

FREDERICK F. BLAS

House of Representatives, District 4

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

Business is very very important to Hawaii's economy because we are relying on tourism.

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?

.....

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).

No

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

Yes. Properties that the state/county own because of tax liens.

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

.....

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.

FEMA	HUD	Habitat for Humanity
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Comment

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Frederick F. Blas

AGRICULTURE

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

Comments:

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

Future Farmers of America... We need to grow more produce locally.....

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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?

Comments:

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

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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?

Comments:

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

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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)?

Comment:

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

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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?

Comment:

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

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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.

Farm Bureau Dept. of Ag

Comment

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Frederick F. Blas

LAND USE

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

- yes If it's not productive for ag then use it for something that will be productive.....
- no

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

Why Yes?

- yes Because this amount of land is controllable.....
- no

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

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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?

yes. because if land becomes available the county will have the money available.

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

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

Have developers develop the parks in tier developments at their expense.....
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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.?

No.....
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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.

County Planning..... DLNR..... Public Works.....

Comment.....
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Frederick F. Blas

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 State legislature and senate and ask for funding.

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

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 support local school boards

no

No? Why not?

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

To support higher education and bring in more classes such as Dept. of Pharmacy, expand nursing, agriculture, fishing education.

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.

HCC..... UHH.....

Comment

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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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Frederick F. Blas

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

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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..... Geothermal..... The Gas Co.....

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.

Hilo Medical Center..... HMSA..... Doctor organizations.....

Comment

Frederick F. Blas

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. support tort reform
- 2. support collective bargaining for doctors
- 3.

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? Insurance costs are higher for working people

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 Waste to energy

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
 - no
- Comment

Frederick F. Blas

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase licensing & permit revenue | <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase public safety services | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase highway work | |

Other

STEVEN BRYANT SPARKS

House of Representatives, District 4

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

Business is the economic engine that allows Hawaii to maintain a viable society.

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?

The zoning codes need to be changed to allow mixed use properties in urban areas and more multiple family units in rural areas.

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).

In Puna we have in the Puna Community Development Plan just that possibility and I would work to enact the PCDP.

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

The only way to economically afford to build workforce housing is to use government-controlled land with CC&R's to insure the housing remains workforce and is not for speculation.

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

In the Puna Community Development Plan there is land designated as workforce housing in and around the Regional Town Centers as best to support the population of these areas.

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.

Alan S. Rudo	Norman Sakamoto	Micheal Brown
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Comment Alan works for the County, Norman for the State and Micheal is a independent community planner.

Steven Bryant Sparks

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:

there needs to be a program of progress as an incentive for the use of Important Ag Lands. The PCDP has a Managed Growth policy that should be supported.

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:

The Department of Water should not have control of Ag. water. We need a separate Agriculture water system for our farmers.

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:

Our farmers need wells and reservoirs specifically for Ag. use that could be controlled by the State Water Commission. The Dept of Water should not control Ag. water.

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:

GMO and Biotechnology are two different things. Genetic Modified Organisms are very new and interesting science with a patenting element. Biotechnology as related to foliage and flowers is centuries old, and a very useful tool for producing unique and unusual products that reflect the qualities of Hawaii's diverse ecosystems.

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 favor biotechnology and feel GMO technology is too invasive and too dominated by the profit motive.

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.

Edwin L. P. Mirada _____ Rep. Cliff Tsuji _____ James Weatherford, Ph.D. _____

Comment

Edwin is with the U.S.D.A. : Cliff is Agricultural Chair in the State House: James Weatherford is a local farmer, educated to the Ph.D. level.

Steven Bryant Sparks

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 included light industrial zones as in the Puna Community Development Plan (PCDP).....
- no

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

Why Yes?

- yes Yes. The state has control over large tracts of land due to the larger effect on the community that development of these types can have on the community. The state needs to work with communities to best use these large tracts of land now now being used in Puna.....
- no

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

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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?

I support the 2% land purchase fund. It is important to preserve our open space to increase the value of developed lands in the community. The fund should be capped so as not to be a constant drain on the County budget.

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

I don't know if the current criteria are sufficient. I need to look into them to learn more.....
.....
.....

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

Park land now held by the County and State should be able to be developed by local communities through home owners associations, local parks & recreation agencies and other local groups.....
.....
.....

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.?

I think we have spent enough money on these parks. If an individual was to leave adjoining properties to the parks as a donation, Yes I would support that.....
.....
.....

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.

Chris Yuen..... Larry Brown..... Phil Barnes.....

Comment Chris and Larry work at the County Planning Office; Phil is head of the Sierra Club in Puna.....
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Steven Bryant Sparks

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 Yes. I would support the funding that was allotted for the HCC Campus design that was vetoed by the Governor this session. We need a new independent campus.

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 Yes. This is in the works at the County level and needs support from the State as was used in the Maui campus for a Private/Public partnership with the unions and trades.

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. I support local school boards for all islands. There needs to be a small Executive Branch Committee to administer the funds for the local boards. Currently the DOE is too top heavy and needs to trim some administration positions to accommodate local board staffs and expenses.

no

No? Why not?

.....

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

The University of Hawaii - Hilo needs support to continue to grow into the superior institution that Chancellor Tsing envisions.

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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.

Helene Hale Nate Chang Edel Hanoa

Comment These people are all very well-informed about the past and future of education in Hawaii.

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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.

.....

.....

Steven Bryant Sparks

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

There needs to be assurances that all current EPA regulations are adhered to as well as applied to old systems now in place.

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

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

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.

Barry T. Mizuno Frederick H. Redell, PE Scott Frier

Comment Barry is at Puna Geothermal Venture; Fred Redell is President of Redell Engineering; Scott Frier is Chief Operating Officer at Abengoa Solar.

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 have attended two seminars on Health Care in Hawaii. The system is broken, at least for Hawaii Island, and needs to be repaired. Employers cannot "foot the bill" for this necessary community need.

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.

Dr. Laurie Hopman Robert P. Hiam Dr. Josh Green

Comment Dr. Hopman is my personal physician; Robert P. Hiam is CEO of HMSA; Josh Green is a physician and State House representative.

Steven Bryant Sparks

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. Fund the Hilo Hospital Residency Program
- 2. Initiate the building of a Puna Hospital using private funds
- 3. Propose legislation to enable Senior Care facilities and living communities

Comment

These are long-term needs that will require long-term solutions accompanied by the work of public servants knowledgeable as to process, needs and capabilities with an overview of the larger community economy.

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? A drain on the resources of the agencies responsible for the care and well-being of the people

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
- no

Steven Bryant Sparks

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?

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| <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?

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|--|---|
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| <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 Increase Health Fund _____
