

ANDY SMITH

House of Representatives, District 6

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

The role of business is the cornerstone of our economy. I want to help strengthen business opportunities, help new business grow, and provide opportunity for people to live the lifestyle of our great state.

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?

Identify land, give incentives to contractors to encourage them to develop more workforce housing in areas near our business around the island.

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).

Definitely. Giving the high cost of living & the amount of state land available, I would encourage it.

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?

Kealahou, Mauka and Waikoloa

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.

Hawaii Public Housing Authority	Federal - H.U.D	Habitat for Humanity
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Comment

Also, consulting the local community for their feedback.

Andy Smith

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:

We need to encourage the production of locally grown agricultural products and move toward self sufficiency

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:

I would like to see agriculture survive and be get burried by high water rates that make it impossible to farm and do business

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:

The more self sustainable, the better. The state is already offering loans through developing renewable energy resources for agriculture sustainability

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 would have to be case by case, and have no harm to other ecology or food production. Also, I would not favor anything against cultural traditions

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:

It would have to be case by case, and have no harm to other ecology or food production. Also, I would not favor anything against cultural traditions

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.

State Dept. of Agriculture _____ U.S. Dept. of Agriculture _____ Local farmers associations _____

Comment

I would also seek the communities input first, before making any major decision

Andy Smith

LAND USE

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

- yes If low rainfall, no soil, and is common sense to do so, then change the zoning. Should be done on a case by case basis with community input.
- 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 think the county should look at their overall budget and ask if the communities needs are meet first.

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

It depends on the usage and benifit to the community.....
.....
.....

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

Add this to cuncurrency, that any private developer that wants to use state land, have to develop parks and give public access to beaches at the cost of the developer as a condition of the land use. They need to give back to the local social infrastructure for our island.

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.

DLNR..... State Land Board..... Land Use Commission.....

Comment Also, community input is always essential
.....
.....

Andy Smith

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 Renovate and upgrade the existing facilities and campus to serve more students.
- 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 support funding for the new UH Center at West Hawaii and would like to see it flourish into a full HCC and eventually a 4 year college. This area is very underserved with higher education.
- 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 Worked with our legislators and Governor to put the question on the voting ballot so voters can decide to make a constitutional ammendment.
- no

No? Why not?

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

As a graduate of UHH, I have always supported the UHH, even as my capacity as the liaison to the Governor.

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.

UH Hilo staff and admin Board of Regents HCC staff and admin

Comment Higher education is the key to the success of our island and I want to make sure we provide more access to higher education.

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. This is the long term solution.
- c. Yes. No matter the consequence.

Andy Smith

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

Many other countries like New Zealand get almost 85% of their electrical energy from geothermal... why cant we?

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

We need to take aggressive steps and catch up with the rest of the world in renewable energy.

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

Its a small step in the right direction.

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.

NELHA..... DBEDT..... other countries like New Zealand

Comment Also gaining feedback from the community is most important

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 Working as the Governor's Liaison in West Hawaii. I see first hand the desperate nature of our health care system. Especially in West Hawaii

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.

West Hawaii Regional Board..... Kona Community Hospital..... Department of Health

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. Pass Tort Reform - Medical Malpractice reform
- 2. Get higher reimbursements from insurance companies to pay the doctors directly.
- 3. A new medical facility in North Kona area.

Comment

There are many factors, and not just lack of funding, that have contributed to the health care situation.

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? High cost of health insurance, lack of physicians and medical clinics around the island.

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

Andy Smith

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 _____

