

#29

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Email Invitation 1 (Email)  
**Started:** Saturday, June 13, 2020 3:16:45 PM  
**Last Modified:** Saturday, June 13, 2020 3:37:33 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:20:47  
**First Name:** Don  
**Last Name:** Couch  
**Email:** don@doncouch.com  
**IP Address:** 72.234.55.132

---

Page 1: Candidate Information

**Q1**

Office You are Seeking

State House District 11

---

**Q2**

Party

Democrat

---

**Q3**

First Name

Don

---

**Q4**

Last Name

Couch

---

**Q5**

Email

don@doncouch.com

---

**Q6**

Phone

808.283.3605

---

**Q7**

Campaign Website

doncouch.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.

I am currently working in the Maui County Mayor's office as we are working feverishly to keep our residents safe from this new and potentially dangerous pandemic. I believe Maui County has done a very good job of balancing the needs of people to get back to work with the need for public safety - healthwise. As better testing and tracing is established, we should open up and get our economy starting to come back to a healthy and sustainable pace.

Federal funds should be used to update some of our lacking infrastructure, assist those who were severely affected and invest in training more young people to become farmers as well as update our high-tech infrastructure to be more competitive in that industry.

---

**Q9**

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

See the answer above.

I helped coordinate food drives and testing stations for those who need. I have worked with the staff here on Maui to make sure we could help people in any way possible.

---

**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 former board president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui, I know first hand the issues involving tobacco use and vaping. I would support stronger legislation to keep these things out of the hands of our youth.

---

**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. | <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> |
- 

**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?

We really need to recruit more young farmers either by training or by incentives to help them make a living doing farming. The average age of farmers here on Maui is a little above 60! that needs to be much lower throughout the whole state.

---

**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?

I was the major champion for modern roundabouts here on Maui. I completely support more walkable & bikeable strategies for our communities. I helped pass Maui's Complete Streets resolution.

---

**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. **Support**

**Q17**

Additional thoughts/comments:

Red light cameras need to be carefully implemented. I fully support the idea - I have seen way too many people run red lights. I hosted a radio show last time this issue came up and at the time there were concerns in other places that there were more incidents with rear-end collisions where there were red light cameras. I have not studied the issue recently but will support a safe implementation of red light cameras.

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 grew up with flouridated water. I seem to be OK. I would need to analyze the latest studies to make sure that it is still a safe recommendation.

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. **Support**
- 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**

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? **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**

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?

Make it easier for affordable accommodations to be safely and smartly built. Give incentives for affordable projects.

---

**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?

See above

---

**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. **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. **Support**

---

**Q27**

**Respondent skipped this question**

Additional thoughts/comments:

---