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First Name: Kim Coco
Last Name: Iwamoto
Email: kimcoco@kimcoco.com
IP Address: 72.234.218.43

Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

State House Representative

Q2

Party

Democratic

Q3

First Name

KIM COCO

Q4

Last Name

IWAMOTO

Q5

Email

kimcoco@kimcoco.com

Q6

Phone

8086643830

Q7

Campaign Website

<https://www.kimcoco.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.

By June 8, the last person infected with COVID-19 in New Zealand (NZ) had recovered. Evidently, this Pacific nation (which seems to have much in common with Hawaii) implemented the model response.

Like Hawaii, NZ is surrounded by water, but, when it comes to comparing the havoc the coronavirus wreaked on our distinct island economies, the similarities end there.

NZ's economic well being depends on high quality food production; ours relies on tourism. Their 5M residents are content to host 3.8M tourists/year; our 1.4M residents endure 10.4M visitors.

NZ confirmed its first coronavirus case February 28th, and banned incoming visitors March 19th. Our first case was confirmed March 3 and on the 19th we were still welcoming visitors taking advantage of ridiculously low rates to fly in from cities with dangerously high infection levels.

With Hawaii's infection and death per capita statistics double those of NZ, one has to ask how actions taken by members of the Economic Recovery Panel convened by my opponent, Scott Saiki, and dominated by tourism interests led to this outcome. Unfortunately, no one on the task force thought they should ask the airline industry to stop importing COVID-19 to Hawaii.

Q9

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

When the Legislative Leadership's response to families crying out for help was to stash the federal relief aid into the state's rainy day fund, I worked with compassionate leaders like to Senator Laura Theilen on a public relations campaign to make the Legislative leaders back peddle their heartless decision. Our efforts pressured them to release at least half of the funds.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

Budget shortfalls begin with the state's failure to close tax loopholes and collect fair-share taxes from corporations, its wealthiest residents, and out-of-state real estate investors. When Trump issued tax giveaways for the super rich, our leaders failed to amend the state tax code so it could capture a portion of that windfall to upgrade our obsolete IT infrastructure.

This context is important because calls for Hawaii's lowest-wage earners and government employees to carry their "fair share" of cuts is dangerous. Providing public services and a social safety net are primary functions of government; I would not look to these programs for major cuts. Defunding programs aimed at helping those most in need only intensifies their needs and results in higher costs.

We can save \$350M/year by reducing administrative waste in healthcare spending. (See response to Question 4.) The U.S. Department of Defense has been shortchanging our public education system \$300M/year by avoiding impact repayments for the past 20 years. As state legislators go after federal funding to help Hawaii's families weather the pandemic, any amount considered a loan should be taken as a drawdown against the \$6B DOD owes the state.

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?

Prohibitions just create more underground, unregulated, criminal marketplaces; I support education campaigns and regulation because they seem the most effective to curb usage.

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. **Oppose**

Restrict online sales of e-cigarettes to tobacco retailers only, in order to curb illegal sales to minors. **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?

Pre-pandemic Hawaii was spending \$80M/year promoting tourism, only so we could add "import contagion" to the list of negative impacts our people and environment already endure. I support redirecting that investment toward the infrastructure needed for a circular economy, one that displaces wasteful and polluting industries with those that keep precious resources in continual use while regenerating the natural systems we need to thrive.

With over 80% of the food we consume imported to the islands, and with much of that food lacking the nutrition we need to stay healthy, Hawaii would do well to focus on creating and sustaining local markets for fresh, minimally processed food products.

An equally promising concept promoted by a broad range of innovators is "waste-to-wealth." These programs capture materials otherwise discarded in landfills, turning them into highly marketable products.

At the start of the 2020 legislative session, a suite of bills crafted by Hawaii Green New Deal advocates was introduced to stimulate economic activity in the regenerative agriculture, resource recovery, and renewable energy sectors. The legislature must revisit these bills and use them to stand-up and fund projects that will put Hawaii's people to work building a circular economy.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

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?

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. **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. **Strongly Oppose**

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

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. **Oppose**

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. **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. **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 the promotion and advertisement of marijuana sales be regulated? **Strongly Support**

Q23

Additional thoughts/comments:

I need to learn more details about these proposed regulations.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

Right now 40% of all privately held land is owned by investors who do not live in Hawaii. We need to disincentivize this kind of speculation because it drives the price of land up and the price of anything manufactured or sold through a physical retail site. We need to raise the minimum wage to a livable wage.

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?

I support a moratorium on new building permits for hotels and luxury residential developments until all of our affordable housing needs are met. Developers can be incentivized to help solve our affordable housing crisis by receiving points to apply when their luxury development permits open back up. The more points they accumulate, the greater permitting priority they earn.

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

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:
