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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

State Senate - District 13

Q2

Party

Democrat

Q3

First Name

Kevin

Q4

Last Name

McDonald

Q5

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Q7

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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.

First, we must open up our economy. Hawaii's economy is fragile and depends greatly on people not from here continuing to spend their money here. We must allow these businesses to get back to work, and soon.

Second, this re-opening will cause a resurgence of the pandemic, but we have learned who the most vulnerable within our society: the elderly and those with pre-existing health issues. We can make a concerted effort to give extra protection to these people and reduce the mortality rate.

Q9

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

I supported the shut down of Hawaii's economy when the pandemic appeared to be a true emergency.

When the threat from the virus had appeared to have subsided I participated in several protests and marches to re-open the state and avoid economic disaster.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

The covid19 pandemic emergency will prove to be a very dark chapter in our history. Many have died, and the economic damage will be devastating. The most important thing we can take from these events are the lessons. We must study, not just the covid19 virus, but also the effects of how we dealt with it. We made many mistakes, some things we got right. But we must study all of it, and use this information to better prepare for an inevitable similar future event.

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 the laws we have in place are designed to sufficiently curb the use of this issue, the problem is that these laws, like so many others are not enforced. If we began enforcing these laws more efficiently I believe we would see a considerable effect on the use of these products.

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. | 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. | Oppose |
| Funds from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes should fund tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. | Support |
-

Q13

Additional thoughts/comments:

I cannot support the banning of flavored e-cigarette products. At the end of the day this is still America and a free country. We should pass no law that prohibits our citizens from the quiet enjoyment of their lives.

With that said, I can support strong legislation to ban the sale of these products to minors. Minors should be protected from addictive dangerous substances and I do not tolerate them being marketed to in this way.

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?

This is not my area of expertise, but I absolutely support programs to feed the hungry, particularly children. We must be careful to avoid abuse though.

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?

This is also not an area I am well versed in. I can say though that I am all for reasonable ideas that will increase traffic safety.

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. **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. **Support**

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

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

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. **Strongly Oppose**

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

I cannot endorse the idea of taxing only certain kinds of beverages, or punishing people for choosing beverages we think they are better off without. I do support better education on the topics of food, health and consumption.

My constituency strongly opposes the idea of red light cameras and as senator I have an obligation to represent their wishes.

Page 5: Oral Health

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. **Strongly Oppose**

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

i cannot support fluoridation of community water supplies because it takes away peoples choices to participate in the program. I can support giving people an option to choose fluoridated water, but they must be able to choose.

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.	Oppose
Repeal of alcohol delivery laws that allow restaurants to deliver beer and liquor-based mixed drinks to people's homes.	Oppose
Increase in enforcement that helps ensure that youth do not access alcohol through existing laws allowing for alcohol takeout and delivery.	Support

Q21

Additional thoughts/comments:

I cannot endorse legislation that restricts peoples freedoms or punishes them for the quiet enjoyment of their freedoms as Americans. However, I do support the enforcement of our existing laws, including those meant to keep alcohol out of the hands of minors and to prevent illegal consumption. or consumption in inappropriate places. I can also support educational materials on the dangers of irresponsible use of alcohol.

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?	Support
If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated?	Strongly 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?	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 Oppose

Q23

Additional thoughts/comments:

I believe America is still a free country and people should not be prevented from quiet enjoyment of their freedoms, to that end I support the legalization of recreational marijuana. I also believe it is still a dangerous, narcotic and addictive substance. It needs to be regulated, taxed appropriately, and kept out of the hands of minors. There also needs to be educational programs warning people of the dangers of the use of these products.

The Government should not participate in regulating the pricing or availability of these products, that is for the market to decide.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

I would like to see lower taxes and regulations for both businesses and individuals, and better, more transparent spending of our government funds.

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 believe land owners are a big part of this problem. I would support legislation requiring land owners to rent out vacant properties or face penalties. This would force them to lower rents and offer housing to more larger range of tennant.

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 Oppose**

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 Oppose**

Q27

Additional thoughts/comments:

Wages and benefits are for the employer and its employees to determine. Government should stay out of these issues as much as possible.
