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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Mayor, Hawai'i County

Q2

Party

Non-Partisan

Q3

First Name

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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.

There is no real way to separate the health and well being of the community with the economy. We must maintain our COVID-19 numbers while supporting the local economy wherever we can. My team and I have consulted with experts to produce COVID-19 Guidelines - Steps To Reopen Our Community Safely, outlining the science-based policies needed to maintain the balance of public health while also supporting our local businesses: <https://ikaikamarzo.org/covid-framework> .

Next, my approach to aiding recovery and diversifying the economy is a fundamental shift to a "Culture of Sustainability", which is the basis of my platform: <https://ikaikamarzo.org/ikaikamarzoplatform>. We must diversify in the long-term while using practical solutions during the pandemic to transition from our existing economic infrastructure. It is no small feat. First I would support the construction industry by rapidly overhauling the building department to facilitate building to continue. I would also push for shovel-ready capital improvement projects to go forward with construction. We also need to come up with a means for safe and sustainable tourism during the pandemic, as much as that is possible. Finally we need to look towards more long term means of diversification, such as agriculture and aquaculture, technology and science, and the healthcare and senior living industry.

Q9

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

Like with the 2018 eruption, our community needs accurate and timely information on the ongoing disaster regularly. My first information update to raise awareness on COVID-19 was in mid March to the community on the same social media I used in the eruption. I put out tutorials on proper mask usage and their effectiveness weeks before even the CDC officially made the recommendation that the public wear face coverings. I posted easy to replicate tutorials on how to make hand sanitizer when stores were running low in the early phase of the eruption. I worked to ensure our hospitals had Personal Protective Equipment through donations and distribution, and I volunteered with Vibrant Hawai'i Island for food distribution to help our community.

Our county has not been clear and timely in its messaging on COVID-19 for those paying attention, often conflicting with the Hawai'i Department of Health daily update each day. Inconsistencies add confusion in an already complex time for the public, we need to do our part to make information as clear and available as possible.

I worked with those involved heavily in the pandemic to develop my COVID-19 Framework. Sources are provided for the science and policy guidelines, which my team and I frequently review to incorporate newer and more refined information. We can do better to protect our people while still improving our economy with policies that have not been implemented in Hawai'i, as well as ideas proposed that do not have support from the Hawai'i Department of Health. For example, we should advocate for adequate masks rather than accepting ineffective ones; we should create pedestrian-only streets where businesses can safely expand their capacity by moving outdoors; we should test for COVID-19 in our sewage treatment plants as an early warning system for transmission of the virus in our local populations. We must use sound science and be willing to modify policy as the data and experts recommend instead of politically motivated proposals.

While no plan is perfect in these unprecedented times, it's still important to make one and share it with the public for the sake of openness and transparency. We saw the importance of dialogue and communication during the 2018 eruption, and we must learn from the county's shortcomings especially in that aspect of their response. Our local government needs the trust and collaboration of the people to most effectively turn the challenge of the pandemic into an opportunity, reshaping our society to be more sustainable.

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?

Education through multiple media channels using different and repetitive health communications campaigns, using hard hitting graphics and data to inform the public. E-Cigarettes need to be addressed separately from traditional tobacco use as many of the same preconceived notions do not apply, or are slightly different. We need to try to make sure that people never pick up the habit to begin with by focusing part of the effort on the youth of Hawaii. I think communicating with and educating the community, especially youth, on the dangers is key, but also involving youth's caregivers and parents in the education while making it fun, will be effective. Hawaii is a social place, we love music and outdoor events and BBQ's etc and we should create festivals and fairs centered around educating people and youth about the dangers of these things. People who do not smoke should be rewarded. We also should share, create and support resources that help people to quit smoking, drinking, and kick unhealthy habits. We must involve proven successful efforts and even talk to smokers who have successfully quit to implement what really works. Many of our healthcare cases are smoking-related, lung cancer is a leading cancer, and reducing smoking will help cut healthcare costs and truly save lives.

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

Q13

Additional thoughts/comments:

People using tobacco are still adults so we cannot restrict some things, like flavored tobacco because that just seems too controlling coming from a politician, although I know it is so highly addictive. We must focus on educating adults and youth, not forcing through abolition to create long term change. But we must do all possible to keep tobacco out of reach of minors. Parents need to understand also that if they smoke, their kids are most likely to pick it up or get healthcare problems from second hand smoke, which can be just as deadly as first hand smoking.

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?

Our county should be a primary driver in expanding our food production on Hawai'i Island. It is appalling that 85-90% of Hawaii state food is imported, and if we could only decrease that amount by 10%, we would keep \$313 million in our state- a large amount of that would go to Hawaii Island. (Source:

http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/INCREASED_FOOD_SECURITY_AND_FOOD_SELF_SUFFICIENCY_STRATEGY.pdf). We have the most land and the most coastline suited to agriculture and aquaculture in the whole state, and this translates in a huge economic - and healthful - opportunity for our island communities. COVID-19 has exposed that our island's supply lines are fragile. More people are realizing that we must add resilience to our food supply with the pandemic and the economic uncertainty it has introduced. We can no longer only talk about making the necessary changes to policy for our agriculture industry to thrive. COVID-19 is going to be a long term disaster that is going to change many of the preconceived notions on how our food gets to our tables, and how dependent we are on the barges coming in.

We need to bolster our farmers, support our ranchers to process meat here, figure out why dairy farms (Meadow Gold) failed here and fix it, support chickens, grow and develop aquaculture because we have the world's best experts in our very own state, support local fishermen and support our local people to buy more local food all to reduce our reliance on food imports. This includes a push in food systems workforce development, incentives for food suppliers already in operation, marketing and sales to other Hawaiian islands, supporting local entrepreneurship, and securing as much state and federal financial support for these programs as possible. Supporting agriculture also means supporting invasive species management, and making sure that farmers are not being taxed unfairly, and rather, are given incentives to produce. We can make larger partnerships with places like the Department of Education and large restaurant chains to support the sales of produce and goods. We can give incentives to local restaurants who buy from local farmers, ranchers or buy local- caught Hawaii Island fish from our seafood distributors. Often, imported food is cheaper so we must think of ways to make buying local more possible for businesses, but also to where local farmers are well-supported. This in turn, will change the health of our community people in the long run. Many of the worst diseases in Hawaii, much of which tax dollars pay in healthcare, are preventable and self-induced: obesity, alcoholism, smoking-related cancer and diseases, addiction.

Eventually, each community should steward their own community/neighborhood farm, with some start-up support from the county, to make healthy food more accessible, but this will also create a bond between person and produce. We can incorporate conservationists, farmers, cultural experts to meld science, culture and community. It will also make communities a better place to live, increase quality of life, and even be something special. Invasive species management will be even more key when this happens. Food safety and increasing agriculture is also available on my "Culture of Sustainability" platform here: <https://ikaikamarzo.org/ikaikamarzoplatform>.

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 really look at establishing alternative routes to alleviate traffic around our island. Both Kona and Puna have significant issues with traffic and few routes of travel. The lack of alternative routes creates more than simple inconvenience, as there are safety implications for congested roadways. We also should look at statistics to identify some of the most dangerous intersections and roads in Hawai'i and what changes can be made. The Pāhoā roundabout has dramatically reduced the amount of accidents at a previously dangerous intersection with minor inconvenience for motorists.

If Vision Zero is to be achieved then we need to address the percentages of motorcycle and scooter operators, which are not insignificant. Absolutely zero fatalities and severe injuries is difficult to achieve, but we can make the decisions to continue to reduce fatalities on our island's roads. I'd also support more green development, offering very safe bike paths away from traffic/highways where possible so that people have the option to bike to work, or some place other than our highways to exercise as we often see this and it's dangerous to have pedestrians near roads plus it will reduce our carbon footprint.

My family and I were personally affected by a traffic fatality when we lost my nephew who was driving to work one morning, from Puna to Kona. Working-people's commutes are long, dangerous, and often-times pull them on the roads at very early or late hours where weather and light become huge safety factors. We must do all we can to make our roads as safe as possible and implement proven infrastructure into policies.

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. | 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. | Support |

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

One consideration on the red light cameras is that while the cameras are shown to reduce the amount of people that run red lights, it increases the amount of rear-end accidents due to people stopping early on yellow lights. It's important to improve the system to also prevent these types of accidents, and with that caveat, I support this idea.

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

Additional thoughts/comments:

Research shows that Fluoridation is a positive in community water for overall oral health so if we want the best for our people, this must be strongly supported. Also, community outreach and education on oral health can go a long way. Parents and caregivers must take full responsibility to teach their keiki to brush and floss from the time they are babies and toddlers. This creates a strong foundation for healthy, habitual behavior that lasts a lifetime. We can involve dentists, oral surgeons, orthodontists and other oral health experts in fun, educational events to educate people. Some of the most effective ways to prevent tooth decay are personal hygiene habits, training future generations, intaking less sugar, a healthy diet and not smoking. Even diabetics are at higher risk of oral problems so we must realize connections and support all disease prevention that has direct effects on oral health.

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. **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:

We need to eliminate drinking and driving. We need to encourage more taxi services and public transport from bars. We want to support local business, and give our adults the freedom to choose their beverage, but we want to take all action to eliminate drinking and driving. Also, for the health of our people, we want to drink at safe levels only because alcohol in excess is the root of many serious health problems. We must support programs that help people through alcoholism and find a healthy relationship with alcohol, not an abusive one. We have many great breweries and restaurants with great alcoholic beverages and get they deserve our support, but we must care for our people by making sure drinking and driving ends, minors never get access to alcohol, alcohol-related diseases decrease, and alcoholics or those who need help recovering have access to that support island-wide including in rural communities.

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? **Support**

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? **Strongly Support**

If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana potency be regulated? **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

Additional thoughts/comments:

If marijuana is legalized, it must have structure like any controlled substance or medicine. I think it important that medical cannabis be regulated by the Department of Health and a specific Medical Marijuana Program. While I think recreational marijuana should be regulated by the Liquor Commission, but with some very similar quality regulations from Department of Health. I support the people of Hawaii and I do support agricultural business, but I highly support regulating this industry to keep our people as safe as possible.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

The most immediate steps I can take to improve our resident's financial situations are those to safely restart our local economy. Without our normal income, we all struggle with affordability. Within my first 100 days, I'll streamline the permitting process, launch shovel-ready projects, and utilize federal grants and programs to stimulate revenue for the economy. For those on the fence about building, we can offer immediate incentives through the permitting system to encourage the construction of more homes. We should also re-visit our property tax rates for our most vulnerable categories, to reduce their housing burden to a more reasonable rate if we at all can. Some people will have trouble paying property taxes during the bad economy, and lowering the rates would be an incentive for taxpayers and added security for a big part of our county's revenue.

Housing safety is a key part of living sustainably, as outlined in my platform, and will be a key focus of my work. Upon connecting with the state, I'll pressure DHHL to award Native Hawaiians the land they are entitled to as it's time to break the cycle of generational poverty. Lastly, our county is losing money in solid waste and recycling, although there are valuable resources to extract, particularly metals so we can create jobs plus create revenue through better waste management.

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?

One role of county government is to advocate for its residents at the State and Federal levels, as it is our county that deals with the consequences through more homelessness and reduced effectiveness of our police force and Parks and Recreation workers. Here's what we can do:

a) Reduce Burden of the Permitting Process: The permitting process has been a broken system for a long time. It's a system that has been working against our construction industry instead of working with them. While other industries have had impacts from the global pandemic, construction has been steady. We need to streamline the permitting process to be more quick and efficient. The more permits go out, the more jobs we will have in our community, and the more affordable housing units will be available.

b) Section 8 Housing: We need to create policies where landlords and land owners cannot discriminate against low income families who qualify for section 8. Separately addressing the housing needs of the most vulnerable demographics will also reduce the strain on other County services and possibly reduce the homeless population.

c) Advocate for Awarding of Hawaiian Homelands: Our local leaders can be much more vocal at the state level to make sure that our indigenous kupuna are not dying on the waiting list for long-promised housing. This is important for our local communities because it also would increase our housing inventory, buffer the increase in home sale prices, and drive our real estate market.

d) Rubbish to Resources / Waste to Low-Cost Building Materials: One of our biggest issues is recycling, and we need alternative solutions. I am very excited around the idea of making Hawai'i an example of an incredible waste to affordable low-cost building materials operation. Currently, 85-90% of our food is imported, and Hawai'i still relies on imports of all kinds, excessive volumes of imports become rubbish, but we need to shift that so our rubbish becomes resources. Our rubbish (plastic, aluminum, paper) can be melted down in a solar kiln and remade into low cost building materials. This could be a great material for low cost housing. Hawai'i Island needs jobs, badly, for our people to really climb out of this economic depression.

This can work if the county gets federal funding and approval plus partners with the state and the University of Hawaii to turn the Big Island into a hub of knowledge in this industry of creating raw materials while getting rid of our waste stream. We could solve affordable housing while creating all levels of jobs plus solve our waste management challenges. This type of system would create jobs for many people and long term education to people; job stream from PhD's researching to people sorting to truck drivers, jobs from labor to research. We could combine with UH to create a degree program in recycling and create partnerships to make this succeed because we need a big idea that creates long term training, long term solutions, helps our cousin crisis, provides jobs. We know it is impossible to fully eliminate imports to Hawaii, and while I support more sustainability and more local business and food, I support using what we know we have, what is hurting us, and spinning it to support us and help us thrive. If we get this to a successful point, we can actually mine our current over-capacity Hilo landfill and other Hawaiian islands for profit.

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. **Support**

Q27

Additional thoughts/comments:

Men and women parents must have that opportunity and not be discriminated against nor looked down upon for taking paid leave. We would need to support our businesses to make this possible, but it is ethically the right thing to do so we should try to get it done! We must support our business owners, but we do need to take care of the workers so increasing the minimum wage would solve many problems for our lower socioeconomic people. However, we must acknowledge that this would be a HUGE jump for employers so we would need to give them proper transition time, and help them communicate with customers and community as to, for example, why their prices are higher (to compensate for the higher minimum wage). If we work together county by business, county with families, business with family and so on, we will see that we can find workable solutions so that all areas and people have the best chance to succeed.
