

**TED H. S. HONG**

**State Senate: District 1 (Hilo-Hamakua-Waimea)**

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

Business and Commerce are fundamental to maintaining strong families, communities and government.

**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?**

There has to be a fundamental definition of "affordable" housing first...Then laws and regulations should be identified and addressed to reduce costs.

**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?**

There is no comprehensive inventory of available State and County lands. My first priority would be to require an inventory within six months.

**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.**

Contractors' associations      Realtors' associations      Affordable Housing Advocates

**Comment**

Policy makers need a cross section of input instead of pre-selecting input.

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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:

We need to make sure that Ag lands can be taken out of the speculative market and taxed at Ag levels.

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 am concerned about the duplication and overstepping of the authority of local decision makers.

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:

There is no magic bullet to preserve and sustain agriculture. We have to look at a myriad of solutions.

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:

I don't believe that GMO and Biotech are the demons that some special interests groups have made them. Reasonable assurances should be made to protect heritage crops.

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 don't believe that GMO and Biotech are the demons that some special interests groups have made them. Reasonable and culturally sensitive assurances should be made to protect heritage crops.

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.

UH:Hilo, including CATHR Farmers' associations Organic Farming advocates

Comment

There needs to be an honest, candid discussion about this issue.

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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 I am not convinced that any Boards or Commissions at the State level should be making or overriding local decision makers.
- 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?

I am not convinced that any Boards or Commissions at the State level should be making, limiting or overriding local decision makers.

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 oppose it because the County already has process to do that. Setting aside a reserve for land banking or preservation purposes is constitutionally questionable. It is not government's role to compete in the private sector.

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

No... I am opposed to the entire concept... Even defining criteria doesn't resolve my questions regarding the constitutionality of the process.

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

I am not convinced that all of the land being held has to be developed for parks. I would want to make sure park development is coordinated with growth in the area and government's resources to maintain the 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.?

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.

Realtors' Associations University Trust for Public Land

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 I would stop using the students, faculty and staff at HCC as political hostages in a partisan political war with the Governor.

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 Currently, the public and private partnership is going well, except for the meddling of East Hawaii politicians to skim funds from the West Hawaii project for the East Hawaii project.

no

No? Why not?

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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 I am running for State office and I support the convening of the long overdue Constitutional Convention. I have written ob-ed pieces on this also.

no

No? Why not?

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

My role would be to coordinate all Big Island legislators, Regents and the Governor to support continued growth and development of UHH and HCC. This is a top priority.

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.

Randy Roth, Esq. Patricia Hamamoto UHH

Comment Professor Roth was involved in the Governor's policy group to adopt local school boards.

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

Energy security is a top national and state priority.

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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

Technology, equipment and techniques have come a long way since the first wells were

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 generally oppose government mandates and would rather support incentives. Enforceability is also an issue.

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.

UH ..... HELCO ..... Alternative Energy advocates .....

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.

Physicians' associations ..... Nurses' Associations ..... Patient Advocate associations .....

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. Fundamental Review and overhaul of System using a stakeholder commission.
- 2. Commission members would be compensated.
- 3. The task of the Commission is to come up with a new or revised system and the Legislature would accept, reject or modify the Commission's recommendations.

**Comment**

My proposal promotes transparency and accountability. We, as legislators, would be accountable to voters if we fail to adopt or modify the Commission's recommendations.

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? Out of control costs for safety net health care facilities like the Hilo Medical Center.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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