Q1
Office You are Seeking
State House District 51

Q2
Party
Democrat

Q3
First Name
Lisa

Q4
Last Name
Marten

Q5
Email
lisa@lisamarten.com

Q6
Phone
808-230-2004
Q7
Campaign Website
LisaMarten.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.

I would want to focus on avoiding a prolonged recession that we know follows sharply reduced government spending. Federal aid should be used to maintain social services for the unemployed, including health insurance through Med-Quest, continued unemployment benefits, and payment of State employees. As needed, we should borrow funds to cover vital expenses, stimulating our economy by getting shovel ready jobs moving, and through job creation in the areas where we already have jobs to do and are aligned with our goals such as natural resource management. We can make investments that will help diversify our economy in the long run, adding to our security in the face of natural disasters, conflict or the next pandemic. These include local, renewable energy that reduces the out of pocket costs for residents, keeps more of our money in the State, makes us more energy secure and fights climate change. Another one that is suited for our District is initiatives to train and support small farmers, making us more food secure and creating opportunities for youth. This would also create business opportunities to process and market the agricultural products. Again, our expenditures would stay here while our community becomes healthier and more food secure. We enjoyed fewer tourists and can strive to replace our mass tourism with a higher-spending, more exclusive tourist experience.

Q9
Please share some of the efforts you have led or participated in response to COVID-19.

I have a doctorate in Public Health from Columbia University and was an assistant professor at the medical school at UH Mānoa working on HIV/AIDS. I left that job to start an environmental non-profit (I think Climate Change is our biggest public health problem), but this epidemic made me wish I was back in a place where I could do more.

- I stayed abreast of the data and tried to share accurate, useful information via social media and my website. I feel like this was useful to my community early on when there was poor understanding of the situation.

- I petitioned Gov. Ige to ban tourists from entering Hawai‘i, based on data on local hospital capacity I researched before it was made available by our government.

- I made a short video with 8 community leaders on best practices for COVID prevention in collaboration with the Waimānalo Health Center. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unMphGvKJsI

- As soon as OSHA approved industrial-use N95 masks for hospitals, I started a drive and collected thousands of N95 masks and cases of gloves from businesses that used them and had stock. These were delivered to Castle Hospital and Kaiser Moanalua. Later I also purchased face shields from a local business that started to manufacture them and delivered them to Waimānalo Health Center.

- I volunteered at and funded prepared meals two days a week for kupuna and the needy through Mālama Meals. They were unfortunately shut down over deliveries to Kauai. Since then I have continued to fund and prepare meals once a week for the homeless in Waimanalo in collaboration with the SDA Church.
Q10
Additional thoughts/comments:

I would like to have standard operating procedures in place in the legislature for future epidemics so we can quickly ramp up screening, testing, contact tracing and changes in public behavior and achieve containment of the virus with less economic harm. We have excellent data, we need to use it in a timely manner.

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?

I believe we should stop subsidizing the tobacco industry by paying for the health consequences of their products. I support restrictions on sales and advertisement of flavored products and online sales.

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.  

Prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and flavored e-liquids. 

Restrict online sales of e-cigarettes to tobacco retailers only, in order to curb illegal sales to minors. 

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

Funds from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes should fund tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. 

Strongly Support

Q13
Additional thoughts/comments:

Respondent skipped this question

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?

All people in Hawai’i are vulnerable should our ports be closed by a natural disaster. With current “just in time” food stocking by grocery stores, we have few stocks of food and they are in low lying areas near harbors. More local agriculture will help with our food self-sufficiency, especially if it includes starches such as kalo and ulu. The food security problem associated with poverty in constant and we can focus on lifting people out of poverty through an increased minimum wage, and make them more resilient to misfortunes with paid family leave, health insurance de-coupled from employment and childcare that will allow more mothers to work, including publicly funded preschool. For those that still fall through the cracks, there is SNAP and now thankfully the Double up program which incentivizes purchase of local produce.

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?

Vision Zero works well with the Honolulu county Complete Streets where design and signage makes streets safe and usable for pedestrians, bikes and cars. The vision is there, all that is needed is funding for systematic planning and implementation prioritizing areas of high safety concern and areas where road work is slated.

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.  

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.  

Enact a one-cent per-ounce fee on sugar-sweetened beverages.  

Use revenue from a sugar-sweetened beverage fee for obesity prevention programs.  

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.  

Implement a red light camera program to deter red-light running and help curb traffic fatalities and injuries.

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

Respondent skipped this question
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
Additional thoughts/comments:

It is absurd that we cannot get fluoride in our water.

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

Q21
Additional thoughts/comments:

This is not an issue I was familiar with. I would need to do more research to understand how these services may be used by underaged drinkers or other unsafe alcohol use.

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?  
**Strongly 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?  
**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**

Q23
Additional thoughts/comments:

Making marijuana legal allows for quality control, taxation, frees up law enforcement for more pressing issues and undercuts the black market. If prices are controlled, then the black market can undercut those prices and still flourish. I think legalization should be accompanied by education about the negative health effects of marijuana, particularly on youth brain development.

Q24
What are your immediate plans to help make Hawai'i more affordable for its residents?

Raise the minimum wage, decouple health insurance from employment, provide paid family leave and paid sick leave, and universal pre-school.

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?

Incentivise developers with tax exemptions and flexibility in building codes (not safety, just height restrictions, parking requirements, etc.)
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

Additional thoughts/comments:

Poverty is a public health problem.