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COMPLETE

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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Kaua'i County Council

Q2

Party

Non partisan

Q3

First Name

Mason

Q4

Last Name

Chock

Q5

Email

Mason4kauai@gmail.com

Q6

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8086517013

Q7

Campaign Website

Mason4kauai.org

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.

Covid-19 has made it visibly clear what we were experiencing on our roads, feeling how we lived and seeing in our natural environment prior to the pandemic. It has convinced everyone that we cannot and should not depend solely on our visitor industry for economic vitality. Our risk to the effects of the pandemic behooves us to ensure safety protocols are in place prior to opening the doors for tourism. This will require the collaboration of our trans-pacific providers, health experts and government leaders to solidify a sound process of contact tracing, testing and quarantine along with implementing new standards of interaction. When we do open up for tourism, we need to be deliberate in how we move our visitors to and from locations. A limitation on rental cars and a shift to multi-modes of traffic is imperative, which inevitably requires sound planning. We need to manage visitor destinations capacity by region and enact control measures that limit access, while preserving the beauty for both residents and malahini. We will need to highlight the privilege of being a visitor and the kuleana that comes with that both in behavior and in sharing the true expense our infrastructure and services. There are many places around the world, such as Iceland that are a shining example of this commitment that we would merely need to adapt to our culture and way of life. Interestingly, our General Plan identifies the ceiling limits experienced in the visitors industry and areas the county could look to support the balance being sought. Within that plan a Kakou Committee was identified and it would be a good avenue to continue working towards how we return our economy sustainably. If keeping the rural character and viability of a good life is important we need to become more sustainable in every area of society and invest in industries that can support this. Clearly defining agriculture for our future needs, improving its infrastructure needs and providing access are key. Supporting social entrepreneurship and expanding technology and textile industries appropriate to the safety of our environment is key. We will need to utilize the county directed cares act funds strategically to prepare for future outbreaks and support the economic recovery. Lastly, we will need to lobby the senate for a second round of cares act support.

Q9

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

I helped coordinate redirecting the closing of farmers markets towards csa box deliveries for Kupuna. I helped a meals program called Noirish get off the ground and serve those in need of food by securing county funds. I also coordinated Kaua'i Makerspace and a group of seamstresses to solidify Personal protective Equipment in the form of face shields and face masks for our first responders and community. I was able to secure a small grant through the Hawaii Community Foundation towards this effort. I also chair the Kaua'i Resiliency Project where we partnered with the DOE to highlight social services to support mental health and domestic abuse issues that were arising. I also chaired the Kaua'i Economic Recovery Sectors Taskforce, Education Committee to produce 45 recommendations to how the county and Kaua'i can rebuild our economy.

Q10

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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?

Ban smoking in public 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

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?

- Provide cares act grants for farmers
 - Fund infrastructure needs for agriculture
 - Develop a farm commission to oversee county role including permitting of farm worker housing
 - Develop SNAP program for farmers markets and restaurants
 - Support Added value products
 - Support Kaua'i made products
-

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?

Enlist planning best practices by encouraging and increasing growth in our town cores, include smart growth and form based code principles. Invest in multi-modes of traffic. The county can increase ridership by increasing routes and bus fleet. We can also increase public safety on our roads with education and enforcement.

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

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. | 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. | Strongly Support |
| 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? | Oppose |
| 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 |
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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?

I am immediately focused on outlining efficient Permitting process so projects stay on track and are not unnecessarily delayed causing increased cost. I'll be revisiting our building permitting code and processes to help clear discrepancies Where they should be more flexible. I will continue to enlist and follow good planning principles, invest in the housing revolving fund, continue instituting incentive packages, amend the housing ordinance, and amend the CZO where appropriate.

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 role of government is to create policy that allows for affordable units to be accessible. This includes providing incentives for affordable projects and homes as well as outlining an efficient Permitting process so projects stay on track and are not unnecessarily delayed causing increased cost. We need to enlist and follow good planning principles, invest in the housing revolving fund, continue instituting incentive packages, amend the housing ordinance, and amend the CZO where appropriate. The county should be able to keep our projects affordable in perpetuity.

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:
