

#85

COMPLETE

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Page 1: Candidate Information

**Q1**

Office You are Seeking

State House of Representatives

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**Q2**

Party

Democrat

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**Q3**

First Name

Keith

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**Q4**

Last Name

Kogachi

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**Q5**

Email

keith@keithkogachi.com

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**Q6**

Phone

808-542-8005

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**Q7**

Campaign Website

<https://keithkogachi.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.

First, we need to remind ourselves that this is a global and for us as Americans, a national problem. Accordingly, the damage caused by COVID-19 to our economy is also true for practically all 50 states. Even states such as California which has a more diversified economy with its manufacturing, technology, film and entertainment and service industries have projected significant budget deficits which will not be entirely offset by rainy day funds. California has had to make cuts including furloughing their public workers which will not be restored unless the state receives another round of stimulus in the form of the HEROES Act passed by the House which included a significant amount of support for state and local governments. I believe we need to focus our attention by supporting our elected leaders in Congress in their efforts in reaching final agreement with the Senate and the President. However, even with Federal support, I believe we are still facing a long recovery period over multiple years in our tourism industry especially due to the recent resurgence of the virus in our major market, California. We must therefore be prepared to make difficult decisions that states such as California has made by unfortunately cutting services. In such a difficult environment, we will need to prioritize the services that are critical to maintaining our health and safety including, if necessary, increasing our spending if not covered by Federal support to control the spread of the virus until a vaccine is developed and widely available. With whatever support we do receive from the Federal government we should ensure that to the extent possible we limit significant pay cuts through furloughs and layoffs of our public workforce and to ensure ensure that there is no loss unemployment benefits for the unemployed for as long as possible as I believe we only prolong the economic recovery by steep pay cuts through furloughs and layoffs and stopping unemployment payments to the unemployed.

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**Q9**

Respondent skipped this question

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

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**Q10**

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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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?

I believe the proposals below to tax the sale of such products will make it sufficiently expensive to continue such habits. The funds collected should used to support educational programs on the health dangers of the use of such products.

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**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>Support</b>

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**Q13**

Additional thoughts/comments:

I would hope that we could use these funds during times of extreme financial distress such as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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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?

We will first have to understand/determine the barriers (I would expect (costs of land to operations; supplies, labor, transportation, taxes etc.) to developing a sustainable food production system that provides a higher level of food security than what currently exists. Hopefully, the costs can be addressed by changes in laws such zoning or use changes but I believe we will need to be prepared to make a financial investment in the form of subsidies including tax breaks in order for our local food producers to be able to compete with the cost of food products imported from the mainland.

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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?

I believe we need to revisit deterrent measures for unsafe driving from speeding to driving impaired due to drugs and/or alcohol by increasing the financial penalties including imprisonment for violations of such current laws for speeding and driving under the influence.

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**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. **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. **Oppose**

Use revenue from a sugar-sweetened beverage fee for obesity prevention programs. **Oppose**

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. **Support**

Implement a red light camera program to deter red-light running and help curb traffic fatalities and injuries. **Support**

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**Q17**

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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Page 5: Oral Health

**Q18**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Reinstate coverage of preventative dental benefits for Adult Medicaid participants. **Support**

Fluoridation of community water supplies is an effective way to prevent tooth decay. **Oppose**

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**Q19**

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

**Q20**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- |                                                                                                                                             |                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Increase in alcohol taxes.                                                                                                                  | <b>Oppose</b>  |
| Repeal of the alcohol takeout laws that allow people to buy and take home liquor-based mixed drinks from restaurants.                       | <b>Oppose</b>  |
| Repeal of alcohol delivery laws that allow restaurants to deliver beer and liquor-based mixed drinks to people's homes.                     | <b>Oppose</b>  |
| Increase in enforcement that helps ensure that youth do not access alcohol through existing laws allowing for alcohol takeout and delivery. | <b>Support</b> |
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**Q21**

**Respondent skipped this question**

Additional thoughts/comments:

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Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

**Q22**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Do you support legalizing recreational marijuana sales in Hawai'i?                                                                                                | <b>Oppose</b>  |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana be regulated by the Department of Health?              | <b>Support</b> |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated?                             | <b>Oppose</b>  |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the promotion and advertisement of marijuana sales be regulated? | <b>Support</b> |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana potency be regulated?                                  | <b>Support</b> |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the number and placement of marijuana outlets be regulated?      | <b>Support</b> |
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**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?

These are my four areas of focus. 1. Land - identify lands under state control that can be utilized for affordable housing; 2. Entitlement - these are necessary steps such as environmental impact statements that should be reviewed to ensure that there are no delays that adds to the overall costs of the project. To clarify I am not supporting elimination of steps but that the review, comment and amendment/correction process is given priority over other projects; 3. Permitting process - same as entitlement process as regards plans and specifications for the project and; 4 Incentive/risk sharing - this involves a private public partnership arrangement for the financial risks to be shared with the developer and the state to ensure housing prices are at levels that are "affordable" to a majority of our residents which means prices at levels below the average median income for say a family of four. I would also add restrictions as to the who would qualify for such housing to prevent investors and/or nonresidents from acquiring such housing and also a minimum holding period before the owner can sell the property.

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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?

My view is that the development of affordable housing is key to driving down the cost of living of which housing costs (mortgage or rent) is a major component. Unless we address the cost of living, the trend of net out migration will continue to the detriment of Hawaii. Further, driving down the cost of living through reduction in housing costs will reduce the need to increase the minimum wage.

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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. **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. **Oppose**

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**Q27**

Additional thoughts/comments:

I would oppose given the financial strain on our economy including on employers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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