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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Kauai County Council

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Party

Q3

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Felicia

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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.

Kauai has an economic crisis fully underway. Our county \$28.7 million CARES Act funding was approved, last week. I support our focus on splitting our funding in three directions: Direct Aid to constituents, supporting island self-sufficiency especially with ag grants and farm-to-table efforts, and building enduring resilience such as \$2 million for tiny homes for the houseless. \$4 million has been designated for payroll to ensure a double benefit with the spending of the funding; economic distribution to those capable of work in exchange for motivated and beneficial production.

The CARES Act State \$700 million, now placed in rainy day funds, needs to be distributed. We are having a "rainy day." There will be some monies needed to back-fill government expenses, particularly in an anticipated shortfall of Real Property Tax revenues, GET, TAT, income tax and other typical funding sources. However, circulating the money into the economy allowing rents, mortgages and other critical obligations is essential. Having solid housing for our citizens has been an increasing problem for a couple of decades, if not longer. The housing crisis translates into a health crisis. We run the risk of running our population off the island as speculative buyers can purchase our distressed properties sight-unseen. It is already beginning to happen since the COVID19 business shutdown began. Keeping our existing housed population in their homes is an essential goal. We need to re-house the majority of our houseless and identify the long-term houseless residents before re-opening to other states.

The COVID19 response has high-lighted structural problems in our economy. Kauai is over-reliant on the visitor industry and purchasing products shipped in from elsewhere. This event has given us the opportunity to recognize the value of remote work and staggered schedules in lowering traffic congestion and sizes of needed commercial space. We need to modernize our software, such as the unemployment office to interface directly with large employers and designate staff for interface with large, medium sized businesses. There are still people on Kauai who held solid economic function prior to the business shut-down that have yet to receive any support funding. We are destroying the stability of some of our most productive people and businesses. There is a cascade of losing "wellness" underway and we must do all we can to not allow the second economic wave that is facing us to be worse than the first.

Family businesses are permanently closing for businesses that have been both weak or strong. This has generational impact.

Kauai has been very fortunate to not really even have had a first wave of the COVID19 pandemic. A bitter sacrifice has been experienced for those with a profound economic loss. We need to address our crushed economy while still keeping ourselves safe for a first and second wave of potential illness.

Q9

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

Putting People First is both my campaign slogan and a reflection of my community advocacy for decades. I have the full-time commitment to my position in my first term as a Kauai County Councilmember, with no competing distractions for my time, such as raising children or an outside job or business, in this phase of my life.

Here are three key areas of focus I have assisted during this COVID-19 window.

Nourish Kauai - Weekly food distribution program for Kauai's east side that provides meal kits to families with Kauai-grown produce, meat and fish, supporting our farmers, ranchers and fishermen. Roughly 700 restaurant quality hot meals are picked up at the same time as the food kits. These hot meals are created by a team of volunteers, including featured skilled, but unemployed, hotel chefs. This program offers multiple wins: support for local food producers, provision of nourishing, wholesome food to those in need, and an inspiring, learning social environment. The recipients are about 50% people who have been in distress from prior to the COVID19 window and the other half are people recently experiencing economic distress in which it is unfamiliar and hard to accept assistance. I am on the agriculture committee for Kauai Economic Recovery Strategic Task Force.

Houseless Encampments - I have held a core advocacy for establishing permitted houseless encampments in five of our county parks has oversight. I provide bridge communication with the campers and have gone tent-to-tent in all five locations with routine interface. We have set aside \$2 million dollars for Tiny Houses to begin a more permanent solution after the 14-day quarantine window is lifted. The housing department is the primary leader on this project in which I have active interface.

Constituent support - on a regular basis, I assist individuals and business with both navigating the challenges they face, as well as routinely calling for business and landlord wellness checks and door-to-door business check-ins.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

The COVID19 impacts have created an important opportunity for resetting our priorities as an island and a state. We must be dexterous at balancing the equal challenges of health and economic threats. Balance is also essential in responsibly managing the threat of this virus and future pandemics while not surrendering an excessive amount of our civil liberties and freedoms. It is clear that we need to be more self-reliant, more resilient and responsible as a collective and as individuals. We can successfully engage and come out of this challenge in a better position. I am committed to listening with respects to all sides of the debate and working to build responsible fresh strategies.

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 have introduced a bill to allow for county regulation to limit flavored e-liquid products designed to target youth and deceive adult detection. This bill was did not pass at this time, but I will continue to work on this needed goal.

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. | Support |
| Prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and flavored e-liquids. | Support |
| Restrict online sales of e-cigarettes to tobacco retailers only, in order to curb illegal sales to minors. | Support |
| Increase the tobacco tax on cigarettes to help smokers quit and prevent new users from starting. | 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?

Food security is critically important and benefits the islands in multiple ways; improved nutrition, solid-waste reduction, economic diversity, reduced Emergency Management responsibility. Neighborhood food production and edible landscaping needs to be encouraged, including in public places. True, simple farm worker housing needs to be allowed and respected. Food farming hubs, shared tool libraries, and collaborative farm-to-distribution programs should be encouraged. The Kilauea Community Agricultural Center is a successful example underway and is one block from my home. I have vibrant edible landscaping in my own home that produces far more than my family could possibly eat on a 1/3 acre residential site. Through experience, I grasp the volume of food that can be produced with ambient conditions if we shift our diet to Southeast Asian and Polynesian crops. We have a Kauai Food Forest in our Kilauea area that is a depository for island-adapted seed and vegetative starts that can be shared out. Subsistence food production on Kauai is possible and could be achieved quickly, if we change our habits and mindset. Food is not merely a commodity. The State only tracks what generates a General Excise Tax. We need to honor and encourage utilized food production whether it produces revenue or not. How we measure successful agriculture is a part of what discourages our ability to have more abundance. Yes, export crops are important and need to be fostered, but more important is the return to being able to feed ourselves as was our norm for most of our islands' history.

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?

Many of Kauai's roads are former cane roads that were hardened with asphalt. The roadbeds were not designed to modern standards and there was not thought to even radiuses of curvatures on turns, parabolic surfaces for vehicles to naturally hug the the road and other elements that are inherent in Sweden's Vision Zero. I certainly support the intention behind this choice. Our Hawaii State Highway's Division has competent and capable leadership on Kauai that holds deep vesting in our road safety. That is an important step 1. Our state highways are built to federal standards with every increasing mindset towards multi-modal forms of transportation. The challenge at a county level is more extreme. Our newly designed \$.05 GET is targeted to help repair our potholes. Our roads, especially on our saturated side of the island, it is the sober driver seen swerving all over the obstacle course of potholes in front of her/him. We are applying for competitive Federal grants to create holistic road improvements in problematic areas; our next big existing project is in the Koloa area, with a grant application for extending into Poipu. On the north shore, we are focused on keeping our roads from sliding down the hillsides, into the oceans, or streams. While we are conscious of the Vision Zero goals, there needs to also be a balance of what is feasible.

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

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

The Red Light camera program is a topic for which I am close to neutral. There are positive reasons to support it. I was one of two council people, statewide, to meet with the sales agent on this program. There is a significant loss of privacy with the implementation of this program and an expected for of revenue extraction from our already financially beleaguered community.

There is a potential for cost savings, revenue generation, and the freeing of patrol officers; many reasons to support the implementation of technology. There are also reasons to have concern about the escalation of a surveillance state. If government is always good, maybe this is a positive. How much is our freedom worth to us?

These cameras have the potential for facial recognition software and the ability to stop a person at a forward light with waiting police to make an arrest. In other countries, the cameras are installed at a higher level and can issue citations for distracted driving. Algorithms supplant judges and judgement. Our police chief was supportive with the information I sent, while our prosecutor was not. In the balance, I prefer a more free society.

Page 5: Oral Health

Q18

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Reinstate coverage of preventative dental benefits for Adult Medicaid participants. **Support**

Fluoridation of community water supplies is an effective way to prevent tooth decay. **Strongly Oppose**

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**

Q21

Additional thoughts/comments:

If people are to drink it is preferable that they do not drive, so home delivery is not problematic to me. In general, I do not support policies that encourage excessive drinking or youth drinking.

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? **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? **Support**

Q23

Additional thoughts/comments:

Marijuana has beneficial results when utilized for its medical qualities. As a recreational drug, it has less harmful impacts than alcohol, particularly for those around the user. It is a far preferable addictive substance to heroine, crystal methamphetamines, crack and the range of illegal or pharmaceutical mind-altering drugs. My preference is for a community that is not reliant on any of the above. Criminalization of marijuana has possibly done more harm than good. At an anecdotal level on Kauai's north and east sides, the effective enforcement that stopped significant marijuana cultivation and sales in the late 1980's brought on destructive drug use, violent and domestic crimes, economic hardship, increased incarceration and drug deaths. Illegal sales of marijuana were a significant part of our economy and culture. The removal of this market-rate industry brought on homelessness, community upheavals, gentrification, the explosion of vacation rentals and a range of outcomes that have been near impossible to constructively manage in the three decades since. Stopping this industry had a palpable negative effect on the peace and tranquility of our community, as was observed in my window of time as a skate and surf shop owner and holding leadership positions in the Kauai North Shore Business Council. My life has not had room for drug or alcohol use at any time.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

As a sitting council member, we are regularly passing ordinances to allow for additional dwelling and rental units, tiny homes, guest houses with kitchens, the splitting of existing homes into duplexes, fee waivers for commitments to affordable rentals and a range of incentives to assist homeowners to invest in creating legal housing. It is acknowledged that the added density is less than ideal. Permanent Affordable Living is the desired goal, and I am an active policy contributor/sounding board for a non-profit with that same name. Affordable living is larger than the cost of rent or a mortgage; it includes transportation requirements, walkable access to services and capacity for community support for childcare, etc. We are looking at building tiny house facilities for our houseless community. Legalizing farm worker housing is another future valuable opportunity. We have a number of good programs that encourage first-time home ownership, fiscal responsibility, transitional, therapeutic housings. The challenge is the demand is far greater than the supply.

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 government needs to work with the private sector for building affordable homes. That is more ideal than the government being the provider. We need to incentivize the creation of affordable units rather than simply punishing all development. Our inclusionary zoning could be additional rather than embedded; example: a 10-unit build could be ten market rate units with 3 affordable units, rather than 7 market rate with a 30% inclusionary 3 affordable units. The solution to homelessness is to build more homes. The private sector basically has stepped back from development, inflating the costs of all housing. Our challenge is that our local workforce economy must compete with the global market and houses are marketed as a financial instrument. If we were able to place a policy restraint such as a form of high conveyance taxation that deeply discouraged real estate speculation and target the tax proceeds to a revolving housing fund, we may make some progress.

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. **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. **Support**

Q27

Additional thoughts/comments:

The state needs to be a partner with business for the Paid Family Leave Program. The COVID19 shutdown has revealed the destructive impacts of excessively shifting the social services burden onto the employer. This is related to the economic justice challenge. It is hard to compare United States social services policies to European models of social democracies when America has grown to be in the position of the disproportionately high defense budget and debt service.
