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COMPLETE

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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Hawaii State Senate

Q2

Party

Aloha Aina Party

Q3

First Name

Rynette Ipo

Q4

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Q7

Campaign Website

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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.

The first step would be to have designated hotels and security to enforce the quarantine issue for visitors coming to Hawaii. Implementing this process would give the State a secure way of ensuring that visitors are free of COVID 19 before venturing out into the public. Second, the State needs to stop all high-cost projects and look at funneling those funds into developing a more sustainable economy such as farming and ranching that will feed the people of Hawaii during times of crisis. Thirdly, the State needs to ensure that we have enough trained and certified medical professionals to serve the people of Hawaii. Lastly, the State needs to ensure that the DLNR has enough officers to enforce the current hunting and fishing regulations and prevent the continued raping of natural resources.

Q9

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

In this pandemic, I have distributed masked, feed the unhoused, worked with Maui Oral Health Coalition in the distribution of tooth care items and information to the unhoused. Shared community resources with other outreach working groups such as Share You Mana and Maui Rapid Response, as well as participated in the distribution of food. I recently participated in a Sweet Potatoe distribution on Maui, where we distributed 20,000 pounds to needy families. I have also been actively involved in raising funds to help students erase their lunch debt. Additionally, I have taken many webinar classes to be able to better assist our community with issues of overdose, COVID 19 activities, and Mental Health.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

In addition to providing food and tooth care items to the unhouse, I have also participated in our local and state government testifying on the various issue that is important to our Maui residents, such as the development of a Maui County Department of Agriculture, water flow issues for our farmers and ranchers. I have also been active in testifying at the State Legislature regarding DLNR appointments, a gut and fill measure (HB2409 HD2 SD2), and DHHL.

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 that the retailers need to be held accountable for the sale and purchase of tobacco and e-cigarettes of minors through stricter enforcement of the legal age, and all advertisements of both tobacco and e-cigarettes should be removed. This question is a tough one because I feel that our government has no right to infringe on an adult's right to smoke tobacco nor use e-cigarettes. With this said, I do believe that we need more parent education on the actual effects on a minor's health from the use of tobacco and/or 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. | Strongly Oppose |
| 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 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?

Maui has a long history of farming and ranching as do many of our islands; as such, we need more support for our small operation of farming and ranching. Here on Maui, the small farmers and ranchers have become the leading suppliers of our food hubs and distribution centers. We need to stop the aerial killing of our wildlife and waste of meat from these actions and provide a way to a path to using this resource to sustain our food security. We also need to look at restricting residents from other islands and business owners that rely on fish and lobster for their business from raiding the resources from other islands.

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?

In my opinion, most of the fatalities have been from speeding and drunk drivers, and as such, we need more robust enforcement of the speeding and harsher penalties for DUI drivers. Additionally, we need to provide more bike paths with better lighting and protection barriers. Providing more bike paths would encourage people to not only exercise but remove more cars from the road. I strongly support the use of traffic light cameras to catch those that run lights, use excessive speed, and better lighting at all crosswalks.

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 |
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Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

Our state has excessively taxed and user fees to curb one behavior or another of our citizens. Thus, I cannot support another tax or fee to control the actions of an adult. I also feel that we need more parents to be responsible for the behaviors and actions of their children rather than adding another fee or tax. As for school vending machines, the only things that should be offered is water.

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. | Strongly Oppose |
-

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

Fluoridation of community water has proven to be more detrimental to the human body than is beneficial when consumed. As such, I cannot support more additives in our water supply. Instead, we need fresh, clean drinking water for our citizens.

Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

Q20

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Increase in alcohol taxes.	Strongly 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:

I need to make this very clear that I do not feel that taxing our citizens more is the answer to character change. Instead, we need real services, and more social workers made available to our communities to help them determine the behaviors that are both beneficial to them and our society.

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?	Oppose
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?	Oppose
If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana potency be regulated?	Oppose
If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the number and placement of marijuana outlets be regulated?	Oppose

Q23

Additional thoughts/comments:

We, Hawaii, have an excellent opportunity to provide tax dollars to our StateState by legalizing the consumption of marijuana, as seen in Colorado, Washington State, and California. This crop alone would bring millions of dollars into not only our State but also our communities. It is not only beneficial for use with medical patients but also safer than alcohol and the street drugs that proliferate throughout our communities. There has never been a fatality due to marijuana consumption, nor has there ever been a murder or other violent crime perpetrated by the use of marijuana. When Hawaii cracked down on marijuana users in came the deadly drugs of Heroine and Meth (aka ICE). I would much instead support our growers, our medical patients, and casual users of marijuana, then the import and production of drugs that kill our citizens.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

My first concern is to bring good living wages to our labor force. To do this, we would also have to provide tax incentives to the small business owners to enable them to support these wages. There is no simple answer to this question. Still, I do believe that increasing the minimum wage to be in line with the cost of living index for Hawaii, while providing tax incentives for our small businesses would go along way toward creating a workforce that is better able to sustain themselves and their families.

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?

Hawaii has one of the highest costs of living in the Nation. As such, we need to look at limits on the number of vacation rentals, foreign investment in real property, and the building of genuinely affordable housing. Our first approach needs to be on providing wages linked to COLA, which would enable renters to stay housed.

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:

Providing for universal Paid Family Leave Programs and Childcare is essential to maintaining our workforce. These measures would also require looking at significant tax incentives for local small businesses and removing the majority of the tax burden from our workforce and placing it on the major corporation that has benefited from tax breaks.
