

HOTELPAC-2020 Candidate Questionnaire (County) Answers

1. **Future of Tourism in Hawaii Spoken** for my thoughts on the subject. We are on a set back on tourism in Hawaii unless we have a plan that will keep our community safe. I've been in the hospitality industry for over 20 years. I live in East Maui and see the effects of our Community of Hana.

2. **Tourism Management**-I appreciate the mention of this. I have currently met with Senator English and others to have this similar program done. Method of the concept and has also proven successful on the Island of Kauai and various members of the Community met with a team that was directly involved with Haena State Park and its operation. This offers a selling point to the area with ability to generate our economy and have less highway traffic. This would be good to visitors and residents. Plan for this action would be for Wainapapa State Park.

3. **Real Property Tax**- The increase of Real Property tax was an extreme tax hike for the industry. Though visitors and the industry is Hawaii's top economy there should be no more tax hikes.

4. **Transient Vacation Rentals**- I support fairness when it comes to legal operations of TVR's and Airbnb operations. We now have \$20,000 fine for illegal operations. Filing a report is always a challenge. Most illegal operations are complained about and not reported.

High amount of illegal operations causes difficulty in tracking most of them. These actions are caused by tracking by complaint mostly. Proof of activity and time span from complaint and cease letter due to review letter before it is sent out to owner. Each case goes before a board to review evidence and declare guilty or not guilty before fine is given. There is a large unfairness to those who did steps the correct way to those who wanted to avoid application and fees. As a councilmember we need to assess the budget and prioritize pressing issues that will be best for our community as a whole. The increase of taxes to the industry should be held off at the least 5yrs.

5. **Homelessness** has always been a challenge. There are different types of homeless. transitions, episodic and chronic and one of the solutions is to prevent it. During this pandemic it is an excellent time to track people coming into the State and being sent to Hawaii by other states.

We need to secure federal and state monies to help cover cost of what our homeless community needs because it affects many departments such as police, fire, medical, mental health and welfare. At this time we need to secure families that transitioned in to homes and help them maintain their stability. Continue to evaluate through people being

sent here to that add our count of homelessness and secure funding from State and Federal to help with funding.

6.Sustainability in the visitors industry -Create positive messages to our public and visitors to highlight the changes that resorts are making to transitioning into "go-green" hospitality industry has already started to make great changes even if in actual of cost takes a strain in areas of many businesses. Example: we have straws that are Earth friendly and made from corn. They actually meltdown into liquid and dissolves. Awareness is key. Bags of straws were brought to council and used as example but did the public really know or even the industry that these straws meltdown? Giving these points we can work on a plan together to spread word to keep these things out of the landfill or ocean. Love the highlight of go green businesses on website.

7. Yes

8.Public Safety- At this time we need to do virtual meetings. My reasons are pretty simple, With the current mandate it is essential travel only, this is not essential. We have a difficult time. We all need to do our part as individuals and officials to keep our community safe so we can have a positive future.

9.Getting our community back to work, Supporting sustainability of Agriculture (we have less shipments to Hawaii) Well being and health is important . Taxes! I'm against tax increases. We need to humble our selves and work together and see how we can keep our community secure to get through this together. Revamp the budget that will work for most. It is upsetting that we even considered raises in the middle of a pandemic with over 30,000 of our community are out of work.

10. Fun fact : I once told an older co-worker manager that my mother just told me he was my father in a serious face and he was about my dads age. His expression was priceless when he was trying to think what was he doing back then It was my joke and his heart attack and a good laugh. (He never forgot and still talks about it all time :)