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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

State Representative House District 7

Q2

Party

Democratic Party of Hawaii

Q3

First Name

David

Q4

Last Name

Tarnas

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808-987-5810

Q7

Campaign Website

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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 think we can restart our tourism sector carefully, meeting all the guidelines for physical distancing, hand hygiene, mask requirements, and sanitation of commonly touched surfaces. To improve the short-term socio-economic well-being of Hawaii Island residents, we need to restart the tourism economy that provide their jobs. We need to implement a model like Alaska to allow trans-Pacific travelers (<https://covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/>). We would need to do very careful screening, testing, quarantine, and contact tracing to keep our levels of virus very low. Then we can market ourselves to the international and mainland traveler as the healthy and safe place to vacation. If we open up the tourism industry, people will go back to work at the hotels, and legal short term vacation rentals. As it gets reestablished, it is likely that the tourism sector will be smaller than it was before. We need to rebuild a right-sized tourism sector that is suitable for the COVID era. Moving forward, we also urgently need to diversify our economy.

Q9

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

In response to COVID-19, I have worked with the State Legislature to pass an amended State budget bill, CARES Act funding appropriation bill, and a Capital Improvement Project funding bill. By doing this we kept the government operating with a balanced budget by cutting vacant positions and cutting expenses without instituting furloughs or pay cuts to government workers. To keep constituents informed, I send out a regular e-newsletter with the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 health metrics, legislation, community service providers, and the latest restrictions on travel, businesses, and social activities. I also make sure to respond to the many emails and phone calls I get from constituents seeking information. Later in June, we will reconvene the legislature and will do additional work on the state budget to incorporate the latest fiscal projections by the Council on Revenues.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

I advocate for legislation that supports economic development that provides meaningful employment and a healthy quality of life for local community members by strengthening the island's core industries of agriculture, tourism, ocean recreation, astronomy, construction, and military training; diversifying the island economy with new and emerging knowledge-based industries and resource-based industries, including renewable energy, large-scale distributed food and fuel production, forestry, aquaculture, marine biotechnology, information technology, ocean monitoring and energy technology R&D, and space technology R&D; and strengthening public education and workforce training offering lifelong learning for the community. I will continue to support program funding to help build these industries through programs at NELHA and PISCES, DOFAW and DBEDT. I will also continue to advocate for funding programs at DLNR and DOA to control alien invasive species that can devastate our agriculture and forests.

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?

We should tax e-cigarettes. We should ban sale of flavored e-cigarette fluid. And we should limit online sales of e-cigarettes.

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. | Strongly Support |
| Increase the tobacco tax on cigarettes to help smokers quit and prevent new users from starting. | Strongly Support |
| 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?

- Increase support for the Farm to School program. Increase support for the SNAP program and the Double Up Food Bucks program, especially to purchase local fresh produce and protein.
- Exempt local produce, meat and fish sales from GET.
- Increase support for food hubs to aggregate and clean produce grown by a distributed network of small farmers, and consolidate it for sale as FSMA certified products to schools, hospitals, prisons and other programs.
-

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 to invest in traffic safety projects to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. We need to train all DOT and DPW road crews in CPR/First Aid so they can respond if they see an injury occur on the road.

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. **Strongly Support**

Q19

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

Q20

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Increase in alcohol taxes. | Strongly Support |
| Repeal of the alcohol takeout laws that allow people to buy and take home liquor-based mixed drinks from restaurants. | Strongly Support |
| Repeal of alcohol delivery laws that allow restaurants to deliver beer and liquor-based mixed drinks to people's homes. | Strongly 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

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? | 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? | Support |
| 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? | 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? | Support |
-

Q23

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

I would support an increase in the minimum wage done in phases over several years up to \$15/hr. I support making the EITC refundable and permanent. I support publicly funded early childhood education and childcare.

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?

Government needs to provide more incentives to developers to build affordable housing, including providing State lands which have already been zoned and permitted for housing so it is less costly to build affordable housing projects.

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. **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. **Support**

Q27

Additional thoughts/comments:

I support the minimum wage increase currently proposed in the legislature, which is to increase it incrementally up to \$15/hr. I have indicated I would be willing to support a higher minimum wage if we can address concerns of the owners of small businesses in my district. Some suggestions are to exempt very small businesses, and to allow employers to pay new untrained workers a lower wage during their initial training period, which would be time limited.
