

DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIORITIES FOR STATE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

(Final List Approved by DPH State Central Committee on 1/18/16)

Sociocultural-Economic Wellbeing (Includes Education and Labor Issues)

- Death with Dignity (Ensuring that mentally capable, terminally ill adults may facilitate a peaceful death by self-administration of lethal medications prescribed by a physician.)
- Drop-in Centers (for homeless youth especially, combine with training and certification in skills and trades; mentoring (without requirement of accompanied by parent or guardian)
- Improve Education statewide though expanded programs and funding:
 - Programs- expand scope of programs, e.g. trades certification programs, life skills, special education
 - Funding- Substantially increase funding and designate funding sources for public schools: pre-k to college, including community colleges
- Require insurers to provide equal access to IVF for same sex couples
- Increase minimum wage \$15/hr over 2-3 years, thereafter index to CPI to adjust for inflation
- Establish right to Paid sick leave for minimum of 5 days earned annually
- Allow collective bargaining rights by graduate assistants at UH
- Raise tax rates on highest tax bracket
- Upgrade bankruptcy exemptions for homestead/personal property, especially for elderly
- Expand school impact fees (if possible include allowing funds to be used for major repairs)
- Increase availability of affordable rental housing and housing for homeless
- Oppose further privatization of State owned hospitals
- Prohibit conversion therapy (to change individual's sexual orientation)
- Support state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) equal to at least 10% of federal EITC
- Require that Hawaii Coffee labeled blends be a minimum of 51% Hawaii grown coffee
- Fund Hawaiian Health Authority to prepare plan by 12/17 for universal health coverage

Environmental Wellbeing:

- Enact “styrofoam” & oxybenzone bans (and other measures supporting marine/ocean health focused legislation)
- Support invasive species programs/funding: in particular for little red fire ants and bio-security plan upgrade, including creating an Invasive Species Authority in the Department of Agriculture
- Restrict use of toxic herbicides (e.g. “Round-up”): including limiting usage in public areas and waterways

Government Wellbeing (if any such legislation is proposed):

- Raise government ethical standards and accountability
- Reduce government corruption
- Increase open government/transparency
- Police and police commission reform

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