

#122

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Email Invitation 1 (Email)  
**Started:** Monday, July 13, 2020 9:23:50 AM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, July 13, 2020 9:46:14 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:22:24  
**First Name:** Alan  
**Last Name:** Akao  
**Email:** akaoforhouse51@gmail.com  
**IP Address:** 66.91.223.111

---

Page 1: Candidate Information

**Q1**

Office You are Seeking

State Representative - House District 51

---

**Q2**

Party

Democrat

---

**Q3**

First Name

Alan

---

**Q4**

Last Name

Akao

---

**Q5**

Email

akaoforhouse51@gmail.com

---

**Q6**

Phone

808-454-3511

---

**Q7**

Campaign Website

alanakao.com

---

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.

Economic recovery is not going to happen swiftly and diversifying an entire state's economy when for years political will resisted it means that new leadership is needed. The state must continue to pressure the federal government for relief funds and take out no or low interest federally backed loans to spend on purchasing testing kits and equipment, hire and train contact tracers, support health care facilities and hospitals, and supplement unemployment benefits and business loans. Stabilization must happen first and if not we risk plunging back into a stay at home or lockdown. Once we can safely reopen and feel confident in reduced exposure and transmission, then we can look at boosting our economic drivers and diversifying high growth potential industries. New industries will not appear overnight. High growth industries include specialty healthcare, tv/film/music production and entertainment, and agriculture.

---

**Q9**

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

I am one of the few candidates in my race who has continued to have full time work as my profession was considered essential through covid19. I work to ensure my clients, those that are high risk such as homeless, indigent, or living in poverty conditions continue to have legal representation and when in the custody of the state have a safe and secure place. I have participated in food drives or donation efforts on a case to case basis but my focus was on work and appropriate social distancing and care.

---

**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?

There needs to be educational policies and awareness programs instituted in public and private schools. There also needs to be continued prohibition on the sale of flavored products and advertising to minors. The state also needs to crackdown at the sale and distribution level and levy heavy fines and shutdowns of any store or retailer who sells to 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. | <b>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>Support</b>          |
| Funds from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes should fund tobacco prevention and cessation efforts.     | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
- 

**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?

Education is the first place to start. Schools need to implement expanded health sciences and courses throughout k-12 learning. The state should also increase support for farm to school initiatives so students can become interested in the foods grown locally and incorporate it into their diet but also get them interested in food production and local farms and trades. There should also be short and long term agriculture loans and grants funded by the state to increase food production and allow for small farms and operations to thrive so that food can remain local.

---

**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?

Hawaii roads continue to be unsafe due to carrying capacity. It is one of our biggest issues. While most people dislike the Oahu Rail project due to over-budgeting issues, mass transit programs and infrastructure are needed to reduce the reliance on cars and roads to travel. Urban planning will also benefit but as long as our small island state has far too many people than carrying capacity allows, it will be difficult to ensure safe streets and prevent and eliminate traffic fatalities.

---

**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. **Support**

Use revenue from a sugar-sweetened beverage fee for obesity prevention programs. **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. **Strongly 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. **Strongly Support**
  - Repeal of alcohol delivery laws that allow restaurants to deliver beer and liquor-based mixed drinks to people's homes. **Strongly Support**
  - 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? **Strongly 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? **Oppose**
  - If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the promotion and advertisement of marijuana sales be regulated? **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?

Raise taxes on foreign investment property and developers of luxury developments and work to raise the minimum wage, primarily make it tied to the consumer price index and removing the tip credit.

---

**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 government may need to step in and work on direct services, including building and development or supporting agencies such as the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. Simply trying to regulate developers and building trades has not eased our housing crisis. The state must also crackdown on bad actors that choked our housing stock such as illegal vacation rental profiteers and return those properties to the housing or rental market.

---

**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. **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:

---