

#131

COMPLETE

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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

County Council district 9

Q2

Party

non partisan

Q3

First Name

Ippy

Q4

Last Name

Aiona

Q5

Email

ippyaiona@gmail.com

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Phone

808-987-9986

Q7

Campaign Website

www.ippyforcountycouncil.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.

At this point COVID has exposed the cracks in our economy. Before this pandemic occurred we were already down over 20% in tourism. Many locals in our district depend on tourism to survive so we must create a safe environment for locals and tourists by having a safe and effective testing system. We also have to understand that diversifying our economy is the only way to ensure that our island can survive when tourism falters. I believe investing in shovel ready CIP projects that benefit the communities is extremely important. Simplifying our permitting process and pushing through any locals who currently are in the permitting process will be key to getting more small businesses open and creating more jobs. I have a long term multi phase agriculture plan that would also allow us to not be so dependent on consumables that are shipped in (currently 80%). Focusing on agriculture is extremely important in creating a sustainable island and helping to create new streams of revenue for our economy.

Q9

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

I have partnered up with Big Island Giving Tree and many faith based organizations to feed our Kupuna & families in need. By receiving a grant my restaurant and these amazing organizations have been feeding hundreds of community members in need twice a week for four months.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

Right now when we think about the biggest issues in our community there is a political answer as well as a humanitarian answer. The humanitarian answer (by far the most important) is that LOTS of our neighbors, friends & community members are actually going hungry and can't afford groceries. This has to be addressed first before anything else.

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 think the fight against tobacco was on a great path until these flavored e-cigarettes were introduced. I think portions of sales from these tobacco products should go towards educating and preventing youths from engaging in these deadly acts.

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. | 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. | Support |
| Funds from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes should fund tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. | Strongly Support |
-

Q13

Additional thoughts/comments:

I agree that we should prevent youth from engaging in the use of tobacco products and flavored e-cigarettes make that tough.

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?

I think the county should look into a program that gives certifications to locally grown products. A program like "Hawaii Island Local" that would allow local farms and ranches to participate in, the county would help by advertising these products and creating incentives for locals to purchase these products over the many consumables that are shipped in from the mainland. Working in partnership with our local farmers & ranchers is key in evening the playing field and giving locals more access to healthy locally grown products.

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?

As a county we must engage more in creating safe bike and hiking paths that our community can utilize. These paths should be through nature rather than right on the side of the roads to keep them safe and help with mental health. A great example is the Waimea nature park who have been fighting for a path through Waimea that takes people from one side of town to the other, this path runs through the forest and along the river.

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

Additional thoughts/comments:

We have an abundance of natural resources and beauty here on the Big Island. We really must take advantage of this for the physical and mental health of our community.

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. | Strongly 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

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? | Strongly Support |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated? | Strongly 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 |
-

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?

Creating a affordable housing committee as well as a affordable housing fund should be the counties first step to addressing affordable housing.

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 MUST play a major role in true affordable housing (not these +300,000 homes). We have to work with the housing director to offer RFP to organizations that specialize in affordable housing development and offer land that has already been surveyed that is just sitting there. Every election affordable housing is brought up and it seems like their just isn't enough political will to get more homes built. I will work extremely hard to make sure that our working families (individuals making between 20-50k a year) are placed into longterm home.

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

Additional thoughts/comments:

Affordable housing is one of our biggest issues here on the island and something that would benefit the hardworking families of our district & island.
