

#119

COMPLETE

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Page 1: Candidate Information

**Q1**

Office You are Seeking

State House District 5

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**Q2**

Party

Democratic

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**Q3**

First Name

Colehour

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**Q4**

Last Name

Bondera

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**Q5**

Email

teambondera@gmail.com

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**Q6**

Phone

808-640-1643

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**Q7**

Campaign Website

<https://colehourbondera.com/>

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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.

We need to create and implement a comprehensive plan to prevent and control COVID-19 infections. That plan would include ubiquitous testing both for the active virus and antibodies in those who've recovered from infection, contact tracing, universal precautions to prevent infection, including mandatory facemask requirement, hand-washing, disinfection of high traffic areas. At the same time we need to make sure people have food. Currently, local non-profits, volunteers, businesses, and government agencies are using donations and local, state, and federal funding to feed thousands of residents on Hawai'i island. The people involved are beginning to realize that there is sufficient produce being grown on Hawai'i island to meet local demands. Growing the local agricultural economy to create food-security is one of my primary campaign platform planks. I also support using the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to begin promoting Hawai'i as a place to re-locate for those who have work-at-home jobs. This will bring in additional private income and public revenues as well as reducing our dependence upon tourism.

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**Q9**

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

My daughter, wife, and I are all at high-risk of complications from a COVID-19 infection, so we have been following all public health agency recommendations as well as asking our friends and acquaintances to do so as well in order to prevent unintended harm to us or others. My campaign volunteers all use facemasks and we use campaign photos of us wearing facemask to assist in creating that standard for everyone.

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**Q10**

Additional thoughts/comments:

A plan to test in-coming visitors and residents before and after arrival needs to be developed and implemented in conjunction with other measures previously described. The plan must also be adopted as a corporate policy for all companies involved in transportation to Hawai'i.

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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?

The use of tobacco was declining up until the development and use of e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes are perceived as being a healthy alternative when in fact the lack of regulation prevents any true determination being made. I would ban the use of e-cigarettes as society was able to exist without them prior to their development, production, and sales.

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**Q12**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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|---|-------------------------|
| Apply a tobacco tax to e-cigarettes, such as a percentage of the wholesale cost or taxing e-liquid by volume. | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and flavored e-liquids.      | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Restrict online sales of e-cigarettes to tobacco retailers only, in order to curb illegal sales to minors.    | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Increase the tobacco tax on cigarettes to help smokers quit and prevent new users from starting.              | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Funds from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes should fund tobacco prevention and cessation efforts.     | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
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**Q13**

Additional thoughts/comments:

Nicotine is a toxic substance. Its use is a serious public health threat that must be addressed. If we are to reduce healthcare costs we should be promoting health living and lifestyles and discouraging unhealthy products, including tobacco and fast food.

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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 have a Masters degree in International Agricultural Development and another Masters degree in Agricultural Education. I grew up on a farm with 10 siblings. My wife and I operate a solar-powered, organic farm on which we raised our two children, one a college graduate and another entering her final year of architecture school. My life's work and community volunteer leadership have all been focused on achieving food security for Hawai'i. My wife was directly involved in the creation of Hawai'i's Farm to School program as well as with school garden programs. My plan is Feed Hawaii First. We must act so people don't go hungry. Not now. Not ever. Feed Hawai'i First will be comprehensive program to create a sustainable food-secure local agricultural economy by building upon the network now being created on each island by farms and farmers, non-profits and volunteers, businesses and government agencies using county, state, and federal economic stimulus funding. People are becoming more aware that there is sufficient produce being grown on Hawai'i island to provide for local demand. Having a local agricultural economy that meets local market demands will reduce our carbon footprint. The amount of fossil fuel required to import out-of-state produce will be greatly reduced. Healthy soils and increased plant growth will absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

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**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?

As part of our economic recovery, I will support special revenue bonds to fund construction of bike and walking rights-of-way that are protected from vehicular traffic. As we seek to reduce our carbon footprint, we must improve and increase access to public transportation. I would advocate for legislation to increase enforcement and education as well as identifying dangerous rights-of-way and intersections in order to take mitigating actions.

**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. **Strongly 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. **Strongly Support**

**Q17** **Respondent skipped this question**

Additional thoughts/comments:

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. **Support**

**Q19**

Additional thoughts/comments:

I believe fluoridation of water should be a community decision and should be approved or rejected by referendum.

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Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

**Q20**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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

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**Q21**

Additional thoughts/comments:

Alcohol has had a place in human history since before history. Some studies have shown it can actually lead to better health if used wisely. However, history has also shown it is often abused to the detriment of the individual, their family, and their community. Addiction is a disease. Our society must invest in treating and supporting those struggling with this disease.

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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? **Support**

If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated? **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? **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? **Oppose**

**Q23**

**Respondent skipped this question**

Additional thoughts/comments:

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Page 8: Economic Justice

**Q24**

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

I would be dishonest to say I had an immediate plan to make Hawai'i more affordable for its residents in the midst of a deepening global recession when there is increasing unemployment and thousands of households are like to be in a situation in which they are unable to pay rent, mortgages, and other housing-related expenses. Any immediate plan is going to be based upon local, state, and federal government assistance to people who are in danger of becoming homeless with the objective being to prevent additional homelessness. The federal government should have followed the lead of other developed countries around the world and paid for all or a significant portion of worker's wages and salaries each month during the pandemic. This would have avoided housing issues as well as having prevented thousands of infections and deaths. This is a situation in which the state legislature and the executive branch must work together to gather relevant data and information about the housing market and the financial and social impacts of the current economic downturn and quickly draw conclusions in order to guide decision-making.

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**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?

For years we have lamented the lack of affordable housing, but no effective strategy to create affordable housing has been implemented to date. First, I would support legislation that require construction of affordable homes with prices limited to 100% of median income, instead of the current ceiling of 140%. We must pass laws to identify, penalize, and cease illegal uses of residential homes and farm-dwellings in order to remove those income streams from the determination of the sales price of homes. We must also take action to regulate or enact disincentives for out-of-state speculative investments in residential real estate, which can also drive up prices for all residents. I would support a plan to issue special revenue bonds to fund investment in and construction of true affordable housing projects to build net-zero carbon emission homes with long-term price controls to ensure a reasonable return on investment. This will contribute additional household sustaining wages and benefits for all businesses related to home construction.

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**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**

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**Q27**

Additional thoughts/comments:

I question the approach of setting a certain dollar amount as a "living wage". Would it not be better to approach this problem by creating a method to determine periodically the cost-of-living and calculate a living wage and needed benefits in order to determine whether a household has sustainable income?

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