

#156

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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Maui County Council, South Maui Residency Seat

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Party

Q3

First Name

Kelly

Q4

Last Name

King

Q5

Email

ktkmaui@me.com

Q6

Phone

(808) 283-1954

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

Campaign Website

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.

Our state should be very cautious before reopening without quarantine requirements, especially given the outbreaks that are occurring on the mainland. We need to figure out a reliable pre-testing and post-arrival testing system, possibly similar to the one Tahiti is using, and spend more of the federal funds on testing and tracing. Diversifying the economy is the key to economic survival and is already starting to happen on Maui with our recent budget focus on agriculture. Right now is an optimal time to build up the health industries; in addition to spending money on case by case treatments, we should be investing our CARES Act funding in growing our health and health care sectors. Other industries we could build up include construction, and we should be seriously exploring hemp for construction as a way to literally grow our building materials locally and create even more ag jobs. There is much potential for new jobs in the environmental sector, and our current Council has managed to include investment in projects that could be expanded into even more jobs to replace and integrate into what we have lost in traditional tourism. While the CARES Act is fairly restrictive on spending guidelines, I have been advocating through my involvement with NACO, for federal funds to be used to address our economic fallout as well as budget revenue shortfalls.

Q9

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

In addition to the above, I am exploring funding mechanisms, including a public-private partnership municipal bond, in the Climate Action and Resilience Committee which I created and currently chair. This type of funding could fund large and small long-term projects that would provide many jobs in the renewable energy and regenerative agriculture sectors. I have also advocated for more spending in our County for COVID-19 response in the houseless population, even helping with and donating to local outreach efforts. As food security is an even bigger issue with the pandemic conditions, I started a webinar series to help folks learn about actions they can take while the "safer at home" movement keeps us indoors. The first two webinars are on-line and included demonstrations on food preservation and storage, and backyard gardens. The response to these webinars has been fantastic and folks are following up with presenters to get more involved in adding to our county's individual and collective self-sufficiency!

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

Civic engagement is of utmost importance, especially during this time of quarantine and social distancing, when folks can feel hopeless and depressed. It's important that government be more transparent and inclusive, and that continues to be a focus of mine. To that end, my office is leading the Council's Civic Engagement video project, and I have championed a charter amendment to pivot to a professional county manager system that would reduce cronyism and provide continuity in our administration beyond the political terms of the mayor and council. This is the backbone of good governance which is necessary to achieve the vision and objectives in our Countywide Policy Plan.

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?

Allowing counties to regulate tobacco and e-cigarette use would be a great first step. Our County Council is less receptive to big business and those who benefit from perpetuating tobacco use than the State Legislature!

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?

Fund agriculture at a higher rate; create county departments of agriculture to support local food security and aid in bringing grant funds to local farmers. My webinar efforts to inform the community of assistance and help take the mystery out of gardening have extremely well received. I was also able to get funding in this year's budget for Food Security Hawaii's Ohana Gardens project which is working to effect 1,000 more backyard gardens in this fiscal year! I also sit on the steering committee for Maui Nui Food Alliance which has been focused on creating healthy food systems in our county.

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 was involved in the initial meetings for this effort on Maui and fully support it. Outreach is of utmost importance in this effort. Seeing the statistics on the potential for traffic fatalities rising exponentially with the increase in speed moved me to the point of creating a poster of the slide and putting it up in the lobby of the Council Chambers! I also advocated for state legislation to reduce the maximum blood alcohol limit for drivers and was able to get it endorsed by all counties through the Hawaii State Association of Counties legislation package. This was a joint effort with the police department.

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. **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. **Support**

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

I would want the red light camera program to be supported by the public before enactment as I saw the resistance after the fact in Honolulu's first attempt. With outreach and public discourse, I think it could be successful. I would also like to see a series of public webinars on Rules of the Road to educate the public on issues like bicyclists rights (including "sharrows" which some folks don't realize mean you have to actually share the road with bicyclists), regulations for mopeds and motorcycles, pedestrian rights and responsibilities, sidewalk rules for skateboarders and skaters, Vision Zero efforts, etc.

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. **Support**

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

While I support the above, I would want to know more about the effects of fluoridation, if any, and what is involved in preventative dental benefits if I were in a position to make those decisions. Since health care legislation is the purview of state lawmakers, it has not been in my radar.

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. **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

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? | 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? | 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 have been successfully advocating for more affordable rentals in Maui County. The Kaiwahine Village project, opened this year and now fully occupied in all 118 units, and others currently planned and funded in South Maui, address the 60% AMI and under. The first project has taken some of our homeless population off the streets, and in this time of massive unemployment, low income rentals are the best way to make life in Hawaii more affordable, along with growing our own food and the previously discussed diversification of our economic opportunities.

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 the above, I have been emphasizing community input for appropriate affordable housing. With the transparency and collaborative approach, projects have been able to garner support, mitigate neighborhood concerns and move forward more quickly. I also think the county government needs to provide more infrastructure for areas where additional traffic, fire hazard and water shortages may be major concerns.

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:

As a business owner, we currently have a \$15 minimum wage in our company and do allow maternity/paternity leave up to 12 weeks but not all paid. I would want to explore the burden on businesses of all sizes as this is a state issue and has not been a major focus in my position on the County Council.
