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COMPLETE

**Collector:** Email Invitation 1 (Email)  
**Started:** Monday, June 15, 2020 7:17:03 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, June 15, 2020 8:30:40 PM  
**Time Spent:** 01:13:37  
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Page 1: Candidate Information

**Q1**

Office You are Seeking

Mayor County of Hawaii

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**Q2**

Party

Independent

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**Q3**

First Name

Mike

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**Q4**

Last Name

Ruggles

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**Q5**

Email

mikedruggles@gmail.com

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**Q6**

Phone

8089369546

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**Q7**

Campaign Website

mayormikeruggles.com

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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.

We should refocus our investment into helping the most vulnerable and the most affected by covid. This will help our economy recover way faster then waiting on tourism, and way more sustainable.

Now, later when tourism picks back up, our already local thriving economy would improve more.

My Community Homeless and Non-Violent Victimless Offender Farms will not only free up valuable jail space for real criminals, but will be able to feed everybody, but will reduce crime by taking desperation out of their lives, give them a job and a home if you need it, food and lifestyle that gives them hope and shows them a better way then drugs for way cheaper than the \$300 a day it costs to incarcerate individuals in Hawaii jails and prisons.

We should also relax the "Handyman" and "Contractor" requirements which are not only archaic but punitive, and are designed to protect the big contractors.

Use Federal Funds to start a housing boom, using out of work persons to build homes. There is a reason that there is a housing shortage, who is the main beneficiaries? Banks who hold mortgages and the County who gets more in property taxes due to lack of available cheap housing. Who wins in a housing boom? The renters and new homeowners, aka the little people, the most vulnerable. Millionaires don't need help.

The time has never been riper to reverse the Jones act, which makes Hawaii the most expensive place to live, after land values. It adds 4000 miles to everything that comes from Asia, and why does the mainland get to benefit at our expense.

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**Q9**

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

I stayed home and didn't campaign door-to-door or on side of the road and honored the covid rules from governor and mayor.

I'm not medically connected so I haven't participated or led in any covid-related "responses".

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**Q10**

Additional thoughts/comments:

There has never been a better time to work on a sustainable local economy then now.

If not now, when? Let's prove we want a diversified sustainable island economy instead of investing any more money in tourism.

Until the virus is controlled and tourism can be profitable, we need to focus on creating jobs here on island for people who are out of work, and may be out of work for years to come while tourism rebounds.

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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 hate tobacco and e-cigs, so I believe the best answer is education, we need to let people know how bad these things are.

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**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. **Support**

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

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**Q13**

Additional thoughts/comments:

I hate for the government to regulate anything, but if there ever was a reason for the government to step in, tobacco kills so many, if there was ever a reason for the government to step in, its tobacco.

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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?

Community Farms with certified kitchens in every district.

Financial incentives in the way of grants and loans for small farmers and fishermen and bigger farms and ranches get tax breaks in order to stimulate self sustainability.

Encourage food cooperatives and farm-to-table by getting County and UH involved to insure food safety due to ratlung problem.

Prior the 2018 Kilauea eruption, a third of all the fish on the big island came from Pohoiki. I would make it a priority to get the boats in the water asap. There is already funding, why aren't we doing it?

**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?

There is no more dangerous place in America than on the side of the road. We need to stop law enforcement for profit and start focusing on solutions like mass transit that runs day and night for all districts with free rides for drunks.

**Q16**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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|---|-------------------------|
| 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. | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| 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.  | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Enact a one-cent per-ounce fee on sugar-sweetened beverages.  | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Use revenue from a sugar-sweetened beverage fee for obesity prevention programs.  | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| 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.                                     | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Implement a red light camera program to deter red-light running and help curb traffic fatalities and injuries.  | <b>Support</b>          |

**Q17**

Additional thoughts/comments:

There should be an extra tax on sugary and fatty foods that we import as well, because they are also culpable in obesity and related diseases

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Page 5: Oral Health

**Q18**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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|--|-------------------------|
| Reinstate coverage of preventative dental benefits for Adult Medicaid participants.  | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Fluoridation of community water supplies is an effective way to prevent tooth decay. | <b>Strongly Oppose</b>  |
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**Q19**

Additional thoughts/comments:

There has been many studies showing that fluoride could be harmful so let's not put it in the water until we know more.

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Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

**Q20**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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|---|----------------|
| Increase in alcohol taxes.  | <b>Support</b> |
| Repeal of the alcohol takeout laws that allow people to buy and take home liquor-based mixed drinks from restaurants.                       | <b>Oppose</b>  |
| Repeal of alcohol delivery laws that allow restaurants to deliver beer and liquor-based mixed drinks to people's homes.                     | <b>Oppose</b>  |
| Increase in enforcement that helps ensure that youth do not access alcohol through existing laws allowing for alcohol takeout and delivery. | <b>Oppose</b>  |
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**Q21**

Additional thoughts/comments:

If parents want to let their kids drink at home there is not a lot you can do to stop it. If you order 5 drinks you should have at least 5 adult id's for the delivery guy. We can't be invading homes just to make sure who drinks the ordered drinks.

If people want to give struggling restaurants money for alcohol deliver with their food, let them. It was a big part of the restaurant experience and shouldn't be denied because you are worried about minors.

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Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

**Q22**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Do you support legalizing recreational marijuana sales in Hawai'i?	<b>Strongly Support</b>
If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana be regulated by the Department of Health?	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>
If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated?	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>
If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the promotion and advertisement of marijuana sales be regulated?	<b>Support</b>
If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana potency be regulated?	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>
If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the number and placement of marijuana outlets be regulated?	<b>Strongly Oppose</b>

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**Q23**

Additional thoughts/comments:

In America the best way to regulate price and potency is the free market, let people buy what they like. Obviously, more potent cannabis is not dangerous, unlike alcohol, it just means you need less for satisfaction.

Dispensaries aren't the answer, but collectives are. Dispensaries are for-profit for one rich person, which does not help the economy. Collectives help everyone, they share the profit with their members and you get better choice, better quality and cheaper and way better for the economy.

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Page 8: Economic Justice

**Q24**

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

Repeal the Jones Act. It is mind-blowing to understand how it hasn't been repealed yet. It is the number one obstacle to affordable living in Hawaii.

Community Farms and relaxing construction regulations in order to start a housing boom.

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**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?

Relax restrictions and make it easier for contractors to get a licence and ease the handyman restriction and get to building!

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**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. **Oppose**

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**Q27**

Additional thoughts/comments:

I am a little confused, is this for everyone in the state, or just state and county employees.?

This sounds really expensive. Who is supposed to pay for the fund, the little pizza parlor guy has to pay 3 months wages to a worker once they have a baby or a sick family member?

Who pays this? The state , the county and where does the money come from? Everyone residing in the state has these issues. Unless Bill Gates is involved, how are you going to pay for it?

I like it but I don't see how the 3-month paid leaves are sustainable.

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