

ADA/H & HAWAII DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLUTION

REGARDING UNIVERSAL SINGLE PAYER PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, each citizen's Constitutional right to the pursuit of happiness depends upon maintaining health; and

WHEREAS, 41 million people in the United States and about 120,000 in Hawai'i have either low or inadequate health care coverage;

WHEREAS, health insurance costs for small businesses have increased steadily since 1998 and are predicted to double over the next four years, and small businesses are often forced to hire part-time staff with no benefits; and

WHEREAS, insurance companies, being businesses, must work to protect and increase profits even when doing so is to the detriment of the very health care they are meant to provide; and

WHEREAS, many families with access to health care are driven into poverty by the high cost of premiums, high deductibles, and out-of-pocket costs; and

WHEREAS, enormous profits have been made by the insurance, pharmaceutical, and hospital industries, and enormous salaries are paid to upper management in such corporations, and removal of the profit motive from the health care system would refocus the system on health; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. is the only country in the developed world not to have program of national health care; and

WHEREAS, at least since World War II the U.S. has had extraordinary professional and institutional capability in health care but has had seriously deficient delivery systems; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Congressmen John Conyers, Dennis Kucinich, and 50 additional cosponsors introduced HB676 in July 2003 to establish a national single-payer health plan covering all Americans all the time, to be funded through a combination of progressive payroll and income taxes; and

WHEREAS, under HB676, all Americans would have medical coverage everywhere, all the time, without deductibles or co-payments; and

WHEREAS, Physicians for a National Health Program have the signatures of 15,000 physicians in the U.S. backing HB676; and

WHEREAS, an estimate of the national cost of health care under HB 676 by Physicians for a National Health Program would be reduced from \$3.3 trillion to \$2.1 trillion, a saving of \$1.1 trillion a year, and the General Accounting Office concludes that "the savings in administrative costs would be more than enough to offset the cost" ; now

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Hawai'i vigorously support Hawaii and National legislation to establish a universal single payer health program, publicly financed but privately delivered, modeled on or leading to U.S. House Bill 676 (2003), wherein all Americans are covered for all kinds of illness, everywhere, regardless of pre-existing conditions, with benefits equal to that provided the President of the United States, including **1. primary care and prevention, 2. inpatient care, 3 outpatient care, 4 emergency care, 5. prescription drugs, 6. durable medical equipment, 7. long term care, 8.mental health services, 9. full dental service, 10. substance abuse treatment, 11. chiropractic and other licensed health services, 12. basic vision and hearing treatment.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Democratic members of the Hawai'i State Legislature and to members of the Hawai'i Congressional delegation.

SUBMITTED BY George Simson 24-1, Bea Becker 37-4, and the Maui County Convention. Passed unanimously by Hawaii State Democratic Party Convention, 30 May 2004, and incorporated into Hawaii State Democratic Party Platform, 2004.