

#132

COMPLETE

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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Kaua'i County Council

Q2

Party

Non-Partisan race; I am a Democrat

Q3

First Name

KipuKai

Q4

Last Name

Kuali'i

Q5

Email

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Q6

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808-652-3684

Q7

Campaign Website

www.kualii.com

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.

Firstly, we should continue working closely with the Mayor and his Administration to ensure that our County, one of Kaua'i's largest employers, is fully operational, with our staff employed and providing all core services to our people. We should also continue working with the Administration and community partners to implement the initial 45 economic recovery strategy recommendations developed with teams of community leaders from our different economic sectors, as well as to support coming up with additional strategy recommendations over time.

We also must work diligently to ensure any and all relief or stimulus funds received are spent responsibly and efficiently.

This COVID-19 pandemic makes it clear we depend on the visitor industry for our economic vitality. We don't have any choice in the short-term but to rely on the visitor industry for our economic recovery. However, as is being talked about by many leaders in our community who are working with us on our Kaua'i Economic Recovery Strategy Team, we need to plan for a new kind of tourism; one that is focused on finding balance.

Although devastating economically, our citizens have also seen the benefits the break from tourism has brought to our natural environment and to traffic reduction. Most agree that we need to plan for tourism that balances our residents' quality of life and the resilience of our natural environment along with the visitor experience. We need to look seriously for ways to fairly manage the tourism footprint on our island at any given time. We need to manage how many tourists should be visiting a cultural site or participating in an outdoor activity at the same time. Lastly, I'd like to see us increase Eco-tourism, Agri-tourism and other types of tourism that respects the authentic experiences and values of our people and our islands. Responsible Tourism!

Q9

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

Our Council has worked closely with the Mayor and his budget team to address the projected budget shortfalls for FY 2021. We've deferred most of our maintenance items and most of our planned new vehicle purchases. We have not filled as many of our vacant positions as possible and we have planned for only half year funding for nearly 20 vacant positions. We have deferred a significant amount of road repairs and road resurfacing. We have made significant cuts to travel and training. As for real property taxes, we kept all but the rate for Residential Investor the same. Additional cuts could be realized with current vacant positions and future vacant positions. Additional revenues could be realized with targeted increases to real property taxes such as a further increase to Residential Investor.

Our Council has also worked closely with the Mayor in developing the the budget for the CARES Act Funding from the federal government that was allotted to us by the State; approx. \$28m. We worked to ensure that these funds would get out into our community and provide relief and stimulus as intended. Over \$17m of those funds have just been awarded and should help with food, housing, jobs and a lot more.

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?

I believe this issue should be addressed at the State level primarily.

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. **Oppose**

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?

The County should do what it can to support our diversified agriculture sector to expand greatly with a lot more growing of a lot more foods that a lot more of us are purchasing locally and eating. That includes expanding our Kaua'i Made & Grown program and helping develop more and more local markets for our farmers. It also includes helping develop successful large scale agriculture growing and raising food that can be exported, be sold locally and be our food source when the barges can't come. Maybe it could be breadfruit or Hawaiian sweet potatoes! They both can be prepared and enjoyed in many different ways!

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?

I also see this primarily as an issue that the State should lead on. However, I do believe that County should continue supporting healthy communities, complete streets, pedestrian safety, safe routes to school and so on as much as possible.

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. **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:

The County's support of the Get Fit Kaua'i program over the years has brought about many improvements and benefits for our people.

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

Additional thoughts/comments:

I feel strongly that our kupuna and working class poor need as much help as can be provided.

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 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

Q21

Additional thoughts/comments:

Although I stated I'm opposed to raising taxes, I would be open to a small increase if it was demonstrated we had a dire need for funding for youth education and for safety on our roads (i.e. accident prevention).

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? | 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

Additional thoughts/comments:

I strongly support medical marijuana. I would also like to see a large hemp industry developed here that could bring us many economic benefits.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

Although it isn't a County issue, I do support and have advocated for increasing the minimum wage each time it's come up at the State Legislature. I'm also a strong advocate for low-income rental housing. On the Council, I will continue working hard to find solutions to the affordable housing shortage, as well as to find ways to support our homeless population. ** See below for more on this.

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?

Government definitely has a leading role in helping solve our affordable housing crisis.

Our current Council has developed and passed a package of laws supporting more building (Additional Dwelling Units (ADU's), Additional Rental Units (ARU's), Guest Houses and even Tiny Homes).

As Chair of our Housing Committee, I'm leading the work on a bill that updates our Housing Policy to further support building homes and apartment buildings; especially in our town core areas. The bill also proposes to more than double the term of affordability from 20 years to 45 years. Despite the many necessary cuts made because of revenue shortfalls caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I was able to fight for and help retain \$2.6m of the \$4.5m originally budgeted for our Housing Development Fund.

As an Anahola Homestead community advocate, I'm helping bring about Tiny Homes, Quarantine Sheds, Match Savings Programs and other homestead community development. As a founding board member of a homestead community loan fund, we'll soon be bringing needed capital directly to homesteaders on Kaua'i and across the State.

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:

I have introduced and got passed resolutions supporting bills at the Legislature supporting economic justice for Hawai'i's working families. I'm willing to do that again if needed.
