

**PRESS RELEASE
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Democratic Party of Hawai'i Encourages Members and the Public to Get Vaccinated Now

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i is encouraging its members and all Hawai'i residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19, especially with the threat of new variants emerging worldwide and the continued community spread currently underway throughout the islands. While 66.5% of the total state population has been vaccinated against COVID-19 to date, there are still nearly 150,000 eligible Hawai'i residents who have not yet received the vaccine.

[The Democratic Party of Hawai'i's State Central Committee, the governing body of the organization, recently passed Resolution 2021-03](#) by a unanimous vote, which "encourages all members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and all members of the public who are eligible, and who do not otherwise have a medical contraindication or hold an objection based on bona fide religious tenets and practices, to get vaccinated against COVID-19 to keep themselves, their family members, and others in the community safe from significant COVID-19 illness."

"The vaccine is the most effective tool we have to protect ourselves, our families, and our neighbors against COVID-19. Everyone must play their part to help us end the pandemic - including our members," said Shannon Matson, Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine in May at the Pāhoa Community Center. Matson has been active in the Puna community assisting with food distribution during the pandemic, and also led the Hawai'i County Democratic Party's food drive over the July 4th weekend.

"This resolution is an important step toward ending the pandemic in the islands, and I am proud of our party's leadership body for making their position in strong support of vaccination crystal clear," said Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, who received two doses of the Moderna vaccine this spring at the Windward Health Center.

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