

CLIFT TSUJI

House of Representatives, District 3

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

The role of business in Hawaii should be involved with stakeholders and collaborative. Business should work with the community as a whole, including County elected officials and State legislators.

HOUSING

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

Yes - How?

- yes The State legislature has addressed housing as a major concern. This is even addressed in the Important Ag Land (IAL) legislation.
- no

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

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. I've supported this at the State legislature.

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

Yes. Also affordable lease rental and appropriate financing proposals are very important.

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

State & DHHL lands could be considered.

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.

DHHL DLNR Hi County & Housing Devp.

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:

SB2646 IAL: I served as conferencing co-chair and advocated this.....
measure.....
.....
.....

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:

Although special ag water rates are very important, I must be cautious
and review the particulars for the oversight legislation.....
.....
.....

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:

HB261: I introduced this measure to create a loan program to give
financial assistance to farms for sustainable energy.....
.....
.....

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:

Yes, absolutely.....
.....
.....

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:

I crafted measure and served as conferencing co-chair in support of
biotechnology.....
.....
.....

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.

Hi Dept. of Ag..... Hi Farm Bureau..... UH College of Tropical Ag.....

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 Yes, if it doesn't contradict the provisions of SB2646 relating to IAL.....
- no

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

Why Yes?

- yes This is a very controversial land use issue. This should be under home rule control through special use permit.....
- no

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

.....
.....

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?

Support with reservation. Percent of budget should be considered and scrutinized based on revenue trend.

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

I'm unaware of County criteria. On State level SB2646 relating to IAL covers importation considerations for selection.....

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

consider Resolution requesting task force study.....

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, I would consider such a request based on reason and recommendation.....

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.

US Dept of Interior..... St Land & Natural Resources..... Hi Dept of Ag.....

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 As your legislature, I've supported legislation for the new construction at Komohana and repairs for the existing structure.

no

No? Why not?

.....

20. Do you support expanding Hawaii Community College (HCC) in West Hawaii?

Yes? What do you propose to do to get it going?

yes I've been in communication with our West Hawaii legislators for their leadership and advisement.

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 Yes, with reservation.

no

No? Why not?

.....

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

As an elected official, I've supported a number of legislation beneficial for the Hilo campus. Most notable capital improvement projects. I've testified in before the Board of Regents.

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.

Gerald DeMello, UH-Hilo Dr. Rockne Freitas Dr. Rose Tseng

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.

Other Response

b. No. Free enterprise should solve.

c. Yes. No matter the consequence.

.....

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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

I've testified before the St. Legislature in 1989 support of geothermal. We should collaborate with cultural proponents and utility.

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

I'm not familiar with plan to provide an opinion.

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, with reservation. Im not familiar with avoided cost implication.

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.

Helco/HECO St. Rep. Mina Morita, Energy Ch. HBED & T

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 I was a former board member of the Hi Health Systems Corp.

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.

HMSA Rep. Josh Green, Health Chair Ron Schurra, Hilo Med, CEO

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. Attend Sen Ways & Means/House Finance briefing healthcare stakeholders at the Capitol
- 2. Attend meeting with HHSC East Hawaii/HHSC board members.
- 3. Speak with various employees of Hilo Medical Center.

Comment

As a legislator, I've done all 3 of the above.

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 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**

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

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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 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 type="checkbox"/> Increase revenues from use of money & property | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce sanitation & waste removal expense |
| <input 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Increase public safety services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase highway work | |

Other _____

