Q1
Office You are Seeking
Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu

Q2
Party
Republican

Q3
First Name
John

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Carroll

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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 must re-open the economy but be very careful in doing so, especially in light of the increase in cases of COVID-19 in recent weeks. We also must restore in-class education because some educators already have criticized the efficacy of online learning. I have long advocated for restoring agriculture to its former place as a major element of our island’s economy. Federal assistance will be solicited in making Hawaii exempt from the restrictions on shipping caused by the unconstitutional Jones Act. This will have an immediate positive impact by saving money spent by local consumers for products and food originating in foreign nations. Federal funds for COVID-19 relief provided to local residents must be carefully monitored to ensure the funds are received by those most in need. “Scammers” should be severely prosecuted.

Q9
Please share some of the efforts you have led or participated in response to COVID-19.

I have been advocating for much more nose swab testing of our citizens and for antibody blood tests, which should be free for those lacking adequate insurance to cover costs. I support Dr. Scott Miscovich’s effort to test everyone who is at high risk of contracting the virus. Everyone on the island should be tested and those found to be infected should be separated and immediately treated.

Q10
Additional thoughts/comments:

It should be recognized that the new mayor will not take office until next January. In the meantime, I believe that the worldwide and nationwide effort to find a vaccine will be successful and we will enter a post-COVID-19 environment in 2021. I will caveat that to say that vaccinations should be voluntary; however, I believe that state and local governments can apply limits on those refusing the vaccine.

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 believe that everyone under the age of 21 should not allowed to use tobacco or e-cigarettes. This may be hard to enforce but heavy penalties should be imposed on those selling or giving such products to those under 21.
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
Additional thoughts/comments:

I believe that everyone under the age of 21 should not be allowed to use tobacco or e-cigarettes. This may be hard to enforce but heavy penalties should be imposed on those selling or giving such products to those under 21.

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?

We already are doing a good job in ensuring food security. Boosting agricultural output, especially for home-grown food products, will help in the effort toward self-sufficiency. As mayor, I will obstruct any attempts to rezone conservation or agricultural designated land.

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?

We must apply every means to make our streets and sidewalks safe for bicyclists and pedestrians. We also should prosecute those operating vehicles producing a level of sound above acceptable levels. As mayor, I will work closely with OMPO to ensure that programmed infrastructure changes and enhancements meet the requirements outlined in Vision Zero.
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. **Oppose**
- Use revenue from a sugar-sweetened beverage fee for obesity prevention programs. **Oppose**
- 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
Additional thoughts/comments:

Although I am a major advocate for improving the public health, I am unwilling to dictate policies that infringe on our residents' freedom to choose their way of life.

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. **Strongly Oppose**

Q19
Additional thoughts/comments:

Pure water is one of the most precious elements of our Hawaiian Islands. We must make every effort to maintain ample water supplies and not dilute the aquifer. As for fluoridation, I am strongly opposed to “poisoning” our water. Parents can ensure the health of their children's teeth by having their dentists apply fluoride treatments.
Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

Q20
Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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

Q21
Additional thoughts/comments:
Enforce existing laws, do not dictate personal preferences, and use our education system to ensure our younger people are fully aware of the perils of excessive use of alcohol.

Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

Q22
Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- Do you support legalizing recreational marijuana sales in Hawai‘i? **Strongly Support**
- 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? **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? **Oppose**
- 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? **Oppose**
Q23
Additional thoughts/comments:
Marijuana should be treated the same as we treat alcohol. The Department of Health should carefully monitor the potency level of marijuana to ensure the safety of island residents.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24
What are your immediate plans to help make Hawai‘i more affordable for its residents?
Exempt Hawaii from the shipping restrictions of the Jones Act. Hawaii currently experiences a 35 percent higher cost of living than New York and California. On day one of my term, I will take action for an executive order removing Hawaii from Jones Act restrictions; if that fails, I will pursue a class action lawsuit.

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 mayor can play a role in ensuring that developers follow all guidelines for a percentage of affordable housing in any new developments. I also will advocate for building up rather than out to preserve every acre of cultivable land on O‘ahu.

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. 
Oppose

Q27
Additional thoughts/comments:
Too steep an increase in the minimum wage will put many small businesses out of business. Paid family leave should be left up to the individual employer.