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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Mayor

Q2

Party

Democrat

Q3

First Name

Keith

Q4

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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.

Our first commitment in the recovery beyond COVID-19 is to the people of O'ahu. In order to protect our residents, we need to make testing as accessible as possible, utilize technology to improve our contact tracing methods, and ensure that our medical facilities are properly equipped and staffed. Our frontline workers in the healthcare, hospitality, and service industry depend on us to protect them as we cautiously approach reopening.

Future opportunities for federal funding will be critical in strengthening safety net and human services programs for our residents, support for our small, local businesses in the forms of grants and loans, programs that get our neighbors back to work or trained for a transition to new industries, and increasing access to health emergency testing including ensuring our hospitals and federally qualified health centers have the resources they need to support our communities.

The discussion around diversifying our state's economy has been robust in recent months. I want to rebuild a healthier version of tourism that prioritizes the safety of our workers and community first. Tourism can continue to support our state in a more responsible way if we focus on attracting higher quality visitors and reducing the total number of visitors, and implementing green visitor fees to offset the impacts of tourism. An economy supported by Green Tech that reduces waste and increases our resiliency and sustainability and investments in innovation are the future for O'ahu.

Q9

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

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced the shutdown of our schools and businesses, along with so many in our community, I proactively tried to find a way to help our community. As a member of the state's Jump Start Breakfast Advisory Board, a task force with the mission of getting more kids to eat a nutritious breakfast in schools, I recognized the closing of schools could mean the end of a reliable source of food for too many of our families and youth. I talked with local funders that shared the same mission and reached out to local caterers who wanted to keep their employees working while shifting to address community needs.

Together, I spearheaded a program serving free meals every weekday for two months for public school students in Liliha and Pālolo, for women fleeing domestic violence, for public housing residents, and for our healthcare workers.

We're proud of the 14,000 meals that we were able to deliver from late March until the end of May. We are grateful for all the volunteers, small business owners, principals, teachers, and families who helped make the meals program possible. We also delivered hundreds of cloth face masks and fresh produce packages to kūpuna in our community. We know there is still great need out there, and as Mayor, I will ensure our residents' basic needs are met as we help our community recover together.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

The impacts of COVID-19 have had rippling effects into every part of our community in a very short period of time. Any reopening has to ensure the health and safety of our residents and frontline workers are put first or we risk impact waves to our entire community. My goal in putting forward a Recovery Plan for a Healthy Honolulu was to provide specific examples of things we can do now that will not only provide a bridge across these challenges times but also leverage the opportunity to create a new future that incorporates the hopes and dreams for a stronger, more resilient Honolulu that many have been working towards for decades.

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?

Presently, counties are preempted from the regulation of tobacco and e-cigarette use, as a result of Act 206, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2018. I support measures to grant the counties the power to regulate an industry that has resulted in Hawai'i being second in the nation for high school student use of electronic smoking devices. I am supportive of measures like HB2457 in the State Legislature, which proposes to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products, makes it easier for our younger generations to turn in electronic smoking devices, and asks our educators to confiscate these devices. I do not agree with increasing penalties for those under 21 in possession of tobacco products. Penalties of this nature rarely work as intended. A more appropriate solution that I would support would be increasing penalties levied at tobacco retailers who are responsible for the sale of tobacco products to minors.

Although the City is limited at this time in its ability to regulate activities, it can be a voice in the leadership and empowering of youth to make healthier decisions. The City's YouthBuild program has worked with Honolulu's youth for decades to obtain a GED, join apprenticeship programs, and identify career pathways where traditional education has failed them. Additionally, the City's "Proud to be Pono" educational campaign helps youth to choose not to drink alcohol and educates adults about supporting healthy choices. Anti-tobacco and e-cigarette use would be a natural addition to this existing City program. I also strongly support the creation of a Youth Commission, which will be on the ballot in November 2020 (Resolution 19-329), and would help uplift youth voices within the policies and programs of the City, including helping to activate youth around important issues such as this.

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 |
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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?

In order for us to tackle the future of food security for all of Hawai'i's people, we need to begin by taking inventory of and creating a common understanding of the challenges and obstacles in achieving food self-sufficiency. These conversations are happening right now in response to COVID-19, and many newcomers to these conversations are quick to realize the complexities of this issue. From our cattle farmers to our subsistence backyard farmers, there simply isn't enough supply in Hawai'i to meet the demand. There is not enough livestock and produce units, not enough processing facilities and space, not enough cold storage and fulfillment centers, not enough incentives for farmers to persist through the challenges, not enough training for enterprises that want to grow, not enough consumers prioritizing the purchase of locally grown food, and not enough support for the sustainable farming operations that are on the precipice of scaling to meet market needs.

The future of food self-sufficiency is multi-pronged and will require the cooperation of everyone in all counties and throughout the State. We can achieve immediate small wins by directing funding to those farming operations with the capacity to scale, by providing training, grants and loans, and a reduction in overhead with the creative sourcing of new facilities that meet supply and demand needs.

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?

Street safety has become a rising concern for the residents of O'ahu, especially our most vulnerable populations—keiki and kūpuna. I am a strong believer in Vision Zero, a quest towards zero fatalities and serious injuries on our streets. Traffic crashes are preventable, and we must have a holistic approach to making our streets safer for all people, regardless of their preferred mode of transportation. Traffic safety is also an equity issue, and given the many negative impacts associated with this public health concern, we must act with a sense of urgency.

Vision Zero should build upon the good work of Complete Streets and address engineering, education, enforcement, and policies around our built environment using both data and community input, where all modes, from pedestrians, bikes, cars, transit, to commercial vehicles, can share our limited road space safely. Vision Zero must also work across various city departments—transportation services, design and construction, planning and permitting, emergency medical services, and the Honolulu Police Department—and collaborate with state agencies and community advocates.

We must design and implement strategies to calm traffic, encourage better driver behavior, and allow for safer walking and biking on our streets. It will require bold leadership - a commitment to Vision Zero means that decisions need to prioritize safety over speed. When appropriate, we can utilize roundabouts, pedestrian scrambles, and bulbouts, and also lower speed limits to manage vehicle speeds. To encourage more walking, biking, and mass transit use, we must continue to maintain our sidewalks, plant more street trees, build supportive bike infrastructure, and promote cohesive transit oriented development around our rail stations.

We must also look to other cities and learn from their best practices. The Hawai'i State Legislative is exploring a red light running camera program, and I would certainly be supportive of a system pilot, given its success in cities like New York and San Francisco where traffic fatalities have dropped by substantially.

I would also expand our city's Safe Routes to School efforts to address street safety around our school campuses. Vision Zero can also give streets more vibrancy and a sense of place, which can boost social interactions, economic development, and overall livability.

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. | 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

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

Additional thoughts/comments:

The City currently provides funding support for Project Vision, which is a mobile program that increases access to healthcare services through mobile services to underserved communities. In the past, the City has also been a partner, especially with CIP funding, to federally qualified health centers. While healthcare is traditionally within the State arena, the City can be a partner such as through innovative community-based programs such as these to ensure increased access.

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.	Oppose
Repeal of alcohol delivery laws that allow restaurants to deliver beer and liquor-based mixed drinks to people's homes.	Oppose
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:

The City's "Proud to be Pono" educational campaign helps young adults to choose not to drink alcohol and educates adults about supporting healthy choices among our youth. I believe this is an important program that I would continue and potentially grow with additional educational campaigns such as those combatting the use of tobacco and e-cigarettes.

The reason I oppose repealing the alcohol takeout and delivery laws at this time is because our small businesses, especially our restaurants and bars, need revenue streams during COVID-19 in order to stay afloat. As a community, we must look for opportunities to keep our economy alive and help aid in the recovery. I do, however, support increased enforcement to ensure that these laws aimed at helping businesses do not get taken advantaged of or hurt our youth.

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? | Oppose |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated? | Oppose |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the promotion and advertisement of marijuana sales be regulated? | 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:

I support State regulations that create marijuana education programs that prioritize preventing and reducing youth use and educating adults on marijuana laws, safe storage practices, and responsible adult use. However, I am not sure that the overall industry and pricing standards need to be regulated at the state level by the Department of Health. I believe more discussion with various stakeholders is needed in order to ensure the correct regulatory structure for legalized marijuana in our state.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

We know that housing is an important element in healthcare, and stable housing can make a key difference for many of our more vulnerable community members in dealing with other challenges. Earlier this year, I put forward a Housing For All Plan. In it, we discuss how the City can help bring down the costs of housing by enforcing illegal vacation rental laws, imposing an empty homes tax, and incentivizing truly affordable housing instead of market rate development. My housing plan is a bold commitment to meeting the 22,000 housing unit shortage in a way that no administration has done in the history of the city.

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?

Our lack of affordable housing is the primary contributor to homelessness. With over 22,000 units needed on O'ahu alone, coupled with one of the highest housing costs in the country, even the lowest cost units are out of reach for many of O'ahu's residents. Of those 22,000 needed homes, over half are needed for our ALICE families, who live at or near the poverty line. My work with Kahauiki Village, which houses over 100 previously homeless families, has motivated me to push our City to meet the housing needs of our residents, for it is clear that housing with support services truly works.

The City can also invest in actual housing by (1) utilizing the resources it has, such as City land, and leveraging federal, state, and private partnerships, to build new rentals for lower income individuals and our kūpuna; (2) supporting efforts to build communal and shared housing that addresses the needs and lifestyles of kūpuna, millennials, and low-income individuals, such as Kahauiki Village; and (3) partnering with the state to provide housing opportunities for individuals who need mental health and/or substance use disorder support services.

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

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:
