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Collector: Email Invitation 1 (Email)
Started: Monday, June 15, 2020 5:27:45 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 15, 2020 5:45:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:13
First Name: Ernesto M. (Sonny)
Last Name: Ganaden
Email: sonnyganaden@gmail.com
IP Address: 98.151.88.68

Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

State House Representative, District 30

Q2

Party

Democrat

Q3

First Name

Sonny

Q4

Last Name

Ganaden

Q5

Email

sonnyganaden@gmail.com

Q6

Phone

8082949949

Q7

Campaign Website

ganadenforhawaii.org

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.

The crisis demands bold decisions. Instead of stashing \$1.6 billion, the legislature must be exploring possibilities in earnest. These include a form of universal basic income, a rent and mortgage moratorium, an establishment of housing as a human right under law, and an expedited and automated system to enroll individuals in state Med-QUEST and other healthcare programs.

We should pursue no austerity measures during the crisis. Diminishing state payrolls have been shown to cripple economies and wreak havoc upon families. When cuts are considered, advocates, non-profits, small business owners, and service providers must be at the bargaining table, in representation of thousands of families across the state. The next legislative session will be transformative. We must immediately pass legislation that allows for procedural transparency, allowing for teleconferencing and video conferencing to deliver testimony, and for clear processes that determine how rainy day funds are spent.

Q9

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

As a teacher and coordinator of a youth mentorship program for a federally-qualified healthcare center, I have served food and provided medical information daily throughout the pandemic. As a candidate and attorney, I have fielded questions and directed individuals to services to the best of my ability. As a prospective legislator, I value human life over an immediate economic recovery. In the present era, when we are so reliant on information from health professionals and best practices from around the world about how to proceed, I will ensure the public is informed, those of us in elected office must ask direct questions and expect direct answers.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

This is the most debilitating economic crisis of our lifetime. Hawaii must suspend the non-binding precedent of balancing the state budget and borrow from the federal government at historically low interest rates in order to maintain social stability as we recover from COVID-19.

We should pursue no austerity measures during the crisis. We must transition to an economy that diversifies to local agriculture, clean energy, and a more sustainable tourism, we must articulate an economic vision in which wealth circulates within the local economy.

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?

Enact stricter legislation regarding vaping products and their sales to minors, and enforce the sale of tobacco products in communities where youth use is high.

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

Additional thoughts/comments:

As a coordinator of a youth program, I am seeing the increase in tobacco use by youth first hand. I wholly support legislation that curbs this public health issue.

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 transition to an economy that diversifies to local agriculture, clean energy, and a more sustainable tourism, we must articulate an economic vision in which wealth circulates within the local economy.

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?

Direct CARES Act and Transit Oriented Development funding to "shovel ready" roads programs throughout Kalihi, to fix long-standing issues of sidewalk and speeding throughout the district.

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.

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.

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

We should pursue no austerity measures during the crisis. Diminishing state payrolls have been shown to cripple economies and wreak havoc upon families. When cuts are considered, advocates, non-profits, small business owners, and service providers must be at the bargaining table, in representation of thousands of families across the state. The next legislative session will be transformative. We must immediately pass legislation that allows for procedural transparency, allowing for teleconferencing and video conferencing to deliver testimony, and for clear processes that determine how rainy day funds are spent.

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?

The state is directly responsible for housing in an emergency. The state must not hold on to funding meant to go directly to individuals when the federal government, and other governments around the world, are injecting funds directly to states and municipalities. Once radical concepts such as universal basic income should be considered. We must do all we can to ensure people remain housed. In addition to a moratorium on rent and mortgage payments, enacted by the state, the Landlord Tenant Code should be enacted to have a hotline service, paid through the state Judiciary, an expansion of legal services by providers, an education campaign by the state, and the ability to appear pro se by telephone or online.

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:
