humans and other organisms in the environment; and

Whereas, PFAS are utilized in a broad range of products, including firefighting foam, scratch resistant products using Teflon and Scotchgard, clothing, textiles, food packaging, and cosmetic products such as lotions, nail polish, shaving cream, and mascara; and

Whereas, PFAS break down very slowly over time and are commonly referred to as “forever chemicals”; and

Whereas, PFAS is known to enter the environment from a host of sources, including wastewater treatment plants, landfills, and incinerators; and

Whereas, PFAS are persistent, toxic substances that can contaminate drinking water, bioaccumulate in fish and wildlife, and have multiple adverse health effects on humans; and

Whereas, According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, PFAS exposure is linked to increased risk of dyslipidemia (abnormally high cholesterol), suboptimal antibody response, reduced infant and fetal growth, and higher rates of kidney cancer; and

Whereas, Public health studies have also shown correlations between PFAS soil and water contamination, and human health impacts including cancer, thyroid disease, kidney dysfunction, birth defects, and other major medical conditions; and

Whereas, Corporations make billions of dollars off of PFAS products, but are not held responsible for the negative public health and environmental impacts that currently falls to taxpayers to address; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Oahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawaii urge the Office of the Governor to convene a PFAS Working Group to proactively plan for the remediation of PFAS contamination throughout the State and to accomplish this objective the working group is requested to: (1) Identify the presence, character, location of PFAS; (2) Propose plans of action, including remediation, or elimination of PFAS; (3) Identify any known contaminants or environmental hazards associated with the inventoried lands, and any required remediation; (4) Affirmatively engage in a public information campaign to advise the public of the dangers of PFAS; and (5) Encourage the business community to become more aware of the presence of PFAS in products and product packaging, make the community aware of the dangers of such chemicals, and encourage members of the community to adopt practices to eliminate or at least reduce the presence of these chemicals in the products that they use and sell; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Director of Health.

2024-07: Urging the Department of Health to require Wastewater Treatment Facilities to test reclaimed water and sewage sludge for PFAS, Microplastics, and Heavy Metals

Whereas, Consuming produce contaminated with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), microplastics, and heavy metals from reclaimed water and sludge poses a range of health risks and regular testing and monitoring at wastewater treatment facilities are crucial to prevent exposure and protect public health; and

Whereas, Reclaimed water used for irrigation directly impacts crops and soil, with contaminated reclaimed water introducing PFAS, microplastics, and heavy metals in the food chain, which adversely affects both the environment and human health; and

Whereas, PFAS, microplastics and heavy metals can enter food chains and result in biomagnification, affecting aquatic fauna, insects, invertebrates, amphibians, fish, and seafood; and

Whereas, Water and sludge seepage from military landfills and municipal waste sites then pumped to wastewater treatment plants are not usually tested for PFAS, microplastics, and heavy metals; and

Whereas, Consuming produce grown with PFAS-contaminated water and/or sludge fertilizer can cause to an increased risk of certain cancers, including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers; and other serious illnesses such as liver disease, endocrine disruption, and developmental delays in children, including low birth weight, accelerated puberty, and behavioral changes; and

Whereas, The United States Environmental Protection Agency has proposed regulations that would require water utilities to test for PFAS and limit their levels to very low amounts, and on Oahu, the Department of Health has reported PFAS detections in several communities' drinking water, including Kunia and Waipio, where PFAS levels were detected far above what the federal government considers safe; and

Whereas, The PFAS in Kunia's water likely came from five United States Army installations in the immediate vicinity that send their wastewater to the Schofield Barracks Wastewater Treatment Plant, where one hundred percent of its reclaimed water is reused for agricultural purposes, causing groundwater and surface water contamination; and

Whereas, Microplastics have been found to disrupt human health at the cellular level and magnify toxicity of other contaminants found in the environment; and

Whereas, Heavy metal toxicity has proven to be a major health risk; and

Whereas, Sewage sludge used as fertilizer containing PFAS, microplastics and heavy metals, contaminates the soil, affects crop quality and safety, and harms marine ecosystems; and

Whereas, requiring regular testing will help the safety of consumers, farmers, and the environment; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Oahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawaii urge the Department of Health to require wastewater treatment facilities to test reclaimed water and sewage sludge for the presence of PFAS, microplastics, and heavy metals to ensure the safety of the reclaimed water and the absence of harmful contaminants that can negatively impact human health and the environment; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii and the Director of the Department of Health.

2024-08: Urging Construction and Operation of a Public Environmental Toxins Laboratory in Hawai'i

Whereas, Environmental toxins caused by pollutants have notably increased in recent decades, particularly with the rapid expansion of the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances "PFAS", a group of synthetic organofluorine chemical compounds, which have been found to be highly toxic; and

Whereas, Hawai'i continues to lack a testing laboratory that is capable of identifying diseases and toxins present in Hawai'i's air, water, soil, and biological and other specimens, which obliges Hawai'i residents often to rely on data relating to environmental toxins that are provided by the very same entities that have caused the toxins to be present in the State's natural environment in the first place; and

Whereas, The present lack of an in-State environmental toxins laboratory undermines the State's ability to evaluate and, as appropriate, confirm or reject contentions by federal government departments and agencies, including the Department of Defense and Environmental Protection Agency; state agencies such as the Department of Health; and private entities, relating to environmental toxic chemicals such as petroleum constituents, PFAS, PFAS-related substances, heavy metals, and many other toxins now found throughout the State's natural environment; and

Whereas, Further, Hawai'i residents' ability to evaluate the presence of environmental toxins is often delayed, causing further harm to human health and the environment because samples must be sent to laboratories located in the continental United States, and the results from sample analyses may be withheld by the agencies that control the supply of the samples to those laboratories; and

Whereas, A publicly-owned laboratory certified by the Environmental Protection Agency that complies with the Clinical Laboratories Improvement Amendments of 1988, 42 U.S. Code, §263a, should be constructed in Hawai'i to address these issues and to facilitate the prompt and transparent disclosure of the results of testing samples taken from the State; and

Whereas, The cost of construction of the laboratory is currently beyond the State's means as Hawai'i endeavors to respond adequately to the catastrophe of the August 2023 Maui wildfires that destroyed Lahaina and damaged Upper Kula, Pulehu, Kihei, and Ka'anapali; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i support construction of a publicly-owned laboratory certified by the Environmental Protection Agency that complies with the Clinical Laboratories Improvement Amendments of 1988, 42 U.S. Code, §263a, to be constructed in Hawai'i to address these issues and to facilitate the prompt and transparent disclosure of the results of testing samples taken from the State; and

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge Hawai'i's congressional delegation to take all action necessary and proper to induce Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to construct and operate a public lab; and be it further

Resolved, That the Governor, Department of Health, and other relevant governmental agencies are urged to support the construction and the operations of the laboratory, and that the laboratory is urged to publish the results of its analyses to the public; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, the Governor, and the Director of the Department of Health.

2024-09: Urging State Agencies that Monitor Pollution Levels to Adopt More-Transparent Procedures

Whereas, There are currently no procedural requirements or standards that the DOH must follow to establish Environmental Action Levels (EALS) for various toxins that it monitors, or to revise EALS, up or down; and

Whereas, There is currently no requirement for public input or notice even though the public has a right to know all relevant information about environmental toxins; and it is the responsibility of the state agencies charged with monitoring and remediating environmental toxins to ensure that the public receives all relevant information about the presence of environmental toxins in a timely manner; and

Whereas, The Department of Health monitors the presence of environmentally toxic chemicals in water, soil, and the air, and may ask polluters to take remedial action if pollution levels exceed certain levels, often called environmental action levels or EALS – a higher EAL is a more lenient standard; and

Whereas, For example, in April 2023, DOH raised EALS for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) by 100% over prior levels, without advance public notice or public hearing and without advance publication of any scientific information that might justify the increase for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a type of PFAS, resulting in a relaxation of enforcement standards and a potential increase in pollution; and

Whereas, Increases in EALS by any Hawai'i state agency that are without scientific justification and contrary to the EALS established and enforced by federal agencies and other states may pose unreasonable risks to the State's environment and the human population; and

Whereas, Under the environmental protection provisions of the Hawaii State Constitution, Art. XI, §§ 1 and 7, any increase in EALS ought to be scientifically justifiable, based on the severity of risks to human health and the environment and the probability of adverse effects on health and the environment; and

Whereas, Procedures must be established to provide the public with advance notice and scientific information, and a meaningful opportunity to be heard, to respond to any proposed modifications in EALS; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Department of Health to follow procedural and substantive requirements for the establishment and modifications of environmental action levels as follows:

(1) Every state agency that monitors environmental toxins and pollutants should establish environmental action levels or substantively similar triggering that are consistent with health based best practices and most recent scientific evidence relating to preservation of human health and a safe environment and not less protective than United States Environmental Protection Agency standards; and

(2) No modification to weaken any environmental action level or similar triggering mechanism should be made except after adequate advance notice is given to the public, which should include all publication of relevant scientific justifications for the proposed modification; and

(3) Any agency proposing a modification to any environmental action levels or similar triggering mechanism should comply with the requirements of Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and allow not less than thirty days for the public to comment on the proposed modification and conduct one or more public hearings at which comments relating to the proposed action may be received and report annually to the State Legislature; and

(4) Allow any resident of the State to petition with scientific documentation for modifications of one or more environmental action levels or similar triggering mechanisms and promptly respond to the petition in the manner provided by Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of Health.

2024-10: Urging the Department of Health and University of Hawai'i to Establish a PFAS Testing Grant Program

Whereas, Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are increasingly understood to pose serious toxicity to humans and other organisms in the environment; and

Whereas, PFAS are utilized in a broad range of products, including firefighting foam, scratch resistant products using Teflon and Scotchgard, clothing, textiles, food packaging, and cosmetic products such as lotions, nail polish, shaving cream, and mascara; and

Whereas, since the 1970s, the Department of Defense used firefighting foam to fight fuel fires and the contaminating land and ground water with PFAS across hundreds of U.S. military installations including facilities in Hawai'i; and

Whereas, PFAS break down very slowly over time and are commonly referred to as "forever chemicals"; and

Whereas, PFAS are persistent, toxic substances that can contaminate drinking water, bioaccumulate in fish and wildlife, and have multiple adverse health effects on humans; and

Whereas, According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, PFAS exposure is linked to increased risk of dyslipidemia (abnormally high cholesterol), suboptimal antibody response, reduced infant and fetal growth, and higher rates of kidney cancer; and

Whereas, Public health studies have also shown correlations between PFAS soil and water contamination, and human health impacts including cancer, thyroid disease, kidney dysfunction, birth defects, and other major medical conditions; and

Whereas, As of August 2023, ten states have established PFAS enforceable drinking water standards, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a study from 2023 to 2025 to collect data on PFAS and potentially develop additional regulations; and

Whereas, The Naval command continues to adhere to the EPA's outdated Health Advisory of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for a combination of PFOS and PFOA rather than the new advisory of 0.02 ppt for PFOS and 0.004 of PFOA; and

Whereas, The Department of Health (DOH) has set Environmental Action Levels at an unjustified height of 7.7 ppt for PFOS and 12 ppt for PFOA; and

Whereas, There is no State or Federal agency that is doing regular and frequent testing for PFAS at the EPA's interim advisory level in the State of Hawai'i; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Department of Health and the University of Hawai'i to establish a PFAS Testing Grant Program that would assist local communities, businesses, and residents of the state to obtain sampling and testing services for PFAS detection at least to the level of the EPA's interim advisory; and be it further

Resolved, That the DOH and UH are requested to seek funding for such a PFAS Testing Grant Program from the US Navy and the US Congress, collaborating with the Hawai'i congressional delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Health and the University of Hawaii is requested to adopt any necessary rules to ensure that all grants provided under such a PFAS Testing Grant Program adhere to standards that promote fairness, transparency, and compliance with applicable laws; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of Health, President of the University of Hawai'i System, and Hawai'i's congressional delegation.

2024-12: Requesting Democratic Candidates to Pledge to Conduct Fair Campaign Practices

Whereas, the democratic process is the cornerstone of our society, and fair elections are essential for a thriving democracy; and

Whereas, political campaigns play a crucial role in shaping public opinion and influencing voters; and

Whereas, it is imperative that candidates conduct their campaigns with integrity, honesty, and respect for their opponents and the electorate; and

Whereas, every candidate for public office has an obligation to observe and uphold basic principles of decency, honesty and fair play.

Whereas, a pledge of fair campaign practices fosters a healthy political environment and promotes trust in the electoral system; and

Whereas, the O'ahu County Democratic Party is committed to upholding democratic values and ensuring a level playing field for all candidates; and therefore be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i requests all Democratic candidates to pledge the following:

- I shall conduct my campaign openly and publicly, discussing the issues as I see them, presenting my record and policies with sincerity.
- I shall not use campaign material relating to any candidate's election which misrepresents, distorts, or otherwise falsifies the facts regarding the candidate.
- I shall refrain from the use of personal vilification, character defamation, or any other form of scurrilous personal attacks on any candidate or their family.
- I shall condemn any dishonest or unethical practice that tends to corrupt or undermine the American system of free elections or that hampers or prevents the full and free expression of the will of the voters.
- I shall condemn any appeal to prejudice based on race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, or age.
- I shall not originate or spread any malicious or unfounded accusations against any candidate which are aimed at creating or exploiting doubts on the part of the public as to the candidate's loyalty and patriotism.
- I shall immediately and publicly repudiate support deriving from any individual or group, acting on behalf of my candidacy, who resorts to the methods and tactics contrary to my pledge of conducting Fair Campaign Practices.
- I shall disclose all my campaign funding sources, expenditures, and affiliations transparently, ensuring voters have access to relevant information.
- I shall actively engage with diverse communities, listen to their concerns, and address their needs without discrimination; and be it

Ordered, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall promote awareness of this pledge and encourage its use among its members and Democratic candidates; and be it

Ordered, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i shall recognize and celebrate those candidates that pledge and uphold the Fair Campaign Practices; and be it

Ordered, that copies of this resolution be distributed to each Democratic candidate running in the 2024 elections and every election period thereafter, and to the 2024 convention resolutions committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

2024-13: Promoting and Upholding the Aloha Spirit in Our Democratic Campaigns

Whereas, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i adopted Resolution No, 2022-15 "Urging our elected officials to study, reflect upon, speak up about, and be advocates for the Spirit of Aloha," at the 2022 Democratic Party of Hawai'i State Convention; and

Whereas, the Aloha spirit is a cherished value in Hawai'i, embodying kindness, respect, and compassion toward others; and

Whereas, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i seeks to uphold these principles in all aspects of governance and public life; and

Whereas, the Aloha Spirit Law, Hawai'i Revised Statute §5-7.5, explicitly recognizes the importance of the Aloha spirit as a guiding force for our community; and

Whereas, election campaigns play a crucial role in shaping our democracy and influencing public opinion; and

Whereas, we believe that political discourse should be conducted with civility, empathy, and a commitment to the well-being of our fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i call upon all Democratic candidates running for office to adhere to the principles of the Aloha spirit law throughout their election campaigns; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i requests that all Democratic candidates engage in respectful dialogue, treat opponents and constituents with kindness, and actively promote unity and understanding; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i requests all Democratic candidates to prioritize community well-being, actively listen to constituents, and address their concern with empathy and compassion; and be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i encourages Democratic candidates to educate themselves and their campaign teams about the Aloha spirit law (HRS §5-7.5) and its significance; and be it

Ordered, that copies of this resolution with the Aloha spirit law (HRS §5-7.5) shall be distributed to each Democratic candidate running in the 2024 elections and every election period thereafter, and to the 2024 convention resolutions committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

2024-14: Urging President Biden to Immediately Reinstate Funding for the UNRWA

Whereas, The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has been providing critical humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees since its establishment in 1949;

Whereas, Innocent men, women, and children in Palestine continue to face dire humanitarian conditions, including mass displacement, loss of livelihoods, and limited access to necessities such as food, clean water, and health care services;

Whereas, Palestinian refugees are faced with escalating conflicts and crises in the region, resulting in more than 30,000 deaths and 1,900,000 people displaced from their homes;

Whereas, Most of UNRWA's regular budget for Gaza pays for the salaries of 13,000 employees in the region, including teachers, health care specialists, engineers, and sanitation workers; and

Whereas, The total amount of funding that is typical for salaries and operational expenses for UNRWA comes out to \$30,000,000 monthly, but has increased to \$47,000,000 a month since the beginning of the conflict in Gaza in October 2023, according to Tom White, Director UNRWA Affairs in Gaza;

Whereas, That extra money has paid for flour for 350,000 families, 14 million food items, mattress pads, blankets, and kitchen sets, and the distribution of 20 million liters of water; and

Whereas, Some of UNRWA's budget in Gaza also goes to distributing life-saving medications, including insulin and vaccines;

Whereas, The United States usually gives between \$300,000,000 to \$400,000,000 to UNRWA on an annual basis, according to Matthew Miller, Spokesperson for the United States Department of State, which amounts to roughly one-third of the agency's annual budget; and

Whereas, In January 2024, the United States suspended funding to UNRWA amid claims that 12 of its 13,000 staff members in Gaza may have abetted extremist activities, and in response, the United Nations Secretary-General immediately announced the creation of an independent panel to investigate the allegations made against UNRWA employees, who were subsequently terminated;

Whereas, Suspension of funding to UNRWA by the United States government has severely impacted UNRWA's ability to deliver life-saving assistance to Palestinian refugees, and reinstating funding to UNRWA is essential to ensure the delivery of critical services for Palestinian refugees, such as food, health care, and emergency relief assistance; therefore be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the President of the United States to promptly reinstate funding for the UNRWA to support its life-saving and critical humanitarian assistance programs for Palestinian refugees; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of President Joe Biden, the United States Secretary of State, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the members of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, the President of the Hawai'i State Senate and the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are Democrats.

2024-15: Urging President Biden to Take Specific Actions to Achieve Peace in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories of Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem

Whereas, All human life is precious and the targeting of non-combatants in a conflict zone is a violation of Rule 1 of customary International Humanitarian Law (ICRC Study on Customary International Humanitarian Law, Volume I, 2005, Cambridge University Press); and

Whereas, The October 7, 2023 Hamas-led attack on Israel caused the deaths of some 1,200 Israelis; and

Whereas, As of March 1, 2024, the official civilian casualty figures in Gaza have surpassed 30,000 deaths, with thousands of injuries reported and thousands of people missing under the rubble (Gaza Ministry of Health as quoted by [NPR, 2024](#)); and

Whereas, One crime against humanity does not justify further crimes against humanity; and

Whereas, The conflict in Gaza is the deadliest in the 21st century, with more than one out of every 100 Gazans killed in just 100 days, including one out of every 85 Gazan children ([UNESCWA, 2024](#)); and

Whereas, The International Court of Justice has ruled Israel's actions in Gaza since October 7, 2023, likely constitute a genocide ([ICJ, 2024](#)); and

Whereas, On March 25, 2024 the UN Security Council adopted a ceasefire resolution with the United States abstaining; and

Whereas, Peace requires justice and liberation for all peoples, universal respect for international law, and human rights for all; and therefore be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge President Joe Biden to leverage the immense influence the U.S. has on Israel to establish a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian people through the following actions:

1. Require all parties to agree to a permanent end to hostilities;
2. Require the release of all hostages held by Hamas, as well as the release of all Palestinian prisoners held by Israel under "administrative detention" without other charge;
3. Suspend all transfers of weapons and funding from the United States to Israel;
4. Establish an international peacekeeping presence throughout Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem (the Occupied Palestinian Territories) to protect all civilians from further harm;
5. Create a truth and reconciliation commission drawing on models from other post-conflict societies to investigate human rights abuses and provide a platform for victims to be heard;
6. Implement restorative justice initiatives to address the needs of victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and restore the social fabric of Palestine and Israel;
7. Provide and protect unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid, support for refugees and displaced persons, and assistance in rebuilding Palestinian infrastructure and economy; and
8. Address the root causes of the conflict in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, such as economic disparities, political disenfranchisement, and environmental degradation; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of President Joe Biden, the members of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, the U.S. House Minority Leader, the Governor and Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the President of the Hawai'i State Senate and the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are Democrats.

2024-17: Urging the State of Hawai'i to Reduce U.S. Department of Defense Leases

Whereas, The United States Department of Defense leases thousands of acres of state owned lands at Poamoho, Kahuku, Mākua, and Pōhakuloa for training purposes for the U.S. Army;

Whereas, In 1964, the Army paid a nominal fee of \$1 for 65 years for these leases;

Whereas, These leases are set to expire in 2029 and the Army has already initiated its Army Training Lands Retention program, which proposes to retain up to 6,300 acres of land at Mākua, Kahuku, and Poamoho.

Whereas, The “state-owned” lands in question are public trust lands derived from the Crown and Government lands of the independent Hawaiian Kingdom, to which native Hawaiians hold unrelinquished claims;

Whereas, The retention of public trust lands beyond the current 65 year lease may substantially inhibit the Board of Land and Natural Resources from fulfilling its fiduciary obligation to ensure the maximization of benefits to Native Hawaiians and public beneficiaries;

Whereas, Long-term leasing of public trust lands to any party creates a sense of entitlement that can result in the alienation of public lands, including the so-called “ceded” lands to which Native Hawaiians have unrelinquished claims;

Whereas, In the *Ching v. Case* ruling, the courts found that the State of Hawai'i breached its trust duties by failing to perform regular monitoring and inspections of military activities at Pōhakuloa Training Area;

Whereas, The *Ching v Case* ruling also found that the State of Hawai'i's public trust obligations encompass an affirmative duty to mālama 'āina, which includes ensuring that lessees properly care for public trust lands;

Whereas, At Mākua Military Reserve, the Army has repeatedly failed to conduct required environmental and cultural studies, and in doing so, failed to fulfill court ordered settlement obligations;

Whereas, The U.S. Army leases have created significant barriers to cultural access for Native Hawaiian cultural and subsistence practitioners; and

Whereas, The U.S. Army has caused long-term destruction to the environmental and cultural resources at these lease sites, including depleted uranium contamination, the proliferation of unexploded ordinances, and the desecration of sacred sites; therefore be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Government of the State of Hawai'i to reduce leases held by the U.S. Department of Defense and to hold the Department of Defense accountable for the cultural and environmental remediation of returned lands; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the U.S. Secretary of Defense, the Commanding General of the 25th Infantry Division, Governor and Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the President of the Hawai'i State Senate and the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are Democrats.

EXHIBIT “B”

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Resolution No.	Title
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2024-11	Urging the Party and Legislators to work together to secure passage of legislation to legalize or decriminalize marijuana
2024-16	Urging the Governor of Hawai'i to End the Hawai'i-Israel Strategic Partnership
2024-18	Urging the U.S. Government to Permanently End Rim of the Pacific Military Training Exercises

2024-04: Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Eliminate Biomass from the Renewable Portfolio Standard

Whereas, Hawai'i's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) law requires electric utilities to have a minimum percentage of renewable electricity: 30% by 2020, 40% by 2030, 70% by 2040, and 100% by 2045; and

Whereas, KIUC (Kaua'i), in 2022, met the requirement with 60% of its electricity coming from "renewable" sources that year – far exceeding the state requirements through 2039 – and HECO (serving the rest of the state), in 2023, had 41.2% of their electricity coming from "renewable" sources that year – satisfying the requirements through 2039; and

Whereas, The state law permits the incineration of trash and trees to qualify as biomass in the RPS law's definition of renewable energy, as well as other combustion sources like liquid biofuels and biogas; and

Whereas, Biomass and biofuels when combusted discharges dioxins, PFAS, mercury, and other toxics and are worse for the climate and comparable on public health than the coal and oil they replace; and

Whereas, 11% of HECO's generation is from the burning of trash at the H-POWER trash incinerator on O'ahu and 10% of KIUC's electricity comes from the burning of trees at a biomass plant on Kaua'i; and

Whereas, Compared to burning coal for electricity, burning trees releases 50% more carbon dioxide (CO₂) per unit of energy and burning trash releases 65% more, according to data reported to EPA; and

Whereas, The purpose of the state RPS law is to reduce health, climate, and other environmental impacts associated with the burning of fossil fuels for energy, but mandating a transition to renewable energy; and

Whereas, To make the same energy as a coal power plant, trash incineration releases three times as much nitrogen oxides, five times as much mercury, six times as much lead and 27 times as much hydrochloric acid, contributing to asthma attacks, learning disabilities, acid rain, and more; and

Whereas, While HECO and KIUC continue to install solar and energy storage, the state requirements allow these two electric utilities to take their time in adding renewable capacity since they currently meet the requirement through 2039 without having to increase their renewable energy percentages; and

Whereas, Removing biomass and biofuels from the state RPS law's definition of renewable energy will encourage HECO and KIUC to develop clean, non-combustion renewables sooner in order to meet the 2030 and 2040 targets, displacing oil-burning and helping the climate and environment; and

Whereas, Disqualifying these combustion sources will not prevent HECO and KIUC from complying with the state RPS law, and will not disrupt existing power purchase agreements with the currently-operating biomass incinerators on O'ahu and Kaua'i, but will discourage expansion of these climate and health-damaging fuels; and

Whereas, Biomass and biofuels are among the most expensive power sources, even compared to solar, wind and energy storage, which are becoming some of the cheapest power sources; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to support legislation to eliminate combusting biomass and biofuels as eligible sources under the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard law; and be it

Resolved, that the State Legislature is urged to amend the Renewable Portfolio Standard to ensure that utilities have greater incentive to develop renewables with existing structures and infrastructure rather than on agriculture zoned or undeveloped land; and

Ordered, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Chief Energy Officer, Hawai'i State Legislators who are members of the Democratic Party, and City Departments of Environmental Services and Planning and Permitting.

2024-11: Urging the Party and Legislators to work together to secure passage of legislation to legalize or decriminalize marijuana

Whereas, The O'ahu Democrats support legalization of marijuana by adults for personal use; and

Whereas, The longstanding prohibition on marijuana use has burdened law enforcement, the courts and the prison system; and

Whereas, The "War on Drugs" approach has impaired honest discussion about drug use and drug abuse; and

Whereas, The net effect of the criminalization of marijuana use has been detrimental to public health, safety and personal liberty; and

Whereas, The Democratic Party has already passed a resolution to legalize or decriminalize marijuana, and

Whereas, The 2013 Hawai'i State legislature was unwilling to pass legislation to legalize marijuana, or even to decriminalize it; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That O'ahu County Democrats call upon the O'ahu Democratic legislators to support legislation to legalize the personal use of marijuana by adults; and be it further

Resolved, That O'ahu County Democrats urge the State Democratic Party to make passage of a marijuana legalization bill a priority for the 2025-2026 legislative session; and, finally, be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all Democratic members of the State legislature.

2024-16: Urging the Governor of Hawai'i to End the Hawai'i-Israel Strategic Partnership

Whereas, In October 2022, then-Governor David Ige signed a Joint Declaration for the State of Hawai'i with the State of Israel establishing a "strategic partnership for friendly exchanges and cooperation between Hawai'i and Israel," and a formal relationship between both governments "to foster economic cooperation, facilitate joint industrial research and development, and enhance business relationships, research and educational opportunities";

Whereas, Between October 7, 2023, and March 22, 2024, Israel's assault on Gaza has damaged and destroyed 70 percent of all homes, displaced 80 percent of the population, and claimed the lives of more than 32,000 Palestinians, the vast majority of which are civilians;

Whereas, Over 2,600 persons have signed a petition demanding that the "strategic partnership" with the State of Israel signed by Governor Ige in October, 2022 be terminated;

Whereas, On February 29, 2024, 15 Hawai'i-based community organizations, including Jewish Voice for Peace - Hawai'i, held a press conference at the Hawai'i State Capitol calling for Hawai'i Governor Josh Green to terminate any relationship the State of Hawai'i has with Israel, citing the genocide being conducted in Gaza against Palestinians;

Whereas, On the very day of the press conference, the Israeli military killed 107 and wounded over 700 starving Palestinians that were attempting to get food for their families from humanitarian relief trucks;

Whereas, On February 22, 2024, the Office of Governor Josh Green issued a letter¹ stating his commitment to "unbreakable bonds" between the U.S. and Israel and enduring commitment to Israel's security"; and

Whereas, Increased international pressure is critical to putting an end to the U.S.-backed Israeli assault on Gaza; therefore be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Governor of Hawai'i to terminate all "strategic partnerships" between the State of Hawai'i and Israel; and be it

Ordered; That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of the Governor and Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the President of the Hawai'i State Senate and the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are Democrats.

2024-18: Urging the U.S. Government to Permanently End Rim of the Pacific Military Training Exercises

¹ The letter from the Governor's Office on February 22, 2024, reads:

"Under Governor Green's administration, this commitment to Israel's security continues to be bipartisan and sacrosanct. The United States remains steadfast in preserving and strengthening Israel's capability to deter threats and defend itself. Additionally, the pledge never to allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon remains integral to this partnership.

The historic Memoranda of Understanding on security assistance, signed by successive U.S. administrations, further demonstrate the unwavering support for Israel's security. These arrangements underscore the importance of Israel's security to U.S. interests and regional stability.

Governor Green's administration upholds the commitments outlined in the Joint Declaration, ensuring the enduring U.S.-Israel strategic partnership remains strong and steadfast."

2024-18: Urging the U.S. Government to Permanently End Rim of the Pacific Military Training Exercises

Whereas, Every two years, the United States Navy 3rd Fleet hosts the Rim of the Pacific Exercises (RIMPAC) in Hawai'i;

Whereas, RIMPAC is the largest maritime war games in the world and, in 2022, brought 26 nations, 38 surface ships, three submarines, nine national land forces, more than 30 unmanned systems, approximately 170 aircraft and over 25,000 personnel to participate in Hawai'i;

Whereas, RIMPAC includes sink exercises (SINKEX) in which 56 decommissioned ships have been sunk just 50 nautical miles off of Kaua'i;

Whereas, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Navy documents state that highly toxic chemicals are released into the marine environment as a result of SINKEX, including asbestos, lead paint, antifouling paint containing tributyltin (TBT), polybrominated diphenyl esters (PBDEs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are a suspected carcinogen that has been targeted for global phaseout under the Stockholm Convention;

Whereas, RIMPAC includes live fire trainings and amphibious assault trainings on land that is sacred to the Native Hawaiian people at Mōkapu, Waimānalo, Nōhili, and Pōhakuloa, which triggered a large brush fire near Pōhakuloa Training Area in in 2018;

Whereas, In 2018, the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women launched a campaign to highlight the increased surge in sex trafficking and sex buying during RIMPAC;

Whereas, RIMPAC's participating nations include serious human rights violators such as Israel, which is currently conducting an ongoing assault on civilian populations in Gaza;

Whereas, RIMPAC reinforces and intensifies the militarization of the Asia-Pacific region and heightens tensions with China;

Whereas, The scale and magnitude of these war games therefore produce significant environmental, cultural, social, and geopolitical harm to Hawai'i;

Whereas, Genuine security and economic wellbeing will be achieved through diplomacy and exchange rather than increasing militarization; and

Whereas, Community leaders have opposed RIMPAC since 1980, and 13,000 individuals and organizations signed a petition to cancel the maritime exercises in 2020; therefore be it

Resolved, That the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the United States Government to permanently end Rim of the Pacific Military Training Exercises; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the offices of President Joe Biden, the U.S. Secretary of Defense, the members of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, the U.S. House Minority Leader, the Governor and Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command, the President of the Hawai'i State Senate and the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are Democrats.

2024-19: Supporting Zero Waste Strategies for Clean Air, Job Creation, and to Conserve Landfill Space

Whereas, The principles of Zero Waste and the Zero Waste Hierarchy resonate with our values of mālama 'āina and aloha 'āina, caring for the land and the future generations; and

Whereas, We find ourselves in a waste crisis that impacts public health, with a disproportionate impact on Native Hawaiian communities, making our waste system a matter of environmental justice; and

Whereas, Zero Waste is defined as the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of all products, packaging, and materials without burning them and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health; and

Whereas, the Zero Waste Hierarchy starts with rethinking and redesigning systems and products, and is followed by methods to 1) reduce, 2) reuse/repair, 3) recycle, and 4) compost materials, avoiding waste, then to 5) use material recovery methods to extract more recyclables from waste, and to 6) biologically stabilize any remaining organic material before 7) securely landfilling any residual; and

Whereas, incineration and other “waste-to-energy” technologies, including pyrolysis and other waste-to-fuels schemes, are the most expensive and polluting ways to manage waste or to make energy – more harmful than landfilling or burning coal – and are thus deemed unacceptable in a Zero Waste system; and

Whereas, Zero Waste strategies include Extended Producer Responsibility, bottle deposit laws such as the HI-5 program, unit-based pricing (paying per bag or per bin), curbside collection of recyclables and compostables, education and enforcement of mandatory recycling and composting in the residential, commercial/institutional, and industrial sectors, mandatory deconstruction, and a variety of other policies, programs and infrastructure which reduce waste and pollution, and create jobs and economic value; and

Whereas, Extended Producer Responsibility holds product manufacturers accountable by making them pay a fee for excessive packaging, encouraging redesign, and such a policy should be administered by the state to fund solutions within the Zero Waste Hierarchy, particularly reuse systems; and

Whereas, a 2021 life cycle analysis conducted for the County of Hawai'i found that incineration of paper and plastics at the H-POWER incinerator on O'ahu is the most harmful option for health and environment, that landfilling is far less damaging, and that recycling those materials (even after barging them thousands of miles to market) is a huge health and environmental benefit; and

Whereas, all four counties are feeling the pressure of limited landfill space, and the need to expand existing landfills or site new ones and no one has built a commercial-scale trash gasification or pyrolysis facility in the U.S., and despite hundreds of attempts, no trash incinerator has been built at a new site since 1995 due to high costs and community opposition and that continuing to pursue these is a waste of time and money; and

Whereas, Zero Waste solutions create the most jobs and fill landfills most slowly without increasing toxicity of landfills by burying incinerator ash in them instead of unburned trash, and that incineration merely turns every 100 tons of trash into 30 tons of toxic ash to be landfilled; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the O'ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urge the Hawai'i State Legislature and each county council to formally adopt the internationally peer-reviewed definition of Zero Waste and the Zero Waste Hierarchy as codified by the Zero Waste International Alliance, and to adopt only policies and programs that do not violate Zero Waste principles; and be it

Ordered, that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Department of Health, Hawai'i State Legislators for the island of O'ahu who are members of the Democratic Party, and the Mayors and City Councils of each county in the State of Hawai'i who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.