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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

State Senate - District 13

Q2

Party

Democratic

Q3

First Name

Karl

Q4

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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.

Providing unemployment benefits indefinitely including the \$600 per week plus up is critical to avoiding further economic damage. We should borrow from the federal government if we have to.

To open to the rest of the world, we need to test all incoming passengers, maybe more than once. This won't eliminate risk, but it will reduce it significantly.

Q9

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

I did my best to work out constituents' unemployment benefit problems. I proposed and Governor accepted my language on social distancing protocols in essential businesses. Governor also amended his order on government records to allow them to be more readily available during the pandemic at my request.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

Health and the economy are not separate issues. If we don't keep the health situation under control, the economy will suffer even if the State drops all travel restrictions.

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?

We should treat vaping just like tobacco use: tax it progressively more heavily, use the money to fund education programs and protect those who do not want to smoke or vape from secondhand exposure.

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

Additional thoughts/comments:

The pandemic has of course been a terrible tragedy, but smoking will kill many more people this year in the US than the pandemic.

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?

We have plenty of fallow ag land. We need to use it so we can produce more food locally. This will probably require subsidies, but having something to fall back on in case shipping to the rest of the US is cut off would be prudent.

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 introduced a Visions Zero bill as well. I will continue to work to pass laws that protect pedestrians & cyclists and to build more pedestrian & cyclist friendly paths, signalized crosswalks & dedicated lanes. I don't own a car and walk a lot & my wife was injured in a bicycle accident where the driver was 100% at fault. I know first hand the importance of this issue.

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 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. **Strongly Support**

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

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

What you do in life depends on your health. We have to protect that first.

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 Support**

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

I have introduced fluoridation bills for years. I heard one in the committee I chair (Judiciary) this year, but did not have the votes on the Committee to advance it.

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.	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.	Strongly Support

Q21

Additional thoughts/comments:

I don't see that taking alcohol home from a restaurant is any worse than taking it home from a grocery store. As for the third question, I would rather see it delivered than drunk at the restaurant and then have the person drive home.

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?	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?	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:

There have been bills introduced at the Legislature for years that would legalize adult pakalolo use. That is a formal proposal. I view pakalolo & alcohol use in similar lights. Neither are good for you, but they are both readily available now. Our best chance to minimize the health risks is to regulate and inform, like we have done with tobacco use.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

There is no silver bullet. It would have been fired years ago if there were. Building more affordable housing has been a priority for me since day one and I have had notable successes (Kukui Gardens, Senior Residence at Iwilei) but we need more. I have consistently supported increasing the minimum wage and introduced several bills on the topic.

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?

The State has funds dedicated to increasing the supply of affordable housing. I have pushed for and believe we need to put more money into those funds so we can build more. Government will have to do it. The private sector would rather build higher priced housing.

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:

The pandemic has put these issues of economic inequality in sharp relief.
