

#138

COMPLETE

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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Maui County Council

Q2

Party

Democrat

Q3

First Name

Keani

Q4

Last Name

Rawlins-Fernandez

Q5

Email

keani.rawlins@gmail.com

Q6

Phone

18083510263

Q7

Campaign Website

votekeani.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.

I support the Building Bridges, Not Walking on Backs: Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for COVID-19, that we must integrate the knowledge developed by marginalized communities that will help us to prioritize greater social well-being as a key factor to the economy. This includes increased childcare subsidies, instituting an equitable wage ratio for public service employees, and providing additional family leave opportunities. Federal CARES Act funding and other funding should be invested with this at the forefront of decision-making, for economic recovering, and rebuilding of social infrastructure.

Q9

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

As the Maui Council Economic Development and Budget Committee Chair, I led deliberations reducing the budget to provide property tax relief to our residents, I prioritized investment into food security through grants, including food security for our unsheltered community. I advocated for our unsheltered to ensure County followed CDC standards, by not conducting sweeps and keeping restrooms open. I introduced legislation to support a feminist economic recovery plan and advocated for funding that would support that end. I've scheduled an item related to COVID related funding in every budget committee meeting to ensure public transparency of the use of those funds. I helped welcome the Dr. Miscovitch and his team to Molokai to provide screening and testing.

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?

words

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?

In Maui County, we have invested over \$4 million in food security efforts. These grants will go to organizations that are helping to support current farmers and to grow new farmers. The grants will also start a new composting site at an elementary school to teach our keiki to garden. Our Council also is looking at establishing a new County Department of Agriculture to infuse more funding and resources into our ag community, as well as help them navigate Federal and State regulations.

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?

We have been establishing more policies into complete streets and working on increasing public transit systems to get more people out of cars and using mass transit.

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. | Oppose |
-

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

Fluoridation of community water is something the community currently does not support on Molokai. I believe in choice. People have the opportunity to provide their children fluoride, if they choose.

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 |
-

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? | Strongly 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? | 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

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?

Reducing the cost of housing is an important way to make Hawai'i more affordable to residents. Our Council has been working on a variety of policies to create more affordable housing. One policy we passed on Molokai was to eliminate short term vacation rentals.

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?

To help ease financial burdens, we have provided property tax relief to residents and local businesses through our newly adopted tiered tax structure that was created through the Tax Reform Temporary Investigative Group, which I chaired last year. In the next few months, we will complete our legislation to incentivize long-term rentals, over short-term accommodations, through property tax exemptions.

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:
