

#121

COMPLETE

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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

State House of Representatives, District 42

Q2

Party

Democrat

Q3

First Name

Vickie

Q4

Last Name

Kam

Q5

Email

vlpkam96707@gmail.com

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Q7

Campaign Website

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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.

Finding a way to increase revenue while supporting Hawaii's working families and not adding to their financial burden should be a priority. I would protect the income of state workers, as that money will be spent and help to drive economic recovery. Taking away resources from our working families does not make sense when it would be reinvested into local businesses. I also support, with urgency, maintaining funding for education so our keiki are prepared for the future. Now is the time to begin reviewing the contracts and expenses within every department budget which could offer additional funds. Rebuilding the budget to adjust for shortfalls will take determination on the part of all state departments. I believe now is the time to diversify into sustainable jobs in the renewable resource industry. As an island state, we are dependent on outside energy sources for much of our daily needs. By increasing opportunities in the renewable energy field, as have Washington and California, we would also be on track to meet The Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative stated goals of reaching 100% renewable energy by 2045. Another potential area for growth is within technology industries as they have successfully implemented in Massachusetts, this could include film, media graphics and expanded job opportunities for local students to allow for them to obtain high paying jobs so they can afford to stay in Hawaii and thrive. Additionally, we import about 90% of the food we consume yet we live in a state with a perfect growing climate. Reviving farming and agricultural options will allow for increased food security as well. There is also an untapped opportunity for hemp production, a crop which can be utilized to support our renewable resource options.

Q9

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

During this pandemic I was able to volunteer to assist in processing unemployment claims for those who lost their income during the stay-at-home order. This was one small thing I could do to support my fellow citizens. As an educator, I was also responsible for the continued education of my students and mentor support of my new teachers. While we all navigated uncharted territory, I was proud of my students online engagement, as well as, the dedication shown by beginning teachers during this trying time.

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?

As a middle school teacher, I am especially concerned about the use of e-cigarettes by students. During this legislative session I submitted written testimony on several bills regarding vaping, including House Bill 2457 HD2 SD2 relating to flavored tobacco products.

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

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?

Reviving farming and agricultural options will allow for increased food security throughout the islands. As we import about 90% of the food we consume yet we live in a state with a perfect growing climate, this seems a logical step. Another avenue is to increase educational opportunities for gardening and farming that would allow the next generation to have the tools to work towards individual healthy food options.

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?

Increased driver training courses and the enforcement of posted speed limits would be a start. We can also increase walking and bike paths that would allow for safer alternative transportation statewide.

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

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. **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. **Strongly Support**
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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? **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? **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?

One area of concern to address is the low minimum wage that impacts working families. At this time I am absolutely confused on how the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism report found that the minimum wage needs to be set at \$17.00 to survive in Hawaii, yet we are only looking at legislation to raise the wage in small increments. I would work to support legislation that pays Hawaii workers a living 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?

Affordable housing urgently needs to be addressed. The cost of housing and availability of rentals is an issue statewide. Our neighbor island family's struggle to afford housing. Here on Oahu, sadly, homelessness has skyrocketed. Our children, born in Hawaii, can NOT afford to stay here! Laws that protect foreign investment in island real estate must be examined and discussed.

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:
