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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

US House of Representatives, Congressional District 2

Q2

Party

Libertarian

Q3

First Name

Michelle

Q4

Last Name

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Q5

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Q7

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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.

I feel the most effective and realistic way to help aid the Hawaii State economy is to remove the restrictions set in place by the Jones Act. These restrictions account for up to 30% of our cost of living and exempting (at minimum) Hawaii from these restrictions would allow our residents to get more out of the income we have in our current household budgets. Spending would also disburse into more businesses, which would stimulate the economy naturally.

Q9

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

I have personally worked to ensure that people have access to a wide array of information so that they can make informed decisions about their own health. I remain personally responsible for my own health and ensure I continue to engage in the basic habits my family taught me when I was a child: hand washing, using tissues and covering coughs. I also elect to be responsible to my community by staying home if I feel ill, another piece of advice I've been given from my parents since childhood.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

The paternal posture the government has taken with our citizenry is inappropriate and unconstitutional. I feel this is just another example of the government overstepping its authority and abusing the trust of our people.

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 feel the government has demonstrated its inability to control the tobacco market. Further, adult use of tobacco products is a personal choice that should not be infringed by government. I am disturbed by the prevalence of juvenile tobacco use and distressed to know that youth are using e-cigarettes in classrooms. I believe that family-based approaches are best when addressing juvenile behavior and would be interested in reviewing the effectiveness of similar programs already in use. Punishing adult users of e-liquids is not a path to eliminating juvenile use. Additionally, many cannabis patients elect to use e-liquids as a cannabis suspension so that they are able to medicate without smoking. To enact measures that increase the cost of these items is unfair to those populations, which already carry a disproportionate burden of expense for their chosen medical treatment.

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 Oppose |
-

Q13

Additional thoughts/comments:

I would like to address each of the previous 5 questions.

- Applying tobacco tax to e-cigarettes does not reduce the frequency of use and punishes people who use e-cigarettes as a step toward quitting cigarettes.
 - Preventing the sale of flavored tobacco products does not lower use. Nicotine addiction is well known and making the delivery "less tasty" will not make the user any less addicted.
 - Restricting e-cigarette sales online will not lower use and will do even more damage to an already crippled economy.
 - Increasing the taxes on tobacco products will not help anyone quit, raising taxes only takes more money from people who need it for other expenses like food. Charging more for something doesn't magically make it non-addictive and charging more for cigarettes won't make people quit using them.
 - Funds from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes should go into paying for the medical treatment of people suffering from tobacco related illnesses.
-

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?

I believe one of our top priorities is to reestablish a cash crop in the state. I would suggest cannabis, both in the form of industrial hemp and marijuana. Our year round growing season and the over 20,000 different applications for industrial hemp would allow Hawaii's agricultural economy to boom. Hemp grows from seed to harvest in 100 days on average and enriches the soil as it grows. Hemp makes everything from paper to biofuel and pulls toxins from contaminated soil (called phytoremediation), so planting it in contaminated areas like Red Hill will heal the earth. Hemp seeds are edible and have all 20 essential amino acids, making them a superfood. Hemp crops can be alternated with additional food crops to prevent nutrient leeching out of the soil and will ensure our farmers have adequate income to continue developing their farmlands.

In addition to this, I believe eliminating the restrictions of the Jones Act on our state will allow Hawaii to become an active presence in the international commercial market. The current shipping restrictions created by the Jones Act prevent this, cutting off a huge amount of potential revenue.

Q15

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?

One of the most important steps to reducing the frequency of traffic fatalities is making sure all traffic and pedestrian signs and signals are clear. Additional lighted crosswalks are necessary and we should have an online process for citizens to suggest locations for needed crosswalk installations. Another unused tool for addressing traffic fatalities is the management of road traffic through effective use of lane mergers and direction. By using strategies that manage the movement of traffic effectively, we can reduce the frequency of all traffic accidents and reduce traffic.

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. **Support**

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. **Strongly Oppose**

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

My answers to the multiple choice questions are complex. I selected the choice I feel is closest to my position. Please go to my website for more detailed responses. Mahalo!

Q18

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Reinstate coverage of preventative dental benefits for Adult Medicaid participants. | Strongly Support |
| Fluoridation of community water supplies is an effective way to prevent tooth decay. | Strongly Oppose |
-

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

Dental care is important. I strongly oppose the fluoridation of public water sources. I grew up in a city with a fluoridated water source and it was ineffective in improving oral health. Additionally, fluoride is debatable on not only its effectiveness but also its safety. Fluoridating public water prevents people from regulating their intake, which is very dangerous - even Flinstones vitamins can kill you if too many are eaten. The difference between a poison and a medicine is dosage, putting fluoride in our public water means we could poison ourselves with the water out of our own sinks. I would like to ask if it is possible to get the fluoride out if we change our mind later or if this is basically a Pandora's Box situation. (Once it's done, it cannot be undone.)

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. | Oppose |
| Increase in enforcement that helps ensure that youth do not access alcohol through existing laws allowing for alcohol takeout and delivery. | Support |
-

Q21

Additional thoughts/comments:

I do not feel that punishing adult use by increasing costs or forcing people to drive to get alcohol (just equals more drunks on the road) is the best way to address this issue. Many in Hawaii are house bound, don't own transportation or simply don't want to wear a mask and go into a store. It is inappropriate to restrict adult access under the ruse of protecting children. Parents need to be responsible for their children, it is their kuleana, not the government's. I would suggest if the state would like to make positive changes toward eliminating youth access to alcohol, the state should make the penalty for selling alcohol to a minor a little higher than a few hundred dollars fine. The laws on the books would be adequate if the state took alcohol and tobacco related violations more seriously and increased the penalties associated with breaking those laws.

Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

Q22

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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

Q23

Additional thoughts/comments:

I have experience both internationally and throughout the United States in cannabis availability, regulation, use and commerce. I support the full redaction (removal) of marijuana (and/or cannabis) from the criminal code. Federal laws do not regulate cannabis, as it is a state's jurisdiction. This is why state-to-state treatment of cannabis is so widely varied. This is also why there are "no regulatory guidelines" from the federal government, the federal government does not have jurisdiction to regulate cannabis.

The regulation of pricing, promotion, potency levels, and outlet distribution for cannabis does little more than create a protected market where the state chooses who will be allowed to profit. This type of regulation has little to do with public health and far more to do with controlling which wallets get fatter. There are over a hundred thousand clinical studies showing the medical benefits of the cannabis plant and not a single documented case of cannabis caused death in history. I believe that the evidence shows that regulating cannabis is a waste of time and taxpayer money.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

My immediate plan to reduce the cost of living in Hawaii and make it affordable to its residents is to eliminate the effects of the Jones Act. The shipping restrictions put in place by this act increase the cost of living in Hawaii by up to 30%. Eliminating the Jones Act would reduce shipping costs, meaning more affordable prices once products hit the shelves.

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?

The government needs to eliminate a large portion of its regulatory body regarding building small residential structures and "upgrades". Hawaii county residents are required to get a permit to put a window mounted air-conditioner in their own residence. We can all agree that this type of "regulation" is unnecessary, inappropriate and an abuse of authority. If people weren't paying thousands in permits (and waiting weeks/months for approvals) to build for themselves on their own property, the housing shortage would be reduced. Additionally, there are ineffective and wasteful construction practices required by the state that pollute our environment and create frivolous expenses.

Q26

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Increase the state's minimum wage in a series of annual steps to a living wage of \$17 per hour. **Strongly Oppose**

Create a statewide Paid Family Leave Program, which would allow up to 12 weeks for employees to provide care for a newborn, bond with a new child, or care for a family member with a serious health condition. **Strongly Oppose**

Q27

Additional thoughts/comments:

Increasing the minimum wage will only cause inflation and prevent small business owners from being able to employ enough workers to run their businesses. The increased cost to run the business will get passed on to the consumer, meaning all products will cost more as well, making the increased wage worthless. Eliminating the Jones Act is a far better way of reaching a living wage because the prices of all our goods would go down and we could afford to live on our current wages.

I think a paid family leave program is a great idea for businesses to adopt on their own but it is not a program that our government can afford to create at this time. Hawaii government cannot keep spending funds it doesn't have and expect the tax payers in the state to pay the bill. New programs should be developed and implemented when the state has available funds and not before. The fiscal irresponsibility of our state is out of control and now the state economy is collapsing. It is not the time to start new financial obligations.
