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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Hawaii County Mayor

Q2

Party

Non-Partisan

Q3

First Name

Yumi

Q4

Last Name

Kawano

Q5

Email

Justtellingitlikeitis@mail.com

Q6

Phone

808-443-9202

Q7

Campaign Website

Yamahilo.wixsite.com/mayorkawano

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.

Agriculture is key to growing the economy. Not only does it provide food security island wide, but there is great potential for state wide sustainment. In just a few decades, we have become dependent as an island on imported goods from the mainland. 85% to 90% of goods are imported. We need to provide physical market spaces for our local goods and services. As an island, we need to bring towns together to become self sustaining by creating: affordable housing, renewable energy, independent food production and thereby being more emergency prepared for disasters. There is a great deal of FEMA money that has come to the state and county and that money is to improve the infrastructure of the island such as the improvement of our roads. That money is to be used to diversify the economy and aid small businesses in recovery from the 2018 lava flow disaster. Ecotourism is another example of providing responsible tourism revenue into our island.

Q9

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

Running for mayor is my response to the COVID-19 pandemic because it has given me a chance to communicate with our citizens of the island by phone and the internet, with forums and debates that I have participating in. With safe social distancing I have been able to talk directly to the public and hear their concerns about COVID-19.

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 strict enforcement of the users being near public buildings. They need to be at least 30 feet away from buildings. There needs to be more educational ads especially in the schools and there needs to be a committee oversight done by the community members.

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

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?

Agriculture is key to growing the economy. Not only does it provide food security island wide, but there is great potential for state wide sustainment. In just a few decades, we have become dependent as an island on imported goods from the mainland. 85% to 90% of goods are imported. We need to provide physical market spaces for our local goods and services. As an island, we need to bring towns together to become self sustaining by creating: affordable housing, renewable energy, independent food production and thereby being more emergency prepared for disasters. There is a great deal of FEMA money that has come to the state and county and that money is to improve the infrastructure of the island such as the improvement of our roads. That money is to be used to diversify the economy and aid small businesses in recovery from the 2018 lava flow disaster. Ecotourism is another example of providing responsible tourism revenue into our island.

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 increase the efficiency of public transportation by making it more accessible in the rural areas of this island, with a shuttle system going into the subdivisions which the county is working on right now. It's important that the disabled and the handicapped can access affordable mass transit. As of right now it is not affordable the cost of a handicap-van is \$8 per day round trip. There is a new polymer (recycled plastic) that makes durable roads and we could increase the grooving on all the sharp bends of our highways.

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. **Oppose**

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

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. **Oppose**

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

Not sure about Fluoridation of community water. Need to do additional research.

Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

Q20

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Increase in alcohol taxes.	Oppose
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

Additional thoughts/comments:

Right now during the COVID-19 pandemic it is not wise to tax people when they are having a hard time making ends meet.

Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

Q22

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Do you support legalizing recreational marijuana sales in Hawai'i?	Strongly Oppose
If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana be regulated by the Department of Health?	Oppose
If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated?	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?	Oppose
If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana potency be regulated?	Oppose
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

Additional thoughts/comments:

I am highly against legalizing marijuana. It is considered a medicine by the state and by many, especially the military veterans whom suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. So 25% of our population on our Hawaii Island are Veterans. The less the governments regulate this medicine the better. We all know there is a significant cash economy with the sale of marijuana here. I think Islanders are having a hard time enough time during this Pandemic making ends meet. We must be compassionate enough and open minded enough to see some things are better left alone for the betterment of the island especially at crisis and uncertain time as this.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

Achieving sustainability for our island communities will be my #1 Priority for making affordable housing. Each town center knows their needs especially from the 2018 lava disaster. The FEMA monies are for our island, especially to the Puna District, because of over 750 homes lost with roads and parks covered in lava flows.

It is becoming more painfully obvious that now our families are becoming homeless and they are living out of their vehicles! Some seem to be our local population and others are from out of state. We must help all the homeless because some are our family members and friends.

Begin the Beautify Our Island Project which entails giving the homeless temporary housing as they work to beautify our island. My ohana family and I restore rainforests on our 2 acres in Volcano outside the Hawaii Volcano National Park. It has been the most exhilarating and healing time for us. I envision these folks removing invasive species and planting native trees, cleaning the highways and beaches and even the reefs and coastal waters. It would be like the Civilian Conservation Corps CCC being brought back to life. It was a Federal Program started by President Franklin Delanor Roosevelt in the 1930s to rejuvenate the thousands of homeless Americans in the Depression Times. Medical and Mental Health services would be provided for these folks. Some may need more services and need to go to a residential treatment program in the community.

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?

Houses must become Sustainable and self sufficient by producing their own renewable energy like solar and other ways. Government agencies can and do merge in efforts like HUD and VA to help homeless veterans find homes. Much more collaborating among county, state, and federal agencies must happen quickly to help folks find affordable homes. Like what about all these vacant homes in our neighborhood that are in foreclosure? How about rallying the banks to work with homeless folks to find immediate housing. These homes are at risk of theft and vandalism and squatting, so why not get the process moving to help folks get into homes. I have a vacant house across the street and I cannot believe how many people try to squat in it. It is low priority of the police and they cannot do much to get squatters out once they are in, so why not negotiate with some who can be helped like families with children and the disabled and elderly? Come on lets make this work!

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:

Mahalo and thank you for giving me an opportunity to think about some the challenges of healthcare. I am an educator and I believe we need to teach this in the public schools.
