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# Duke Bourgoin

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#### **Environmental Justice**

Accountability Questions: Please respond only 'Yes' or 'No' to the following questions:

- Will your administration support bills to reduce single use plastics on O`ahu? Yes
- 2. Do you commit to creating a new culturally-grounded, sustainable tourism model that benefits local residents' quality of life? Such a model will prioritize health and prevent overcrowding, root experiences in Native Hawaiian values, and strengthen- not just market or deplete- our natural resources? Yes
- **3.** Will your administration do what is necessary to protect O`ahu's main drinking water supply from being contaminated by leaks from the 77-year old US Navy Red Hill fuel tanks? Yes
- 4. Do you commit to increasing jobs aligned with the state's transition to a clean energy economy, especially jobs that meet or exceed the self-sufficiency standard established by DBEDT, which currently stands at \$17.63/hour? Yes
- 5. Please explain and expand on your responses to the above Accountability Questions (questions 1-4). Maximum of 300 words:

The image of Hawaii as a paradise of clean energy, organic farming, sustainable and self sufficient living is perfect for our citizens and the visitor to experience. Cleaning up our pollution, limiting or eliminating our waste, protecting our land, air, and water is important. Using Solar for sustainable energy is easy. Creating a sustainable harmonious community is our goal.

Tourism as the center of economic vitality is questionable with easy virus transmissions and contact concerns with travel. Diversification of the Economy is preferred. To bring limited tourism back we need to market Hawaii as a safe and healthy place where the virus is no concern. Offering visitors a safe and healthy place for vacation with security and sophistication is a great image.

Sustainability and self sufficiency in a circular economy is the base for diversification. This can be done promoting individual self sufficiency growing our own food of fruits and vegetables and increasing production with organic farms and community farming as <u>greenverdefarms.com</u>. Value added products with the brand name 'Pure Hawaii' markets top quality products and services around the Globe. Promote our Hawaiian Culture with land, agriculture, and other values incorporated throughout our community. Tech also should be developed connecting young people for producing programing and product development with Government, University and Private resources.

One particular concern with the environment is plastic. Small micro fibers of plastic are now in our food and water, while forming a congested section of the ocean northeast of Hawaii where the lifezone is dead. Place a use tax on each plastic bag/item sold of one dollar and a finders fee of 25 cents. Clean water requires the elimination of pollution from our Island water supply. Closing and eliminating the Red Hill structure will stop one major polluting source from our environment.

6. Please answer the following questions with a maximum of 300 words: A) What is your plan for utilizing the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency?

The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency will be tasked to organize and manage a city wide community body in which each Legislative House District on Oahu has a community center to address pollution, agriculture, individual self sufficiency with food and energy creation, community organic vegan cooking and serving meals, and education of the community on these important issues of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency.

B) What is your solution for creating alternative economies to tourism on O`ahu?

Empowering each citizen of Honolulu to be self sufficient growing their own food and creating their own energy, sharing this agriculture experience with community members, supporting greenverdefarms, com projects to find housing and some agriculture work for creating organic food and income, and developing value added products -is the base of this circular sustainable Economy. The Tech industry should be strongly promoted combining our Government Tech resources with the University and Secondary school system for the education and empowerment of Elementary school students and interested Citizen programs, with the creation of our own internet system to include programing, apps, games, tracking software for controlling the virus and pollution, and promoted as a business producer of goods and services to the International market. The design industry would also be organized around University expertise, creating design for agriculture seed symbiosis for soil health and individual crop support along with beauty of the community plant layout, energy design with solar, solar built into building supplies, clothing, and transport, all for market local and export.

# **Affordable Housing**

Accountability Questions: Please respond only 'Yes' or 'No' to the following questions:

7. **Affordable Housing Development.** Aloha United Way published a report which determined that 37% of Hawaii's families are ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) who work but do not earn enough to cover the basic necessities of life. These families earn \$75,000 a year or less and can only afford to pay up to \$1,500 a month for housing.

In view of Honolulu's critical shortage of affordable housing, do you commit to working with the State to use government land and subsidies to develop 10,000 affordable housing units a year for the ALICE population?

Yes

8. **DPP.** The lengthy period of time it takes for the Department of Planning and Permitting to process and approve building permits drives up the cost of developing housing.

Will you support funding for a study of the Department of Planning and Permitting that would accomplish the following: (1) identify the reasons for the lengthy processing of applications and (2) recommend best practices to reduce processing times? If so, will you ensure the implementation of those best practices as well as funding DPP so that it is sufficiently staffed?

Yes, maybe not staffing from higher taxes

9. Vacancy Tax. Wealthy people who live on the mainland or in foreign countries who buy housing on O`ahu drive up the price of housing for everyone. They typically live in these homes for only part of the year. Oakland, California passed a law designed to discourage non-residents from owning homes there. The law imposes a tax, separate from the property tax, on residential properties that are vacant for most of the year.

Would you support a tax of at least 1% of the assessed value of residential properties that are vacant for most of the year?

Yes

# 10. Please explain and expand on your responses to the above Accountability Questions (questions 7-9). Maximum of 300 words:

The Government should make the development of affordable housing as easy as possible. The DPP could be mandated to help speed along the process to create affordable housing. Funding is difficult especially with the budget crises. Like to create a Honolulu Bond fund to provide money for individual and group projects, backed by the City. The greenverdefarms.com project is a good method to find a rural home for people to work together and produce food and income. An added property tax on non resident owners, a non-resident owner transaction levy, and a vacancy tax also are possible,. Some countries like Monaco require a one million dollar fee to have permission to live in the Principality.

#### 11. Describe a situation where you found yourself in the minority position on a controversial issue and you advocated for what you thought was right. Maximum of 300 words:

Promoting a sustainable world through self sufficient and organic farming starting with the individual and creating small farms or **greenverde**-**farms.com** community projects,, along with energy self sufficiency is not accepted by many people today. The desire for continuous consumption and easy environmental disposal is the norm. Even discussing restricting our type and quality of food, our environmental abuses, and our way of life is unusual. But, this is the direction we need to go as a People to save the Environment, improve our Health, and create a circular self sustaining- pure and clean economy for harmony and balance for the future.

#### **Economic Equity**

Accountability Question: Please respond only 'Yes' or 'No' to the following question:

- 12. Congress seems to be moving toward another round of coronavirus relief. In the previous round, different jurisdictions sought different degrees of input from the community to determine how their relief money would be spent. There were also varying degrees of transparency among jurisdictions to show how the money was actually spent. Do you commit to establishing a task force composed of community members, with substantial representation of ALICE and the unemployed population, to determine how the next round of coronavirus relief money should be spent? Do you also commit to reporting detailed plans for spending the money to the public, as well as a detailed accounting of the actual expenditures? Yes
- 13. Please explain and expand on your response to the above Accountability Question (question 12). Maximum of 300 words:
  ——Better community control of how the money from the Federal

Government is spent is important. ALICE participation along with Religious, Unemployed, Civil, Business, Student, Hawaiian, Minority, Tourism, Hotel, Restaurant etc input on the MONEY Committee would create correctness and acceptance. Support decentralization of this Committee to local Legislative House District sub-committees reporting to the Money Committee. Transparency can be encouraged using the internet for zooming all discussions, and documents to the People and the Government to review. Maybe some money should be portioned off for a general purpose fund. Just giving a check to individuals does not always obtain the best result. Let's say 40% of the Government payout goes to a community program to offer nutritious organic vegan food to the Public-Giving Citizens a great nutritious meal on a daily basis. Some money could go to a natural medical immune promoting program along with local produced herbal and immune-food building programs. Some of the money could go to promoting self sufficiency on the local scale for creating our own food, along with a community support system for growing, product preservation (value added), and education to be more self sufficient. Also, try to put a freeze or reduction in cost on rent expenses and property payments so we can be secure and safe in isolation till the health crises is over and we go back to 'normal' work.

14. The coronavirus has started people thinking about how the environment and economy can be improved. One idea is to reduce the number of tourists and to expand other sectors of the economy. The coronavirus has also spurred thinking about how overly reliant we are on the mainland, especially for food, and that we should become more selfsufficient. What is your vision for creating a more self-sufficient, economically diverse Honolulu and what would you do as Mayor to work towards that vision? Please respond to the following questions with no more than 300 words:

#### Homelessness

15. What should the City do about homelessness that is different from what the City is doing now? For example, what is your stance on the effectiveness of sweeps? Would you continue this practice, or use a different method? Do you have an idea for a new program? Should any existing program be expanded or modified? Should any existing program be reduced or cut? How much in additional funding would it take to implement your ideas? Health

Solutions for homelessness includes the greenverdefarms.com project as a good method to find a rural home for people to work together and produce food and income. Campgrounds and temporary trailers or special housing units could be considered offering lower costs to unemployed, underemployed, and the non-employable, Maybe a sea hotel can help. Prefer not being hard on the homeless with sit-lie ban sweeps, as there are ethical, compassionate, and constitutional issues to resolve. greenverdefarms.com projects can be facilitated with incentives to the land owners, gentlemen farms and other land owners as a way to make their land produce food, create food for the landowner, create the community plan for self sufficiency, and better utilize our land. Requiring gentlemen forms to do agriculture with the benefit to the landowner of not paying wages to the workers should be acceptable with many land owners not using the land for agriculture. Much of the cost can come from the allowance of land use, and the people who start to build their housing for rural living in harmony with the land. Monetary help can come from landowners improving their own land, and budgets available from Government, Religious, Social, etc., and organization of another bond fund.

16. Reopening our economy to tourism may bring a second wave of COVID-19 infection that could be worse than the first, and that may necessitate imposing restrictions on business, travel, and activities. What is your assessment of the measures taken so far to keep Hawai'i safe from COVID-19, and what changes, if any, would make in approach if a second wave of COVID-19 warrants new restrictions? Hawaii has done well so far with the Pandemic. Some things that could have been done include Close down the city earlier, make masks mandatory, stop tourists entering Hawaii sooner, earlier program with better monitoring of tourists and residents arriving to self isolate for 14 days, soft enforcement of stay at home policy, a home delivery system of food essentials to the elderly and those in need, district food canteens offering a veggie and healthy free meal to the public, free and accessible virus testing, develop a software tracking program attached to chip cards showing green or red accessibility, a program on the phone indicating a warning beep if you are too close to another, a program monitoring vital signs as temperature and immune system capabilities, all would help. Like to promote better health practices to improve immune system and preventive health management through diet, organic, vegan, vegetarianism, supplements, and a programed Today, suggest not opening Hawaii up to tourism daily exercise practice. with mainland testing; rather continue the two-week lockdown upon arrival as a better control of incoming people with any possible disease. This will protect our citizens more absolutely while keeping this image of Hawaii as a safe and secure place to visit intact. Many tourists can accept two weeks of seclusion in this beautiful environment, in safety, and with food and other services brought to them easily.

# **Public Safety**

17. If elected, what is your plan to reform and strengthen accountability within the HPD, and with the larger community? Do you support the concept of community-based policing? If so, what steps would you take to implement it?

All transactions between police and citizens could be recorded in real time on the Web. This will create accountability and responsibility from both sides. There is a movement to reconnect the police to the pubic creating trust and cooperation. Decentralization with local 'Outposts' where Police can house giving visibility to the public and offering more security. Officers knowing the local neighborhood, and helping daily with community affairs is good community development. Oversight of the Police by a community commission is another possibility changing a confrontational approach to a working together community program. Reforming and strengthening an oversight committee includes, committee membership made up of qualified city entities to include Hawaiian, minorities, parks and land use officials, health, etc. This Oversight Committee could be further decentralized to local neighborhood meetings of interested citizens reporting back to the main committee. Community based policing could be a local volunteer program under the local police officer attached to each District Community station, **Rail** 

18. In light of the shortfalls in funding rail, are you in favor of reducing the length of the rail line, or are you in favor of ending at Ala Moana Center, as planned? If so, how would you get the funding needed to address the shortage?

One solution is to downsize the Rail project and create an inner city system immediately using local talent and labor. This project can be low tech and less expensive for now. HART should exist within the inner City from Downtown to University Avenue along King or Beretania Streets (possibly extended from Kalihi to Kahala when affordable). and via or SkyTrain connection to Ala Moana and into Waikiki. Plan using 95% local talent for management, engineering, and labor. Control should be solely within Hawaii, and airspace above local stops can be leased out to business for additional income to existing budget/government taxes/federal subsidies/etc. These air rights above HART stops can be partially charged up front to add to monies already accumulated hopefully from the special tax and general tax so far.

Rail is important to connect the economy, create a more efficient transportation system, lower energy use and costs to the community, and lower pollution and noise concerns for a modern city. London charges 50 pounds a week to use the underground. High prices to visitors, with discounts for yearly and monthly use. Land and air rights at Rail stops can be a source of lease revenue for offsetting the costs of the transit system and for years to come.

# **Closing Question:** Please respond with only **'Yes'** or **'No'** to the following question: **Accountability**

1. The focus of today's event is accountability. Will you commit to providing regular updates for Faith Action and the rest of the community, and meet with Faith Action as appropriate on your progress regarding your commitments made here today? **Yes**