

#146

COMPLETE

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Page 1: Candidate Information

**Q1**

Office You are Seeking

State House, District 50

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**Q2**

Party

Democrat

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**Q3**

First Name

Micah

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**Q4**

Last Name

Pregitzer

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**Q5**

Email

micah@micahpregitzer.com

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**Q6**

Phone

808-497-1161

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**Q7**

Campaign Website

www.micahpregitzer.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.

We must better fund our public health system, including by ensuring that medical professionals have the resources they need, such as medicine and personal protective equipment. I fully and wholeheartedly support enacting a Medicare-for-All, single-payer healthcare program at the state level, so that everyone has the medical coverage they need to take care of emergencies whenever and wherever they arise.

Additionally, I believe that we need to reallocate funding to the Department of Health for pandemic response, the Department of Labor for unemployment system upgrades and the continuation of unemployment benefits, the Department of Human Services to boost programs that provide meals and housing assistance to economically vulnerable individuals and families, and the Department of Education for teacher recruitment and retention initiatives, so that COVID-19 doesn't worsen our state's teacher shortage crisis.

With regard to diversifying the economy, we need to establish a cap on tourism to prevent our visitor industry from overwhelming our communities and natural resources. The coronavirus pandemic has given us a chance and a reason to diversify our economy away from tourism, which has seen our state surpass ten million visitors annually in recent years. Diversifying our economy away from tourism will, in turn, reduce the amount of carbon emissions produced by the visitor industry.

I believe that Hawai'i has all of the natural resources needed to establish a vibrant renewable energy industry, including solar, wind, and wave power. Research into renewable energy is vital as climate change continues to threaten our shores and presents numerous opportunities for economic expansion. Additionally, we should prioritize sustainable agriculture, which will increase food security for Hawai'i's people and decrease our reliance on volatile and carbon-intensive food imports.

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**Q9**

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

Since COVID-19 began, I have been primarily serving my community as a teacher. The coronavirus has significantly disrupted the functioning of our public school system. Remote learning is currently the primary method for delivering instruction, with hand-delivered curricular materials used to supplement remote learning opportunities for students with limited internet access. Teachers, like myself, have had to devise wholly new pedagogical methods to meet the needs of our students, while continuing to serve as mentors and counselors during the crisis.

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**Q10**

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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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?

As a teacher at Kalaheo High School, I've seen the vaping epidemic explode among my students. I think that we need to regulate the e-cigarette companies that target our keiki, taxing them heavily and outlawing flavored tobacco and e-liquid products. The blame should be on predatory companies, in my view, rather than children who fall victim to these companies' pernicious and exploitative actions.

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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. **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**

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**Q13**

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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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?

Double Up Food Bucks is an important program that should be better funded and expanded to more low-income families. Healthy foods are often more expensive to purchase, especially in the islands, leaving them available only to more affluent families. Low-income families already experience greater health risks. Double Up Food Bucks allows these families to obtain healthy meal options, improving their physical and financial well-being. Additionally, we should invest in sustainable agriculture, which will increase our food security, while reducing our state's carbon footprint.

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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?

We need to ensure that our housing and development plans take into account our state's efforts to deliver clean transportation alternatives. I also support banning the sale of vehicles that run on fossil fuels in Hawai'i by the year 2030, which will advance both our clean energy goals and our state's transition to greener, more pedestrian friendly modes of transportation and development.

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**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**

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**Q17** **Respondent skipped this question**

Additional thoughts/comments:

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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**

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**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:

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Page 8: Economic Justice

**Q24**

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

We need to increase the minimum wage to at least \$17/hour and establish paid family and sick leave programs for all of Hawai'i's workers. Additionally, we should increase the dependent care tax credit to account for Hawai'i's high cost of living, which includes our soaring childcare costs. Finally, I believe that we should increase the food/excise tax credit, low-income household renters' credit, and earned income tax credit to account for inflation since their inception. We should also tie each of these credits to the consumer price index to ensure that they keep up with increases to Hawai'i's cost of living in future years.

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**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?

Anyone who doesn't believe that housing is a human right has no business being in elected office. The crux of our housing crisis is that we continue to make concessions to developers without demanding substantial improvements for working families. I believe that we can and should use state land to eliminate the land component of housing developments. Yet, housing built on state land should not cost an average of over \$800,000 per unit. Instead, we must demand that housing units be developed at a price range that is affordable to families earning no more than 80—and preferably no more than 60—percent of area median income. I also believe that we should increase the amount of conveyance tax revenue that is used for the construction of affordable rental housing, so that we're not limiting the funding on which such development depends.

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**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**

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**Q27**

**Respondent skipped this question**

Additional thoughts/comments:

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