

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Invitation 1 (Email)
Started: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:10:12 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:27:14 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
First Name: Mike
Last Name: Gabbard
Email: mike@mikegabbard.com
IP Address: 99.203.102.86

Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

State Senate, District 20

Q2

Party

Democrat

Q3

First Name

Mike

Q4

Last Name

Gabbard

Q5

Email

mike@mikegabbard.com

Q6

Phone

N/A

Q7

Campaign Website

mikegabbard.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'm very hopeful that we can avoid state worker furloughs to prevent the cutting of important state programs. We need to quickly improve our outdated IT infrastructure at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and deploy as many other state workers as possible to help process unemployment claims. We should also find creative ways to use the \$636 million that the Legislature stored away in the Rainy Day Fund to help our residents. I want to take advantage of low-interest federal loans to keep our state government afloat.

Q9

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

We are heading into session on June 22 and as the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair, we've been given the opportunity to consider a few non-fiscal bills. For years, I've been trying to get a commercial hemp program established in our state. Hemp is an amazing plant that can produce thousands of products. (And, no, you can't get high on industrial hemp because the THC content is .3% or less.) My top priority during the upcoming session starting on June 22 is to pass a revised version of HB 1819, which would allow farmers to apply to the USDA to become licensed to grow, process, and sell hemp products. This would allow us to create a new Hawai'i-branded hemp industry, create jobs, and diversify our economy that now relies too heavily on tourism.

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?

We should enact legislation like SB 2228 from 2020, which I support, to ban the sale of flavored vaping 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. | Support |
| Restrict online sales of e-cigarettes to tobacco retailers only, in order to curb illegal sales to minors. | 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. | Support |
-

Q13

Additional thoughts/comments:

I'd like to see the faith-based communities get more involved in prevention. A friend of mine quit smoking after 50 years because of a sermon he heard in church.

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?

As the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair, I'm committed to doing all we can to greatly increase our local food production. I'm hopeful that we'll be able to pass my bill, SB 2706, in the upcoming legislation session to tighten up existing loopholes in our laws that allow the proliferation of gentleman farms on agricultural lands. If we don't preserve our agricultural lands, we'll never increase our food self-sufficiency.

I've been a big advocate for programs run by MA`O Organic Farms, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, and GoFarm that train new farmers. The average age of our existing famers is over 60 years of age. So, it's incredibly important that we assist and encourage young people to choose this noble profession.

I've helped lead efforts to fund our Double Up Food Bucks program and want to continue to expand it. This great program provides nutritious fruits and vegetables for low-income residents and at the same time helps provide markets for our local farmers. It's truly a win-win!

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?

While it's definitely true that the City and HART have mismanaged the construction of our rail project and the price tag has skyrocketed, it's very important that we complete this project to provide another public transportation option that's safe and also reduces traffic. I also support improving our public bus systems. As we build new roadways, we should incorporate complete streets with ample sidewalks and bike lanes. I support Mayor Caldwell's initiatives to enhance bike lanes in Honolulu and hope that this program is expanded to other parts of our island. I also continue to support the completion of important projects like the Leeward Bikeway Project.

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. **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 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. **Support**

Fluoridation of community water supplies is an effective way to prevent tooth decay. **Strongly Oppose**

Q19

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

Q20

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| Increase in alcohol taxes. | Support |
| 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. | 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? | 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? | 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

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?

Before COVID-19 struck this year, I voted to pass HB 2541 that would have increased the minimum wage incrementally to \$13 by January 2024. I would have liked to see us raise it to \$15 an hour. I plan to continue supporting a minimum wage increase.

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?

We should continue making affordable housing a top priority at the Legislature. We should continue supporting developer incentives through programs administered by HHFDC. I also support out of the box solutions like Senator Chang's Aloha Homes program which is based on the Singapore affordable housing model.

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. **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**

Q27

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:
