

ROBERT N. HERKES

House of Representatives, District 5

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

It is the background of our society and provides jobs, goods, services and tax dollars.

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?

Government needs to get out of the way, entitlements play too big a part in the cost of housing.

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).

We need to revise our land use laws to provide for major and minor economic development zones balanced by open space and historic preservation. In major economic development zones developers are encouraged to invest and develop complete communities including affordable homes housing.

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

Yes, see above.

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

On Hawaii island we need to recognize where our economic development is taking place. North Kona South Kohala... and make state or other lands available.

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.

HICA	LURE	HCA
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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:

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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?

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

Comments:

Ag water needs to be developed outside of DWS jurisdiction.....

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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?

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

Comments:

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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:

It needs to be on a crop by crop basis.....

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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?

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

Comment:

See above.....

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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..... farmers.....

Comment

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.....

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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 In my district I have 500,000 in conservation, 400,000 acres in ag, a small portion urban and no rural.....
- no

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

Why Yes?

- yes
- 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?

I support.

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

Historic preservation and open space.....
.....

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

Give more authority to organizations such as Trust for Public Lands to develop parks.....
.....

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 would support National Park acquiring the Lands of Kapua, 11,000 acres of historic lands.....
.....

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.

Lurf.....

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 Funding. HCC is an important avenue for many to become productive citizens.
- 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, see above.
- 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, a more loaded bureauacracy (SIC) is not the answer.
- no

No? Why not?

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

I have always supported UH Hilo and we need to free it from UH Manoa.

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.

Beats me.

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

All energy providers should come in with a level playing field. Gov is not smart enough to pick one to support.

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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 was in the Senate when we permitted geo and support...
it.....
.....
.....

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

Not familiar with it.....
.....
.....

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

It should not be based on avoided cost but on cost of.....
development and operation.....
.....
.....

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.

No idea.....

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 It is a complex issue and sources of information cannot just be HMA and trial lawyers.....
.....
.....

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.

UH med school..... HMA..... Consumers.....

Comment The HMA is no match for trial lawyers at the leg. We need to find a forum to get them into a room and find some solutions. Some us have encouraged the Gov to take the lead on this.....

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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. We need to identify the problem. Just a blanked tort reform bill is not the answer
- 2. We need to take care of providers in all underserved areas through a variety of ways.
- 3. Provide economic incentives for young docs to practice in underserved areas.

Comment

Blanked tort reform just encourages providers to practice in Honolulu.

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? Very costly for our hospital system.

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 _____

