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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Hawaii's First

Q2

Party

Republican

Q3

First Name

Taylor

Q4

Last Name

Smith

Q5

Email

taylorjsmith@live.com

Q6

Phone

281-408-6423

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

Campaign Website

Page 2: COVID-19 Response and Recovery

Q8

What steps do you think our state and/or counties should take to aid this recovery? Some examples could include how you think federal funds should be spent, diversifying the state's economy, etc.

One of the biggest concerns I have is the economic impact to the state, while people are celebrating the low case and death count, it is a major concern for me going forward that tourism tends to lag the economy and diversification is definitely needed. One way to increase Hawai'i's economic independence and competitiveness in industries would be the repeal of the Jones Act.

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

Please share some of the efforts you have led or participated in response to COVID-19.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

The cost of efforts related to Covid have been outrageous, 3 trillion dollars spent to save an estimated 300,000 lives puts the cost at around 10 million per life saved, more cost efficient methods could and should have been enacted, the cost per person in America is over 10,000 and that's all people including children. The average age of the deceased is close to life expectancy, and with a similar amount invested in any other disease/condition research/prevention efforts the amount of life generated/saved would be tenfold on the low end. Public funds being thrown away meaninglessly is not in America or the people's best interest. There will inevitably be new tax that comes from our governments actions and it is a cost I can neither afford nor support.

Page 3: Tobacco and E-Cigarette Regulations

Q11

What policies do you think the state and/or counties should enact to reduce tobacco and e-cigarette use?

I believe in allowing the consumer to make informed decisions even if they are detrimental to their own health. Taxes on tobacco have been shown to be ineffective at preventing its use, not to mention taxing a marginalized group is ethically wrong. To use someone's addiction or chemical dependency for the purpose of increasing state funds at the detriment of cost of living is not something I support. Any effort to reduce tobacco use should stand on informing the general public about the health risks and not increasing a tax in a state that is already one of the highest in the country. We live in a time now where smoking being hazardous is no longer a secret, information is everywhere and no one is denying it, its time for the government to let people make their own decisions.

Q12

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Apply a tobacco tax to e-cigarettes, such as a percentage of the wholesale cost or taxing e-liquid by volume. | Strongly Oppose |
| Prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and flavored e-liquids. | Strongly Oppose |
| Restrict online sales of e-cigarettes to tobacco retailers only, in order to curb illegal sales to minors. | Strongly Oppose |
| Increase the tobacco tax on cigarettes to help smokers quit and prevent new users from starting. | Strongly Oppose |
| Funds from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes should fund tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. | Strongly Support |
-

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

Page 4: Healthy Eating + Active Living

Q14

What steps do you think the state and/or counties should take to ensure food security for all of Hawaii's people, and to significantly increase food self-sufficiency for our state?

Food self sufficiency is a strong and noble goal, one issue inhibiting that is overfishing of migratory fish prior to them reaching our waters, international efforts must be undertaken to stop Japanese fishermen from disregarding the international agreed upon limits. Agricultural development with new technologies and methods can also help reach the goal.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

In 2019, Hawai'i made a commitment to adopt Vision Zero, an initiative to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. What policies and infrastructure changes should the state and/or counties make to achieve this goal?

Q16

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

We must significantly increase public investment in food systems workforce development, including programs such as farm to school, agriculture and food systems education (PreK-12 and higher education), and farmer training programs. **Support**

The state should continue to invest in a Double Up Food Bucks program, which doubles the value of SNAP benefits when buying fresh, locally grown produce at participating retailers. **Support**

Enact a one-cent per-ounce fee on sugar-sweetened beverages. **Oppose**

Use revenue from a sugar-sweetened beverage fee for obesity prevention programs. **Oppose**

Make health and physical education (PE) courses a curriculum requirement, rather than an option, for middle school students. PE is currently a requirement for elementary and high school students. **Strongly Support**

Implement a red light camera program to deter red-light running and help curb traffic fatalities and injuries. **Oppose**

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

Red light cameras have been shown ineffective and is just another ploy to increase tax in the name of public safety.

Page 5: Oral Health

Q18

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Reinstate coverage of preventative dental benefits for Adult Medicaid participants. **Support**

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

I am not knowledgeable enough about fluoridation to have an informed opinion.

Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

Q20

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Increase in alcohol taxes. | Oppose |
| Repeal of the alcohol takeout laws that allow people to buy and take home liquor-based mixed drinks from restaurants. | Oppose |
| Repeal of alcohol delivery laws that allow restaurants to deliver beer and liquor-based mixed drinks to people's homes. | Strongly Oppose |
| Increase in enforcement that helps ensure that youth do not access alcohol through existing laws allowing for alcohol takeout and delivery. | Oppose |
-

Q21

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

Q22

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Do you support legalizing recreational marijuana sales in Hawai'i? | Support |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana be regulated by the Department of Health? | Oppose |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated? | Oppose |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the promotion and advertisement of marijuana sales be regulated? | Support |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana potency be regulated? | Support |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the number and placement of marijuana outlets be regulated? | Support |
-

Q23

Additional thoughts/comments:

This is a state issue so my perspective shouldn't matter much.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

What are your immediate plans to help make Hawai'i more affordable for its residents?

Jones Act repeal has consistently not been supported at the federal level so progress on this end is optimistic but keeping Air B&B out of Hawai'i is a reasonable in responsible action for the state. From a national perspective it is time to raise minimum wage and fixing it to adjust yearly for inflation is one way to prevent the need to continually argue this issue.

Q25

What is the role of government in addressing housing affordability issues and what would you do to encourage the production of more affordable homes for Hawai'i residents?

One issue that housing vouchers and government subsidized housing brings is inflated demand which pushes up the price of housing making home ownership more difficult and increases the rent brought in and therefore the only thing it really does is increase the wealth of the rich. Affordable housing is important especially when people who have lived in a place for generations are being driven out by rising costs. What is the governments role in fixing this issue well to me it's plain, government assistance should not only exist for renters but also create a path to homeownership for the people. I believe additional consideration should be given based on heritage and family ties to an area.

Q26

Respondent skipped this question

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Q27

Additional thoughts/comments:

The final two questions are very state specific and do not apply to the position I am running for.
