

## **Urging The Hawai`i State Legislature To Enact Legislation For The Public Funding Of Election Campaigns**

**Whereas**, the cost of political campaigns have been skyrocketing, with spending for Hawai`i's campaigns increasing a few hundred percent since the 1970's; and

**Whereas**, the current campaign funding process drives up the cost of election campaigns, placing at a disadvantage candidates without access to large contributors or personal fortunes thus diminishing their ability to mount competitive campaigns; and

**Whereas**, as qualified candidates are provided with adequate funds to communicate with voters, our selections would better reflect our best judgments based on adequate information about all of the candidates; and

**Whereas**, it is in the public's interest that our elected officials concentrate on solving our state's problems and not be distracted by the need to raise huge sums of money for their campaigns, nor have to worry about antagonizing those who have donated generously to their campaigns; and

**Whereas**, the current campaign finance system fails to discourage elected officials from accepting large campaign contributions from private interests that may be directly affected by governmental actions and from enacting laws favoring those contributors' interest to the detriment of the interest of citizens who are not large contributors; and

**Whereas**, taxpayers pay for the campaign contributions of corporations and large industries in the form of higher cost of goods and services, subsidies and tax exemptions for corporations and industries, and unfair tax laws; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved**, by the Democratic Party of Hawai`i that it urges the Hawai`i State Legislature to enact legislation to provide for the public funding of election campaigns, as well as mayoral and county council races, as an alternative means of campaign financing available to candidates who promise to abide by campaign spending limits and other requirements as described by law.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the State Legislature is requested to enact legislation in 2005 to provide for comprehensive public funding of state house races beginning in 2006, to be followed by other statewide, as well as mayoral and county council races, when sufficient sources of public funding are established, as an alternative means of comprehensive campaign financing available to candidates who promise to abide by campaign spending limits and other requirements as described by law; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the presiding officers, to Democratic members of the House of Representatives and Senate, and to all Democratic candidates who are seeking the same offices.