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COMPLETE

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**First Name:** Amy Anastasia  
**Last Name:** Perruso  
**Email:** amyperruso@gmail.com  
**IP Address:** 98.151.228.81

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Page 1: Candidate Information

**Q1**

Office You are Seeking

Hawaii State House, District 46

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**Q2**

Party

Democratic Party

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**Q3**

First Name

Amy

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**Q4**

Last Name

Perruso

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**Q5**

Email

amyperruso@gmail.com

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**Q6**

Phone

8083510980

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**Q7**

Campaign Website

voteamyperruso.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.

Just and sustainable diversification will require that we deal with our current destructive dependencies and social distortions with a critical and clear alternative vision. We need to invest in our strengths, which include our people and our 'āina.

We need to invest in educational approaches that connect our young people to this place and provide them with robust post-secondary educational opportunities here so that we can forestall our serious brain drain. In providing culturally appropriate and place-based education, we should move away from the overemphasis on standardized testing so that we can teach the arts, Hawaiian language and cultural practices, interdisciplinary and problem-based approaches to inquiry and social justice-oriented civic education practices that enable our young people to step into power and responsibility.

'Āina here refers to that which sustains life, and to flourish, we will also need to invest in our conditions of life. With a year-round growing season and temperate climate, we should be moving rapidly away from food import dependence and away from industrial agriculture. We need to support the rapid emergence of small-scale, sustainable farming and provide them with social infrastructure necessary to process and distribute their goods. We also need to invest in strengthening 'communities of care' by investing in public health and social support infrastructure, so that we can more adequately address the needs of the most vulnerable in ways that save us money and mend the fabric of our communities.

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**Q9**

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

I have partnered with Kamehameha Schools meals service to organize a weekly 'ready-to-heat' meal pan delivery for Wahiawā-Whitmore Village, a monthly food drop with Alea Bridge, Aloha Harvest and Hawaii Foodbank, and another, separate monthly food drop with Alea Bridge, Ham Produce and Liliuokalani Trust. I also organized 20 volunteers to work with Kūpuna Needs Project to deliver meals to house-bound kūpuna, organized a pen pal project between elementary school students in my district and kūpuna, and held five virtual Town Halls on topics related to COVID-19 and our community response. We are also using this experience to revamp our HHARP (Hawaii Hazard Awareness and Resilience Program) plan to address our 'new normal' of pandemic. I have created a representative website, where people in the community can go for COVID-19 and other resources and support, and have sent letters out to and called almost every single business in my district, to make sure they were aware of, and were supported in applying for, PPP funds. I have also been doing wellness, calling all of the phone numbers I have for community members, just to check in and make sure that I am aware of any challenges they may be experiencing so that I can try to help.

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**Q10**

Additional thoughts/comments:

We have the opportunity right to now to completely rethink/recast how and why we make decisions about the allocation of public resources, and I want to make sure those resources go to the most vulnerable and to support strengthening of our public infrastructure.

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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?

We need to ban vaping for minors, and make all flavored products illegal.

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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>Strongly Support</b>

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**Q13**

Additional thoughts/comments:

Beyond supporting those who share this agenda, like myself, I think you should REALLY target those who make this legislation impossible to pass. They make floor speeches opposing solid legislation, and they do it with impunity - no consequences. It's frustrating. If their communities knew, they would vote the other way.

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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 need to make a radical and rapid shift away from industrial agriculture for export to small, sustainable farming for local consumption. That requires public investment, to create the social infrastructure to support processing and distribution through local food hubs, and to support a grow-our-own farmers program with an aloha 'āina approach to feeding people.

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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?

The state and counties need to do more to make communities safe and more walkable. There are millions of dollars available from the federal government in the Safe Routes to School funding. Both the state and the counties need to be much more aggressive about accessing this funding for the purpose of fulfilling the mission of Vision Zero.

**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. **Strongly Support**

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

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Do you support legalizing recreational marijuana sales in Hawai'i?  | <b>Strongly Support</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>Strongly Support</b> |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated?                             | <b>Strongly Support</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>Strongly Support</b> |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana potency be regulated?                                  | <b>Strongly 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>Strongly Support</b> |
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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?

To address immediate needs, we must have free and accessible testing, treatment, and protective equipment; expanded hospital capacity, including in our more rural areas; paid sick leave and paid family medical leave for all workers without exception; and expanded state funding for Medicaid. We need to expand the social safety net by broadening unemployment insurance, vastly increasing food aid programs, extending housing assistance, expanding childcare for working families, relieving student debt, and halting evictions, foreclosures, and shut offs of water and electricity. As with expanded public health measures, these economic measures must be implemented to ensure coverage of workers and communities likely to be hit first and worst by COVID-19 and the economic downturn.

In addition, the state and county governments can use CARES Act funding immediately direct sizable cash payments to every person in need. Larger payments should be made to lower-income workers and the poor, who are disproportionately exposed to both COVID-19 health risks and heightened job insecurity. These payments should be made swiftly and regularly throughout the duration of the economic recession. Any financial assistance directed at specific industries must be channeled to workers, not shareholders or corporate executives. In addition, such funds should come with pro-worker conditions, such as requiring worker representation on the company's board of directors, company-wide enactment of a \$15/hour or higher minimum wage, and compliance with high-road labor standards such as payment of prevailing wages, use of project-labor agreements, adoption of a neutrality policy with regard to union collective bargaining, and adoption of a "ban the box" hiring policy to ensure fair employment opportunities for all.

**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?

Rather than continue to pour hundreds of millions of dollars into the pockets of unaccountable for-profit developers, the state and county governments need to recognize and fulfill their responsibilities to the public and use public monies for public or publicly controlled projects. We need to move AWAY from working with for-profit developers and invest in social housing on the Vienna model AND work with non-profits to develop actually affordable housing with our precious and finite public resources.

**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:

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