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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Mayor County of Hawaii

Q2

Party

Independent

Q3

First Name

Mitch

Q4

Last Name

Roth

Q5

Email

mitchellroth@yahoo.com

Q6

Phone

808-989-0385

Q7

Campaign Website

mitthroth.org

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.

First and foremost, our State and County leaders need to be consistent with their communication to provide the most accurate and clear information to residents.

As for the economy, we need to make sure our unemployed residents are able to safely get back to work. This can be done by ensuring that the government implements safe and clear rules as it reopens the economy. We also have shovel-ready construction jobs that the County should be working on moving forward.

Next, the County should be working with the business community and helping to eliminate red tape and other obstacles that prevent businesses from thriving.

The County also needs to take an active role to help diversify our economy in areas such as agriculture, science and technology, renewable energy, and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Q9

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

Realizing that we may have shortages in PPEs, I reached out to NEXTech and other STEM groups to help create face shields for our healthcare professionals, which was accomplished. Further, my campaign obtained thousands of face masks which we gave to anyone who asked. We also made sure that we gave masks to organizations such as HOPE Services, which takes care of the Homeless population, and the Going Home Consortium, which works with people who are being released from incarceration. On our campaign website and social media channels we provided resources and timely information on testing, social distancing, finances, and anything that was relevant to the community in regards to COVID-19. I also volunteered by delivering food to seniors, individuals in public housing, as well as to people within various communities.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

I have been and will continue to advocate for policies that will protect healthcare professionals, such as laws that would exclude healthcare professionals from paying GE taxes.

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?

As the Prosecuting Attorney my office successfully obtained a SAMHSA grant to build capacity for a substance abuse prevention system and infrastructure in the County of Hawaii. Through this initiative we have worked very closely with the Hawaii Pubic Health Institute (HIPHI) to address these issues including educating the public and advocating for better laws. The State and County should continue in these efforts.

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. | Strongly 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. | Strongly Support |
| 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?

As the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawaii I created the first agricultural investigator program in the State. Part of the job of the Agricultural Investigator is to educate farmers and buyers of agriculture of the need for movement certificates or receipts. This is required by a law that I helped draft many years ago when I learned about the first case of mad cow disease in the United States. Part of the law allows law enforcement to track stolen agriculture. However, another part of the law provides food security. Being able to track a harmful food back to the source protects the public and the farmer should there be salmonella or other harmful threats be found in food.

As Mayor, I would help find funding to support this program.

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?

I would recommend the strategies adopted in the State Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). This plan is a collaborative effort by a multi-disciplinary group of safety partners from around the State. As the past chair of the Hawaii SHSP, I am very familiar with the strategies and thought that went into the plan. The plan can be viewed at: <http://www.hawaiihsps.com>

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. **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. **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. **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. **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.	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?	Oppose
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?

My immediate plans to address affordable housing is to put time limits in the permitting process and to ensure that the codes are being interpreted in a consistent manner. This will reduce the time and costs for families building houses. For the larger projects, I will ensure that all departments involved in the process of approving permits and work are working together to help shepherd affordable housing projects through the process. Currently it seems that different departments are working in silos.

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 role of government should be to help its people and businesses thrive rather than permitting them to exist. It is my belief that government should take an active role in encouraging the production of more affordable housing and reducing the red tape that often prevents development and/or makes development more expensive.

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. **Oppose**

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

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:
