

#129

COMPLETE

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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Honolulu Mayor

Q2

Party

Independent

Q3

First Name

Rick

Q4

Last Name

Blangiardi

Q5

Email

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Q6

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(808) 427-3239

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.

Tourism should be safely opened up in phases supported with robust testing/quarantine requirements and tracking programs. With 23% of the economy, tourism has to be a priority. However, in the meantime, we must do all we can to support our small businesses, which are truly the backbone of our local economy. Possible steps could include distributing federal COVID-19 relief money the City receives to our small businesses in need, providing the proper guidelines and personnel training to small businesses through expanded workforce development programs, and using City personnel to help navigate our state and federal government's COVID-19 relief programs.

Q9

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

Engaged business, government and community leadership to develop and to promote viable solutions to revive the economy.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

There is now an opportunity to redefine the visitor experience that is more enriching and reflective of Hawaii's historical culture. The goal is not to increase visitor numbers which only exacerbates community infrastructure but to provide meaningful experiences which the visitor pays for willingly. COVID-19 has raised the awareness of the importance of public health programs necessary to protect individuals as well as visitors. Public health is a State responsibility but all organizations and county governments are accountable to assure a safe and clean environment.

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?

It is well known and scientifically proven that tobacco is a major contributor to cardio-vascular disease and cancer. Cardio-vascular disease is the leading cause of death in the nation. Productive efforts to eliminate or curb tobacco and e-cigarette use will eventually mitigate rising hospital costs and improve quality of life.

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?

Effective public health and safety programs can improve the quality and safety of the food supply chain. Encouraging more locally grown products shortens the transit times and can mitigate food borne illness. The State should support a reasonable and effective inspection program for eating establishments. The public health techniques are well known.

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?

Hawaii's major cause of trauma is automobile accidents. Promoting a safe traffic environment is key, e.g., strict enforcement of DUI, improving roads and highways, cross-walk safety, seatbelt use, helmets for motorcycles and mopeds, etc. The fundamentals of automobile trauma are well known; they just need to be appropriately applied.

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. **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. **Strongly Support**
- Implement a red light camera program to deter red-light running and help curb traffic fatalities and injuries. **Strongly Oppose**

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. **Support**
 - 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**
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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? **Strongly Oppose**
 - 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? **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?

There is a major shortage of affordable rentals. I will create incentives to increase our supply of truly affordable rentals and to lease lands in our urban core where they can be built convenient to where people work.

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?

There are a number of actions the City can take to promote these affordable rentals. The City can look to use underutilized City lands for development; fix the efficiency and workforce turnover problems in DPP to make permitting for projects less costly and more efficient; provide tax incentives to developers to increase affordable rentals; and convene regular meetings with construction industry stakeholders to determine what more the City can do to promote housing for our local families.

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. **Strongly Oppose**

Q27

Additional thoughts/comments:

During these very challenging times financially, these policies should be determined through company-based decisions, especially for the specific benchmarks outlined above.
