

#142

COMPLETE

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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

State Representative - District 36

Q2

Party

Republican

Q3

First Name

Val

Q4

Last Name

Okimoto

Q5

Email

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808-392-7508

Q7

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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.

In addressing the state's economic current issues, we need to diversify the state's economy by expanding agriculture, and encouraging new industries to develop in Hawai'i. We should not be overly reliant on imports from the mainland to feed our families.

Q9

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

In response to COVID-19, I have voted in favor of legislation which distributes federal funds to help local families and businesses, provides additional PPE, and expands contact tracing and testing to help slow the spread of the virus.

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?

In order to reduce tobacco and e-cigarette use, we need to have policies that will increase enforcement to discourage underage users. We need to also prohibit items and advertising that target minors.

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. **Support**

Increase the tobacco tax on cigarettes to help smokers quit and prevent new users from starting. **Oppose**

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?

In order to ensure food safety for all of Hawai'i's people, and to increase food self-sufficiency for our state, we need to provide favorable leases and loans for Hawai'i's farmers. We need to also provide tax exemptions and credits to farmers.

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?

Unfortunately, we cannot eliminate all traffic fatalities. There should be more enforcement of existing laws to protect motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

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. **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**

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. **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. | Oppose |
| 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. | 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? | Strongly Oppose |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana be regulated by the Department of Health? | Strongly Oppose |
| 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 |
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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?

I intend on reintroducing legislation which provides tax credits and exemptions for low and moderate income earners.

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 role of government in addressing housing affordable issues is to continue to expend funds from the Rental Housing Revolving Fund to encourage the development of affordable rentals. We should also pass legislation which requires developers to build affordable homes as a condition of granting changes to land use classification and county permits.

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. **Support**

Q27

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:
