Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1
Office You are Seeking
Kauai County Council

Q2
Party
Non Partisan

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Bernard

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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.

Working closely and supporting our State and County administration’s in enforcement and implementation of all health and safety rules and regulations. We need to seek solutions and resources to address the “New Normal” way of caring for our people, our visitors, and our island home. During COVID-19, tourism has been brought to a standstill in Hawaii. Investments that will make tourism stronger, smarter, and more resilient than before are needed now as we rebuild our economy. We need to assure that the County’s Cares Act funding is utilized responsibly so we are prepared for the possibility of any future outbreaks and continue to support all efforts in our economic recovery. Being fiscally responsible now will provide opportunity to lobby our State leaders for additional funding through the Cares Act program.

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

Participated and worked in several food drive distributions which proved to be very successful. Also continue to follow the rules of social distancing and wearing of a face mask.

Q10
Additional thoughts/comments:

Q11
What policies do you think the state and/or counties should enact to reduce tobacco and e-cigarette use?

As approved at Lydgate and Poipu Beach parks, we need to continue to support the banning of smoking in County Parks.
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:
Respondent skipped this question

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 addition to supporting the current Kauai Agriculture Advisory Committee who provides advice and assistance in the formulation and conduct of agricultural programs, we need to continue to create Agricultural Parks in all communities that will provide more opportunities for farm to school, farm to table and onsite farmers markets.

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?

Continue to invest into multi-modal transportation programs that encourages people to re-think how they choose to travel our roadways. It is also especially important that we secure additional funding similar to securing a $15.1 million TIGER GRANT (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) in 2015 from the U.S. Department of Transportation which took dedicated teamwork and partnerships at all government levels to begin the transformation of our infrastructure into a walkable, bike able and complete streets design.
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 Support**

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments: **Respondent skipped this question**

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. **Oppose**

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments: **Respondent skipped this question**

Page 6: Alcohol Regulations
Q20
Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Increase in alcohol taxes.  
Strongly Support

Repeal of the alcohol takeout laws that allow people to buy and take home liquor-based mixed drinks from restaurants.  
Strongly Support

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

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:

Respondent skipped this question

Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

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?  
Strongly Support

If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated?  
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
Additional thoughts/comments:

Respondent skipped this question

Page 8: Economic Justice
Q24
What are your immediate plans to help make Hawai’i more affordable for its residents?

It is imperative that we focus on affordable housing options for our people. One of the keys areas of concern is the permitting process and to assure that there are no delays. Any delay in the process will mean an increase in cost to our residents. Also, working closely with our Housing Agency and supporting their efforts in assuring that all their housing resources such as the housing revolving fund, have the required support and attention so that housing options for our people will be readily available.

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?

In addition to approved affordable housing projects that have been completed or are in the process of development, like the Kolopua project in Princeville, Kaniko’o project in Lihue and the Lima Ola project in Eleele, we as leaders need to continue to seek resources and support for housing projects like these. Partnerships with Habitat for Humanity and others is also vital in making homes available to residents at various income levels throughout our Island. It is also especially important to note the various housing programs such as the First-time Home Buyer Loan Program and other programs that are provided through the County Housing Agency. The most recent opportunity for emergency rental, mortgage, and utility assistance program support came through an emergency block grant. The County of Kauai, Housing Agency partnered with the Family Life Center and Malama Pono Health Services to administer grant.

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
Additional thoughts/comments: 

Respondent skipped this question