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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Honolulu Council District V

Q2

Party

Democrat

Q3

First Name

Calvin

Q4

Last Name

Say

Q5

Email

calvinsay@hotmail.com

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(808) 393-5327

Q7

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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.

The COVID-19 crisis is unprecedented in scope and scale. In March, the Council on Revenues (COR) expected the State to experience a general fund surplus of nearly \$300 million for this fiscal year. Within a month after COVID hit, the surplus of \$300 million was downgraded to a deficit of nearly \$500 million. The most recent COR report anticipates a shortfall of over \$2 billion in State general funds over the next two years. For the City and County of Honolulu, I would expect the situation would be even worse since property values will likely decline during this period, especially with the virtual stoppage of our economic base.

Our State and the counties are in triage mode right now and will be in it for at least two years (or so say the economists). With limited revenues, federal, State, and county governments will need to do all that they can to survive by ensuring that the most vital services for the health and welfare of our citizenry are provided. Because of this, my first and most important goal if elected will be Honolulu's ECONOMIC SURVIVAL.

We will need to hit the reset button on county operations and address the issue of "recovery." Oahu is the engine that generates revenue for State and county operations. We must stimulate and diversify our economy if we hope to achieve a "new" normalcy in the near future.

In order to objectively and rationally determine how to pare down the budget, it will be vital that the Council understands what services are "essential", or those that they are required by the Hawaii State Constitution, State law, or the City Charter, and those that are "non-essential", or all other services that were established by City Ordinance. To my knowledge, such an analysis has not been performed for the State nor the County levels in over a decade. Failure to provide for certain "essential" services could have drastic impacts on the City's ability to receive federal or State funds as well as hurt the City's bond rating.

With that said, what will the "new" normal look like? It hasn't been defined yet. It will be established by our people through their participation in government -- letting their elected official know what they feel are the most important programs and services that are provided. They need to share their manao on how society must allow them to express their ideas, conduct their lifestyles, and live and work in a way that is manageable so that they can grow. Government must be responsive to their needs. As such, my second goal will be to work on creating public policies that are responsive to our People. In the midst of this unprecedented crisis, the need for government to be responsive has never been so important.

Q9

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

As one of the many elected leaders on the federal, State, and county governments, I believe we are doing all that we can to date. As a member of the Hawaii State Legislature, I can state for a fact that the steps taken so far have all followed the recommendations of the federal Center for Disease Control, the federal Department of Health and Human Services, and the State Department of Health.

I can also say though that we can all do a better job at researching the problem and communicating with domestic and foreign jurisdictions to develop medical and logistical protocols on patient contact, testing, and tracing. The development of standards is the most important step in ensuring that our communities will remain safe especially when visitors are welcomed back to our islands.

Q10

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

Page 3: Tobacco and E-Cigarette Regulations

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

What policies do you think the state and/or counties should enact to reduce tobacco and e-cigarette use?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Q13

Additional thoughts/comments:

I respectfully decline to state my support or opposition to any legislation without first seeing the legislation for which I am being asked. I will state that I understand the harm tobacco products have caused our citizenry, and my record of 44 years in the Hawaii State House of Representatives will show that I have supported measures to raise the tobacco tax as well as provide funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs in Hawaii as part of a holistic approach toward making Hawaii truly the "Health State" of our Nation.

However, I am also a small business person and understand the need for marketplace decisions to be dictated by consumer behavior, and that regulation, by and for itself, cannot be the ultimate solution to all of society's ills. I think it is very important for the business community to actively participate in the discussion on crafting legislation to address this issue. Without their participation, any bill approved will only serve as fodder for costly lawsuits, delays, and uncertainty in the marketplace.

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?

There is much that can be done at the City level to promote food security and self-sufficiency. As a matter of zoning and planning, agriculture has always been and will continue to be a priority if I am elected to the City Council. For farms to thrive, it is vital for these businesses to have stable and affordable access to water, electricity, and roads, and all of these matters are impacted through planning and zoning.

The City can also assist farmers in getting their products to consumers. Farmers' markets have been a great option in this area, and the City has done much to promote these venues.

As mentioned above, the challenge facing lawmakers will be to protect and preserve these types of programs at a time where revenues will be seriously diminished. While I cannot promise anything, I can assure you that I understand the importance of these types of programs, not only for promoting food self-sufficiency, but, more importantly, toward diversifying our economy from tourism.

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?

The State of Hawaii and our Nation has seen countless lives devastated from drunk driving. While steps have been taken during my service at the House such as the enactment of the Ignition-Interlock Law, I believe policy makers need to take a hard look at lowering the blood-alcohol limit for drivers operating a motor vehicle. However, as stated above, decisions like this cannot and should not be made in a vacuum, and all of the constituencies -- accident victims, law enforcement, the prosecutors, the Judiciary, the Department of Transportation, public health experts, and the business community need to be engaged so that a balanced and well-thought solution can be found

Q16

Respondent skipped this question

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

As stated above, I respectfully decline to respond to how I would vote on legislation I have not reviewed.

Page 5: Oral Health

Q18

Respondent skipped this question

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

As stated above, I respectfully decline to respond to how I would vote on legislation I have not reviewed. I can say, however, that I have supported legislation in previous years to reinstate coverage for preventative dental Medicaid benefits.

Regarding fluoridation of community water supplies, this is a very contentious issue. For any movement to happen on this, there needs to be consensus within communities and constructive dialog among all of the advocates -- those who support fluoridation, and those who support additive-free water. Failure to arrive at consensus will only harden position, raise the level of rhetoric, and promote more unrest among our people. As lawmakers, we need to build bridges rather than expand moats.

Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

Q20

Respondent skipped this question

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Q21

Additional thoughts/comments:

As stated above, I respectfully decline to respond to how I would vote on legislation I have not reviewed. However, I can say that I have supported raising the alcohol taxes in the past. Also, please see my response for the question on Vision Zero, above.

Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

Q22

Respondent skipped this question

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Q23

Additional thoughts/comments:

As stated above, I respectfully decline to respond to how I would vote on legislation I have not reviewed. I can say, however, that I have supported medical marijuana legislation in the past.

The issue of recreational marijuana is extremely nuanced and complicated. Any potential state legislation will likely conflict with federal criminal and banking laws, and raise many questions on its impacts on youth, crime, and violence in communities.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

As mentioned earlier, ECONOMIC SURVIVAL will be the primary concerns for both the Hawaii State Legislature and the City Council for at least the next two years. The State currently went from having the lowest number of unemployed to the highest in our Nation in a matter of six weeks. Our primary economic engine is currently bringing in less than one-half of the tax collections from the previous year, and even if the State was to open its borders fully to trans-Pacific travelers, it is doubtful that we will ever see 10 million visitors who came here in 2019.

Our first duty will be to provide assistance to those who are unemployed to ensure that they continue to make their rent or mortgage payments and put food on their tables. We also need businesses to continue to retain their employees and provide essential goods and services safely to the general public. It will be catastrophic if the 250,000 persons or more recently unemployed become homeless. Our social safety net would quickly be overwhelmed and many of our citizens would suffer enormously. We cannot let that happen.

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?

From a public policy standpoint, State of Hawaii has consistently held that providing affordable housing is a fundamental responsibility of government. Among other things, the State of Hawaii has taken steps to provide both the State and County Governments with tools to increase the stock of affordable housing and make existing housing more affordable. These include mandatory leasehold reform for single-family homes and condominiums, the establishment of the Rental Housing Trust Fund, the creation of the Housing Finance and Development Corporation, and many other mechanisms to stimulate investment in affordable housing development.

For the next two years, however, both the State and the City will need to find temporary solutions to the immediate needs of the homeless. Until we gain a better understanding of what the "new normal" will look like, we must stand ready and committed to supporting our citizens who find themselves without a job, or without a home because of COVID-19. And we will need to do this without adequate funds. This will require elected officials to roll up their sleeves, become more creative, and be willing to challenge our pre-COVID notions of models because they don't apply anymore.

Q26

Respondent skipped this question

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Q27

Additional thoughts/comments:

As stated above, I respectfully decline to respond to how I would vote on legislation I have not reviewed. However, I will note that I have supported increases to the minimum wage and the establishment of the State Family Leave Law in previous years.
