

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Invitation 1 (Email)
Started: Thursday, June 11, 2020 5:53:29 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:29:15 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
First Name: Shannon Lopeka
Last Name: Matson
Email: electshannonmatson@gmail.com
IP Address: 72.234.244.164

Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

State House of Representatives District 3

Q2

Party

Democrat

Q3

First Name

Shannon

Q4

Last Name

Matson

Q5

Email

shann.matson@gmail.com

Q6

Phone

8089373037

Q7

Campaign Website

electshannonmatson@gmail.com

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.

It is shocking to me that our State decided to bank so much of our Federal funds-rather than immediately distributing CARES Act funding to support all of the public health and community response initiatives. This money could significantly help with our short-term and long-term economic recovery, including aiding in small-scale agricultural programs for future food security, alternative energy infrastructure, small business assistance, and financial aid for immigrants/low-income people who were unable to qualify for federal stimulus funding.

Q9

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

Over the past few months I've organized and participated in handing out "keiki care packs" and personally distributed food at over 4 different community centers, to hundreds of our community members in need, as well as countless direct food delivery to kūpuna and other vulnerable community members. I've also published lists of food and financial resource links on my website and on social media and made phone calls to community members to educate them on safety and explain the often conflicting updates from the State and County.

Q10

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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?

As a teen I was the Vice President of our local anti-tobacco group: BREATHE (Bringing Resistance Education About Tobacco to Hawaii and Everywhere) so this is a topic I have cared about for a long time. I think education first is key. I would be supporting any programs that would continue this work of educating our youth about tobacco products and their harm. Any tobacco/smoking items that are marketed to kids (cartoon characters, candy flavors, etc.) should definitely be banned and all sales to minors should carry heavy fines and utmost restrictions.

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 Support |
| Prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and flavored e-liquids. | Strongly Support |
| Restrict online sales of e-cigarettes to tobacco retailers only, in order to curb illegal sales to minors. | Support |
| Increase the tobacco tax on cigarettes to help smokers quit and prevent new users from starting. | Support |
| Funds from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes should fund tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. | Strongly Support |
-

Q13

Additional thoughts/comments:

The reason why I don't STRONGLY support both restricting online sales to retailers only and increasing tobacco tax further is that this is a regressive taxation option that mostly hurts low income folks. While I would absolutely be in favor of both of these measures, I would only strongly support these if there was somehow a way to tax wealthier individuals at a higher rate on these items so it isn't just negatively impacting low income people.

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?

We need to prioritize funding and incentivize small scale, sustainable farming. I see the number one way to ensure we have future farmers is through our education system. I would be supporting farm-to-table programs at the DOE level and through other State programs, and be working towards creating opportunities for students to have an active participation in learning about and supporting farming practices in school; growing their own food, harvesting their own food, preparing their own food, and eating their own food. If we are able to create interactive, and fun programs in which our keiki learn the importance of being food-self-sufficient and experience the joy in feeding themselves from food they grow we will help to create the next generation of family farmers. This is crucial to support our goals of resiliency and improving the local economy.

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?

We need safer roads. More shoulders, well-lit, well-maintained roads will make a difference. Also increasing our public transportation options will greatly help. I am in support of all of these policy changes.

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. | Strongly 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. | Strongly Support |
| Enact a one-cent per-ounce fee on sugar-sweetened beverages. | Support |
| Use revenue from a sugar-sweetened beverage fee for obesity prevention programs. | Strongly 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. | Oppose |

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

My concern regarding the tax on sweetened beverages is the same as increasing a tax on tobacco products, while I personally support both ideas most of my district is severely low-income, so by these regressive taxation policies we will potentially be hurting those who already are struggling financially. I would love to see us spend more time/money on education first and preventative health care policies first before deciding to tax our most heavily taxed population further.

Regarding the red-light camera program, I believe we've already decided to do this in our State. I am not in strong support of this due to the additional cost to taxpayers, and the lack of clear evidence showing that these cameras actually reduce accidents. I would need to see more evidence that this program is truly successful in having the desired outcomes and that it wouldn't be more economical for us to have safety officers stationed at some of the busiest intersections to monitor instead.

Page 5: Oral Health

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. | Oppose |

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

There has been a debate about the safety and necessity of fluoridation in our water for decades. I think it needs to come down to public choice, and we definitely need more education to ensure people feel comfortable with this if we were to move forward and do so. I don't think we currently have the buy-in from constituents (even though I know most dentists are in favor) to require fluoridation of the public water supply.

Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

Q20

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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

Q21

Additional thoughts/comments:

Again, I feel that my job as a legislator is not to increase taxes on my overtaxed constituents, or to put regulations in place that may unduly negatively impact small businesses. I would be very much in favor of increasing public education programs to help inform people about the dangers of alcohol addiction as well as limit/restrict and increase all fines for any stores or bars that allow alcohol sales to minors. I would also like to see our state spend more money on alcohol addiction recovery and rehab programs.

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? | Strongly Support |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated? | Strongly Support |
| 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 Support |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana potency be regulated? | Strongly 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? | Strongly Support |
-

Q23

Additional thoughts/comments:

I believe that full legalization of cannabis is inevitable at this point and my job in the legislature would be to ensure that the legalization is done in a way that provides the most safety, security and regulation to prevent youth from accessing it.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

Lower/end regressive taxation practices wherever possible.

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?

We must ensure that there is more access to affordable housing to prevent future at-risk people from becoming houseless. We need to incentivize our developers to make a certain portion of their new developments truly affordable for low-income and middle-income families.

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 Support**

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 Support**

Q27

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:
