

RAYNARD T TORRES

County Council District 9

1. How do you view the role of business in Hawaii?

Commerce is most vital to Hawaii's future and sustainability. The local govt. needs to work hand in hand with business owners/developers to ensure Hawaii people of their future.

HOUSING

2. Do State & County of Hawaii regulations encourage development of affordable housing?

Yes - How?

- yes
- no

No - What changes would you work to encourage/create more?

new or innovative ideas are needed.

3. If elected would you support locating affordable housing at a different geographical site than the market housing development (this is allowed by state law but not by county law).

yes.

4. If elected would you support setting aside government-controlled lands to provide long-term leases for work force & affordable housing?

yes.

What lands do you see being made available for this use?

can't specific until more research is done.

5. List 3 individuals, organizations and/or agencies you would contact to gain understanding of affordable and workforce housing for Hawaii County and/or the State.

Dept of Hsg & Urban Dev	Office of Hsg Com Dev	The Public
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Comment

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AGRICULTURE

6. Land – Are you in favor of providing incentives on Important Ag Lands (IAL)?

- a. Yes, 100% in favor
- b. Yes, w/reservations (Explain)
- c. No, 100% oppose

Comments:

need to understand the impact on smaller land acreage owners.....
.....
.....

7. Water – Are you in favor of the State Water Use Commission having oversight of Dept. of Water in regards to giving Agriculture special use rates for water?

- a. Yes, 100% in favor
- b. Yes, w/reservations (Explain)
- c. No, 100% oppose

Comments:

need to understand the impact on non-ag & ag users.....
.....
.....

8. Water – Are you in favor of a special fund or loan program to assist agribusiness to borrow and develop its own wells or reservoirs to be more sustainable?

- a. Yes, 100% in favor
- b. Yes, w/reservations (Explain)
- c. No, 100% oppose

Comments:

IT should be made available to any large quantity water user, i.e. hotels or even communities.....
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9. GMO/Biotechnology - Science & technology play an important role in keeping industry competitive in a global market. How do you feel about biotech on non-food related crops, e.g. foliage, flowers)?

- a. Yes, 100% in favor
- b. Yes, w/reservations (Explain)
- c. No, 100% oppose

Comment:

Anytime you intertwine technology & nature, you need to be absolute at what is happening. Technology should help control, not take over.....
.....
.....

10. GMO/Biotechnology - might find solutions to taro and other food crop diseases. In a world of food shortages this might be very important. How do you feel about biotechnology on taro and other food crops?

- a. Yes, 100% in favor
- b. Yes, w/reservations (Explain)
- c. No, 100% oppose

Comment:

same as comment 9.....
.....
.....

11. List or name 3 individuals, organizations and/or agencies you would contact to gain an understanding of agriculture for Hawaii County and/or the State of Hawaii.

Dept. of Agriculture..... Farmers Associations (Coops)..... the Public.....

Comment

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LAND USE

13. Would you support the Land Use Commission changing our Island's less productive ag lands to rural zoning?

- yes Use the land for the greater purpose and outcome.....
- no

14. The County is allowed control over ag lands less than 15 acres. Is this enough home-rule control?

- yes
- no

Why Yes?

No? Then how large a tract do you think the county should control?

There should be a limit, it should be by output.....

15. What is your position on the County's policy to reserve a percentage of the annual budget to purchase lands it deems valuable to acquire?

Its okay, but purchases need to be "valued" by greater needs or multiple needs

15a. Are criteria for selecting important lands for the County to acquire sufficient? If not what's needed?

no.. more sensible purchases with higher returns.....

16. The County & State are unable to develop all lands they hold for parks. What would you do to change this?

Looks at the "whys" and work out affordable changes.....

17. Do you support enlarging the land area of the National Parks in the County, e.g. Volcano National Park, Puuhonua City of Refuge, etc.?

yes.....

18. List 3 individuals, organizations and/or agencies you would contact to gain an understanding of land use in Hawaii County and/or the State of Hawaii.

Dept of Land Use Commission..... i.e., Sierra Club..... the Public landowners.....

Comment

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EDUCATION

19. Do you support expanding Hawaii Community College (HCC) in East Hawaii?
Yes? What do you propose to do to get it going?

- yes
 - no
- No? Why not?**
Would like to create something in West Hawaii

20. Do you support expanding Hawaii Community College (HCC) in West Hawaii?
Yes? What do you propose to do to get it going?

- yes
 - no
- No? Why not?**

21. Do you support breaking up DOE and having separate Boards of Education for each island?
Yes? What have you done or propose to do to make it happen?

- yes
 - no
- No? Why not?**

22. If elected, what would you see your role in supporting the University of Hawaii-Hilo?

Retaining newly graduates to continue here to work in their profession

23. List 3 individuals, organizations and/or agencies you would contact to gain an understanding of education for Hawaii County and/or the State of Hawaii.

Board of Education Schools' Principals Students & Parents, the Public

Comment

ENERGY

Oil prices are expected to rise steadily as supply diminishes.

24. Do you support incentives to developers of renewable energy to encourage development?

- a. Yes. It stabilizes future energy costs.
 - b. No. Free enterprise should solve.
 - c. Yes. No matter the consequence.
- Other Response**

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25. Do you support expanding geothermal to its fullest potential?

- a..... Yes. It is stable & dependable power.
- b..... No, for cultural reasons.
- c..... No, it could adversely impact the utility.

Other Response

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26. Do you support the County's Energy Sustainability Plan?

- a..... No, it is not aggressive enough.
- b..... Yes, it's based on doable solutions.
- c..... No, it could adversely impact the utility.

Other Response

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27. Energy – Are you in favor of Small Business selling surplus energy (less than 100 KW electricity) back To Helco/Heco for a profit?

- a..... Yes, at the same rate as avoided cost of foreign oil.
- b..... Yes, at rate less than avoided cost of foreign oil.
- c..... No, 100% oppose.

Other Response

Yes, but not sure at what rate.....
.....
.....
.....

28. List 3 individuals, organizations and/or agencies you would contact to gain an understanding of energy for Hawaii County and/or the State of Hawaii.

Public Utilities Commission..... Energy Contractors (i.e. HELCO)..... the Public.....

Comment

HEALTH CARE

29. The whole Health Care system is complex and inter-related in nature. How would you describe your level of understanding of the Health Care System?

- High
- Average
- Low

Comment

30. List 3 individuals, organizations and/or agencies you would contact to gain an understanding of healthcare for Hawaii County and/or the State of Hawaii.

Dept of Health..... Medical Contractors..... the Public, patients, insured.....

Comment

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31. It has been suggested that there is a Health Care Crisis in Hawaii County and the State of Hawaii; if you believe this to be true, list 3 things you might do as an elected official to help alleviate this crisis.

- 1. Upgrade facilities
- 2. Increase staff and medical personnel
- 3. Retain more independent medical professionals

Comment

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32. Which percentage is closer to the percentage of uninsured people in the State of Hawaii?

- 10%
- 40%
- 70%

What are the implications of that? The percentage of uninsured people in Hawaii reflect the economy & means of the employed. With the rising unemployment rate, this percentage will surely rise; added burden will be place on the Med-Quest program and medical facilities.

The following section is for County Office Seekers

COUNTY GOVERNANCE

33. What method of disposing of our non-recyclable trash do you support?

- a. Waste-to-energy incineration (i.e. Wheelabrator)
- b. Shipping to off-island location
- c. Landfills
- Other or any other method of transforming our "trash" into a useful form

34. Divisions between east and west of the island seem to put increasing pressure on county government to split into two. Do you support splitting the east and west county planning into two separate commissions?

- yes. Comment
- no. "United we stand, divided we fall." However, I am in favor of balancing the east and west districts appropriately to where votes should be 4/4 or 5/5.

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35. If elected, during your term in office, what 2 issues do you feel are the highest priority and are also something you can have the most influence over?

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Coqui frogs | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trash disposal | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | | _____ |

36. In the event of a budget deficit in 2009, which 3 items would you consider as the best and most feasible options to balance the budget?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase taxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce health, education & welfare expense |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase licensing & permit revenue | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce culture & recreation expense |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase revenues from use of money & property | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce sanitation & waste removal expense |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase intergovernmental revenue | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce debt service expense |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase charges for services | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce pension & retirement expense |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduce general government expense | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce health fund expense |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce public safety expense | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce highways expense | |

Other _____

37. In the event of a budget surplus in 2009, which 3 items would you consider as the best and most feasible options to balance the budget?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce taxes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase health, education & welfare services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce licensing & permit costs | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase culture & recreation opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce revenue from use of money & property | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase sanitation & waste removal services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce intergovernmental revenue | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase debt service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce charges for services | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase pension & retirement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase general government expense | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase health fund benefits |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase public safety services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase highway work | |

Other Increase health fund _____

