Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1
Office You are Seeking
Hawaii State House of Representatives

Q2
Party
Aloha 'Aina

Q3
First Name
Theresa

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Last Name
Kapaku

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8084953244
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theresakapaku.com

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.

Let’s help the people transition to industries that are connected to the ‘aina. The land heals, organic, chemical free foods heal, there are great sources of medicine in nature. It’s also mentally and spiritually healing to be connected to ‘aina kuleana or responsibility to the land.

Let’s protect our people from any further spread by maintaining all precautions until the rest of the world deals with COVID. We cannot allow inbound flights and visitors until the global pandemic subsides and virtually disappears.

Community resource hubs that provide food, plants, access to computer, wifi, phone, etc should be made available to ensure ongoing support for the under served and unable.

Q9
Please share some of the efforts you have led or participated in response to COVID-19.

I founded and organized E Maui Kuleana Ala Hele, an action group focused on protecting East Maui communities from threats because of COVID. During the initial height of COVID in late March, I personally stood on the road in peaceful protection of the residents of my community. During the week I stood for my people, I turned away hundreds of recently traveled visitors.

I am a volunteer for food distributions, provide food bearing plants to kupuna, and sponsor free website and social media design for small businesses and farmers.

Q10
Additional thoughts/comments:

Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to express my concern for the safety and health of my people. Ohanas, please be diligent. Let’s not allow this virus to claim another life. Wear your mask and take part in protecting your communities. Grow food, play outdoors, and stay physically and emotionally healthy. Aloha kekahi i kekahi. Let us come out of this crisis with a renewed passion to take care of our ‘aina and each other.
Q11
What policies do you think the state and/or counties should enact to reduce tobacco and e-cigarette use?

Only permit natural cigarettes to be sold in stores.
Any vaping liquids containing non organic ingredients should be banned.

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. Support
- Prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and flavored e-liquids. 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
Additional thoughts/comments: Respondent skipped this question

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?

The first step is farms everywhere. It's very inexpensive to start and extremely rewarding. Each school and home could have a farm, nursery, or garden. For those with space or other constraints, community farming areas could be established for cooperative growing. For folks that choose not to participate in the physical effort, they must be required to contribute in some other fashion. Ahupua'a systems need to be restored and farmed by it's descendants whenever possible to preserve and perpetuate indigenous knowledge. We need to protect our food sources from destruction from tourists, invasive species, and irresponsible perpetrators. In addition to this, we need to prevent large agricultural companies from utilizing large masses of Hawaiian soil to out-price small farms and produce food with genetically modified seeds and chemicals.
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 reduce tourism traffic, it’s exhausting and frustrating for so many residents, which can lead to accidents. Bicycles should have specified areas and not allowed to be in certain dangerous zones. Infrastructure for mopeds, scooters, motorcycles, and bicycles could be planned for and created for their safety.

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
Additional thoughts/comments:  
Respondent skipped this question

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:

Respondent skipped this question

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 Support take home liquor-based mixed drinks from restaurants.

Repeal of alcohol delivery laws that allow restaurants to deliver Oppose beer and liquor-based mixed drinks to people’s homes.

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

Q21
Additional thoughts/comments:

Respondent skipped this question

Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

Q22
Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Do you support legalizing recreational marijuana sales in Strongly Support Hawai’i?

If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how Support strongly would you support that marijuana be regulated by the Department of Health?

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

If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how Support strongly would you support that the promotion and advertisement of marijuana sales be regulated?

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

If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how Support strongly would you support that the number and placement of marijuana outlets be regulated?
Q23
Additional thoughts/comments:

Respondent skipped this question

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24
What are your immediate plans to help make Hawai‘i more affordable for its residents?

We can limit investments from foreign and out of state entities, increase apartment and condominium availability in carefully chosen and designated areas, reduce the availability of transient dwelling permissions, drastically discontinue providing permits for vacation rentals, require the state to provide affordable housing units, increase the availability of well paying jobs, and open up lands managed by DHHL and immediately place every Hawaiian that wishes with any amount of Hawaiian blood quantum on Hawaiian lands.

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 is the provider of infrastructure, policy, and programs that give residents access to affordable housing. Allowing condominiums, town homes, and apartments in specific areas, are great ways to stimulate the availability of affordable housing. Also limiting and preventing non resident, out of state investments will suppress pricing.

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
Additional thoughts/comments:

Respondent skipped this question