Q1
Office You are Seeking
Maui County Council Seat

Q2
Party
Democratic

Q3
First Name
Shane

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Sinenci

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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.

As the current County representative for East Maui, we forwarded our requests to the Administration as to how the $66 million of Cares’ Act funding could be utilized. Besides increasing our inventory of ventilators, we also requested additional PPE like masks, gloves, test kits, sanitizers, and plexiglass for businesses be purchased. Since we reside in a rural area, we asked that shipping containers be brought in to house emergency supplies like defibrillators, generators, bandages and general emergency items. We also requested that funding be used to support local farmers to help increase their production and provide food distributions for needy families. I feel there is a great need to build more food processing facilities like commercial kitchens, so we can process food locally and create locally sourced value-added products.

Q9
Please share some of the efforts you have led or participated in response to COVID-19.

1. We hosted Dr. Miscovitch and his Premier Medical Group staff to conduct 2 days of testing 600+ people in East Maui.
2. I appropriated $50k in FY2020 Budget funds toward the Hana Emergency Preparedness Team, toward purchasing emergency supplies.
3. I am proposing a Maui County Department of Agriculture, to be considered on the November election ballot in an attempt to diversify the economy and promote food security.

Q10
Additional thoughts/comments:

I am supportive of a County Resolution that creates a Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for COVID-19. The Bill recognizes that women are most at risk of contracting the virus as essential workers, and they are most likely to be impacted financially due to pay inequity, and that they are our primary caregivers for children and elderly within their households. Therefore, I support directing funding to women and families that may experience additional barriers during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Q11
What policies do you think the state and/or counties should enact to reduce tobacco and e-cigarette use?

As a special needs teacher of 20 years, I have seen the use of e-cigarettes by youth and minors increase to epidemic proportions. Although supportive of HRS-712, restricting the sale of e-cigarette paraphernalia to minors, I am supportive of more stringent regulations that prevent the ease of our youth acquiring e-cigarettes.
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.  
  *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.  
  *Support*

- Funds from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes should fund tobacco prevention and cessation efforts.  
  *Strongly Support*

Q13
Additional thoughts/comments:

*Respondent skipped this question*

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 State Legislature should appropriate more funding toward the Department of Agriculture. Currently they provide 0.04% towards this department; less than 1%. If they increased the funding to 3.5% of the State's total budget, that would provide .05% to the other counties or $85 million that could be invested toward developing the agriculture sectors on each island.

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 am supportive of House Bill 1930 and Senate Bill 2687, that is currently being reviewed and discussed at the Legislature. These Bills relate to adding a rental car surcharge, which would help to fund the Vision Zero initiatives.
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. 

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.

Enact a one-cent per-ounce fee on sugar-sweetened beverages.

Use revenue from a sugar-sweetened beverage fee for obesity prevention programs.

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.

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

Q17
Additional thoughts/comments:

Hawaii's leading causes of death in 2017 were heart disease, cancer and stroke. Up to 80% of heart disease and stroke are preventable with a healthier diet and lifestyle. Having greater access to nutritious foods can help prevent such cardiovascular diseases that currently cost up to $1 billion each day in the US (Quantified Ventures).

Q18
Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Reinstate coverage of preventative dental benefits for Adult Medicaid participants. 

Q19
Additional thoughts/comments:

As a resident of a small, rural community, access to regular health care can be a barrier.
Q20
Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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. **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: **Respondent skipped this question**

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? **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: **Respondent skipped this question**

Page 8: Economic Justice
Q24
What are your immediate plans to help make Hawai‘i more affordable for its residents?
I support prioritizing Affordable Homes’ projects at the Planning Departments before considering more Hotel developments.

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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?
I support increasing the years of Affordable Homes projects from 10 years affordability to 30 years and beyond. This prevents owners from flipping their homes after the 10 year clause, unto marketability and thereby perpetuating our housing crises. I would also advocate to place Short Term Rental housing within commercial-zoned areas, to keep our neighborhoods from being overrun by visitor traffic.

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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.  
  - Support

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Q27
Additional thoughts/comments:
I support adding an Impact Fee of $100 per airline ticket and cruise ship ticket to help pay for infrastructural projects (with residents being exempt).