

INTRO1.

Aloha,

You are receiving this candidate questionnaire because you are a candidate for the Hawai'i State House or State Senate in the 2020 election.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information on candidates' positions on important civil rights and civil liberties policy issues that affect the lives of Hawai'i residents. This questionnaire was sent to every candidate running for Hawai'i State House and State Senate in the 2020 election. By responding to this questionnaire, you give permission for your responses to be made available to the public.

Responses will be published on ACLU of Hawaii's website, acluhi.org, sometime after June 18, 2020. Your responses will be published exactly as you write them and while formatting of the questionnaire may change when published to the website, the substance of both the questions and your responses will not be altered in any way. Candidates will *not* have the opportunity to make changes to their responses once submitted.

Questions are organized by topic. For most questions, candidates should provide a response to the question by selecting YES, NO, or PREFER NOT TO ANSWER. Candidates then have the option of elaborating on their position in the text box below each question. **The questionnaire is extended to Monday, June 29, 2020.** No responses will be recorded after June 18. In publishing the results of this questionnaire, the ACLU of Hawai'i will note if a candidate did not respond to the questionnaire.

The intent of this questionnaire is *for the sole purpose of producing and disseminating informational or educational communications and is not intended to influence the outcome of an election, question, or issue on a ballot.*

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. We do not support or oppose candidates for elected office. The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and state constitutions.

SA.

Candidate Information

Name:

John H. Clark III

SB. Office/District for which you are running:

Hawaii State Senate - District 19

INTRO2. Privacy & Technology

PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE TWO QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW

A recent study by the National Institute of Standards and Technology found that the majority of facial recognition technology programs exhibited disproportionate rates of error when analyzing the faces of women and people of color. In 2018, the ACLU tested Amazon's facial recognition technology software by running the photographs of sitting members of Congress against an arrest database. Twenty-eight false matches came

back, including those of six Congressional Black Caucus members. Multiple jurisdictions across the U.S. have instituted bans and/or moratoriums on government use of this technology.

Q1. Do you support legislation ending government use of facial recognition technology?

Yes No Prefer not to answer

Q1a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support legislation ending government use of facial recognition technology. It has been established that facial recognition technology delivers a hi-tech surveillance method that is more precise than the human eye. Government use of these systems to augment public safety will likely increase as the technology evolves and improves. However, unlike biometric information like fingerprints and DNA, human faces change. Accordingly, facial recognition technology software can trigger incorrect results by fluctuations in body weight, hairstyle, facial hair, and the effects of aging. Perhaps most frighteningly, research indicates that facial recognition technology is likely to be incorrect when reading the faces of people with darker skin.

Q2. Do you support legislation limiting private entities' use of facial recognition technology without the clear, written consent of the subject?

Yes No Prefer not to answer

Q2a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support legislation limiting private entities' use of facial recognition technology without the clear, written consent of the subject. Because human faces can – and do – change, facial recognition technology software can trigger incorrect results. And because existing research indicates that facial recognition technology has a higher likelihood to be incorrect when reading the faces of people with darker skin, I believe the technology should only be used when explicitly requested by an authorized user – and only when the risks are clearly communicated to the users of the technology.

INTRO3. Police Reform

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION

Q3. Do you support legislation establishing a uniform policy for law enforcement use of body cameras?

Yes No Prefer not to answer

Q3a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support legislation establishing a uniform policy for law-enforcement use of body cameras. I hold our community police in high regard. In fact, today's police are faced with solving a wide range of issues, beyond the already complex mission of law-enforcement. Beginning with the end in mind, I believe the establishment of a uniform policy for law enforcement use of body cameras facilitates transparency and protection for community members and law-enforcement officers within the criminal-justice system, including citizens, police, and other stakeholders. And though HPD policy specifically requires recordings to be stored for at least three years following any use of force or any encounter that leads to a complaint or administrative investigation, I believe today's technology affords the capability to retain all recordings (for a specified timeframe), regardless of the type of encounter.

INTRO4. PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT FOLLOWS

Hawai'i law allows law enforcement to seize—and keep—personal property without ever charging the property owner with a crime. This is done through a process called civil asset forfeiture. The Legislature passed—and Governor Ige vetoed—a bill in 2019 reforming Hawaii's civil asset forfeiture law by prohibiting civil asset forfeiture except where the property owner had been convicted of a felony connected to that piece of property.

Q4. Do you support this reform?

Yes No Prefer not to answer

Q4a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support reforming Hawaii's civil asset forfeiture law. Incentives matter. As everyday citizens, renters, and homeowners, when we expect better services from a contractor, waitress, or any other service provider, we might entice potential service providers with a bonus payment or a generous tip. Similarly, the existing law appears to incentivize law-enforcement officials to seek ways to profit from citizen-and-police interactions that have not resulted in a criminal offense that has been proven in a court of law. It would appear that this is in conflict with the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which states that no one shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. Similarly, Hawaii's civil asset forfeiture law would seem to violate the Fourteenth Amendment, which places a legal obligation on all states in the Union - and specifically addresses citizenship rights and equal protection under the law. In this regard, the Fourteenth Amendment limits the actions of all state and local officials, and also those acting on behalf of such officials. And though Hawaii's Attorney General must provide annual forfeiture reports to the Legislature, key details are often missing, especially data on whether or not forfeitures were civil or criminal or whether related charges were filed.

INTRO5. PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT FOLLOWS

Hawai'i law provides special protections for the disclosure of police disciplinary records.

Q5. Do you support legislation repealing such special protections and disclosing the disciplinary records of all law enforcement officers in Hawai'i?

Yes No Prefer not to answer

Q5a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

No, I don't support legislation repealing such special protections and disclosing the disciplinary records of ****ALL**** law enforcement officers in Hawai'i. As stated in my other answers elsewhere in this questionnaire, I hold our community police in high regard. Indeed, today's police are faced with solving a wide range of issues, beyond the already complex mission of law-enforcement. As a veteran who has served in a war zone, I have experience with living and working in a high-stress, high-demand, dynamic and evolving environment where the quality of split-second decision-making can be the literal difference between life and death. Over time, continuous stress in highly dynamic situations can have an adverse effect on people and their decision-making process. Subsequently, errors will be made. Some of those errors will be minor; others of some importance... and others of great significance. For this question, I believe disclosing the disciplinary records of SOME (as opposed to ALL) law enforcement officers in Hawai'i is warranted, but only for the most serious and often recurring errors of judgement. To be sure: there needs to be a clearly established threshold of what is expected of our community police force. I sincerely believe police are our friends, neighbors, and community partners. They are a part of us. Yet, their chosen field of work necessitates a higher standard of expectation. While serving as an Active Duty Naval Officer, I clearly understood and accepted my oath to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. As a member of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, I was subject to not only Constitutional law, statutory law, treaties, administrative regulations, and the common law... but also to the Uniform Code of Military Justice – a separate law that ensured my fellow brothers and sister-in-arms and I adhered to a higher standard. Similarly, police officers, who are literally law-ENFORCEMENT experts while in uniform, should be held to a higher standard. And though it doesn't appear to occur often, when officers fail to meet those standards – especially when officers fail in a horrendous and offensive manner, there should be a public disclosing of the respective officer's disciplinary record(s).

INTRO6.

PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT FOLLOWS

The Legislature passed a law establishing a Law Enforcement Standards Board in 2018. To date, this board has met on two occasions and has not set any standards for law enforcement.

Q6. Do you support legislation to strengthen the board's independence, increase citizen oversight, set deadlines, and provide the board additional resources?

Yes



No



Prefer not to answer



Q6a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support legislation to strengthen the board's independence, increase citizen oversight, set deadlines, and provide the board additional resources. Policing is not merely a law-enforcement function. To me, police are community partners, and the act of policing is a key aspect of community partnering.

INTRO7. PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE THREE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW

Evidence shows that school suspensions and school-based arrests lead to further contacts with the juvenile justice system and adult criminal legal system, as well as higher dropout rates and lower academic performance. Currently, students are being suspended for up to 92 days—over half of the school year—for even smelling like cannabis.

Q7. Do you support further limiting the number of days that schools can suspend students?

Yes



No



Prefer not to answer



Q7a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support further limiting the number of days that schools can suspend students. During my tenure as the founder and Executive Director of TeenBuilding USA, a non-profit organization focused on increasing the high-school graduation rate among high-school students, I have gained tremendous insight into the lives of today's teenagers. Through the free seminars provided by TeenBuilding USA, I have shared stories of success with thousands of middle-school and high-school students. Equally important, those same students have shown me that, in many ways, they are far more informed on current events than we were when we were teenagers. Perhaps many adults have forgotten that some of our best lessons come from our apparent failures. Many adults seem to have forgotten that a mistake is only a mistake if we don't learn from the mistake. When students "make mistakes, they can still learn from the experience. The question is, will we give them the opportunity to learn from their mis-take... or will we basically punish them for simply immersing themselves in the learning process? By limiting the number of days that schools can suspend students, we afford students time to learn from their mistakes, and we raise expectations on how to creatively engage some of our most challenged and challenging students.

Q8. Do you support ending the use of school resource officers (i.e., police officers permanently placed in certain schools)?

Yes No Prefer not to answer

Q8a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

No, I do not support ending the use of school resource officers. Through my experience as a member of the School Community Council, as a member of the Pacific Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF), as the Education Chairperson of the Ewa Neighborhood Board, and as a facilitator of in-school seminars in the Ewa/Kapolei Complex, I remain engaged with many teachers and administrators of the Hawaii Department of Education. And though there does not appear to be an immediate requirement for officers permanently placed in schools, having an officer available could prove to be a well-placed asset to avert any evolving or emergent school altercations. In accordance with my response to the question regarding my support of further limiting the number of days that schools can suspend students, there should be relevant de-escalation training and concurrent "expectation management" training provided to the Resource Officers so they are specifically trained on the best interaction methods with which to engage today's teenagers.

Q9. Do you support eliminating status offenses for youth, such as truancy?

Yes No Prefer not to answer

Q9a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support eliminating status offenses for youth, such as truancy. In general, I believe we need to de-criminalize childhood mistakes. As stated previously, many adults have forgotten that some of our best lessons come from our apparent failures. In reality, these aren't failures at all; they are potential lessons to be learned. After all, no one is perfect. Yet, many adults seem to have forgotten that a mistake is only a mistake if we don't learn from the mistake. When teenagers make a mistake, adults must realize that teenagers are students of life and, as such, they are still learning from their evolving experiences. The question is, "Will we give students the opportunity to learn from their mistake?" Or will we merely punish them for simply immersing themselves in the learning process? Empirical data proves the decision-making part of the teenager's brain (the part of the brain where there is an associated link to thoughts about related consequences), the cerebral cortex, is not fully developed. Accordingly, accurate information processing and lucid decision making is almost impossible for many teenagers. Accordingly, I support eliminating status offenses for youth, such as truancy.

INTRO8. Economic Justice

PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT FOLLOWS

Only seventeen percent of workers nationwide have access through their employers to paid family leave to care for and/or bond with a new child, or to care for a sick or injured family member. The availability of paid family leave has been shown to increase workers' loyalty to employers, decrease employee turnover, and has been linked to decreased infant mortality rates and decreased reliance on public assistance. Eight states and Washington D.C. have passed laws that guarantee paid family leave to workers. In December 2019, Congress passed and President Trump signed the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act extending 12 weeks of paid parental leave to most federal employees.

Q10. Do you support legislation to guarantee 12 weeks of paid family leave to Hawaii's workers through the establishment of a social insurance program?

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Q10a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

No, legislation to guarantee 12 weeks of paid family leave to Hawaii's workers through the establishment of a social insurance program would have far-reaching negative effects on Hawaii's small-business community. According to 2015 data from the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, though Hawaii small businesses employed 51.8% of the private workforce, over 99% of Hawaii's businesses are small businesses. And companies with 100 employees or less comprise the largest share of small business employment. Accordingly, legislation guaranteeing 12 weeks of paid family leave, though seemingly a great asset for the employee, would almost certainly cause unintended negative consequences for 99% of Hawaii's businesses. Unlike federal, state, and county employers, resources for many Hawaii businesses are severely constrained, especially in this uncharted era of novel coronaviruses. If elected, I would seek to partner with the business community and facilitate other creative-yet-viable methods and incentives to balance family and employer needs.

INTRO9.

PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT FOLLOWS

Hawaii law does not guarantee any paid, short-term sick leave to workers.

Q11. Do you support legislation to guarantee paid sick days to Hawaii's workers?

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Q11a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support legislation to guarantee paid sick days to Hawaii's workers. As the recent COVID-19 pandemic has shown, America, in general, is woefully unprepared to deal with the effects of a pandemic. Without universal health care, many employees literally "must work" when they are sick. A guaranteed, paid, short-term sick leave for workers would provide a social safety net for not only employees, but also for society (as a whole) by affording sick employees the opportunity to stay home while sick... or to still receive (sick) pay while taking time off to visit a doctor. The bottom line: in today's era of novel coronaviruses, our individual health has a direct effect on the health of others. Accordingly, I believe we should embrace a more inclusive view whereas we see our neighbor and statewide community as members of our extended Ohana. The big picture – what would we want for ourselves, our daughter, our son, our father, or our mother? If we'd want guaranteed, paid, short-term sick leave for them, I believe we should want it for our friends and our foe, their daughters, their sons, their fathers and their mothers, too.

INTRO10.

PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT FOLLOWS

Half of Hawaii's families cannot afford to meet basic needs. A recent study found that four in ten adults do not have access to \$400 at any given time, making them one emergency—or court-ordered fine—away from financial ruin. Studies have found that scaling fines based on affordability increases the likelihood that fines will be paid in full and increases revenue.

Q12. Do you support legislation that would require courts to scale fines based on an individual's income?

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Q12a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support legislation that would require courts to scale fines based on an individual's income. Referring back to questions answered earlier in this questionnaire, I believe we must ask ourselves, "What is the overall intent of the respective law that has been broken(?" Moreover, "What is the impact on the individual who broke the law?" Also, "What is the impact on our society if the law-breaker does not pay the arbitrarily set fine or fee?" What is the basis of case law, and what would we lose by affording greater options to those who need a viable and substantial increase in their available options in life? Lastly, for anyone who disagrees with my answer, I would ask that they invest a small amount of time and review what the law-enforcement community did to the citizens of Ferguson, Missouri, where it was widely reported that the city used court fines as a major revenue-generating scheme for the county government.

INTRO11. PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE TWO QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW

State law punishes nonpayment of traffic and parking tickets by placing a "stopper" on a person's driving or vehicle record that prevents them from renewing or obtaining a driver's license or vehicle registration until they've paid the ticket in full, plus a 21% fee assessed by the state's contracted, Texas-based collection agency. Those who cannot afford their ticket and therefore cannot renew their license may be forced to choose between driving without a valid license (a traffic crime punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine or up to one year in jail) and losing their job or taking their child to the doctor. In recent years, several jurisdictions have either moved away from or completely stopped suspending licenses for nonpayment of traffic and parking tickets. In Hawai'i, there are approximately 350,000 outstanding license and registration stoppers.

Q13. Do you support legislation that would end the use of "stoppers" for nonpayment of traffic and parking fines?

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Q13a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support legislation that would end the use of "stoppers" for nonpayment of traffic and parking fines. Creative community law-enforcement and working WITH the community and individuals and perhaps allowing for long-term repayment could address the intent of the law and legislation while simultaneously allowing people who have been proven guilty in a court of law to literally pay for their infractions over an extended timeframe. If nothing else, the state could investigate the primary, secondary, and tertiary effects of allowing this process to balance the needs of the citizen to maintain a license... and the state's duty to enforce laws and regulations through fines and fees.

Q14. Would you support a traffic ticket amnesty program to ease the economic burden that traffic tickets place on the working class in Hawai'i?

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Q14a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes; I support a traffic ticket amnesty program to ease the economic burden that traffic tickets place on the working class in Hawai'i - but with restrictions. Similar to the previously answered question, I would support a traffic-ticket amnesty program to ease the economic burden that traffic tickets place on the working class in Hawai'i because I believe in the viability of a compassionate court system that can complement creative, community-based law enforcement. As previously stated, creative community law-enforcement and working WITH the community and individuals to ease the economic burden could address the intent of the law and legislation while simultaneously allowing people who have been proven guilty in a court of law to literally use community service to "pay" for their infractions by using their time and talents in a commensurate timeframe.

INTRO12. Criminal Law Reform

PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE TWO QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW

Under Hawai'i law, it is a felony to possess any amount of a drug that has been classified as dangerous, which is essentially every drug except cannabis. Even the possession of small amounts is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Q15. Do you support legislation decriminalizing possession of small amounts of dangerous drugs, and reinvesting the savings in effective, community-based drug treatment?

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Q15a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

No, legislation decriminalizing possession of small amounts of dangerous drugs, and reinvesting the savings in effective, community-based drug treatment is not a best-course for today's society. First, savings obtained by reducing savings in one specific state-funded program does not necessarily equate to a commensurate increase in spending on another targeted and related area. Secondly, dangerous drugs are "dangerous" regardless of the quantity in possession. Thirdly, prosecutors already have latitude in how they prosecute individuals, and to what extent the offenders are sentenced for their first, second, or third offense.

Q16. Do you think substance use should be treated as a matter of public health?

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Q16a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes; substance use should be treated as a matter of public health - but only up to a certain point. Substance use and substance abuse are closely related, and there is a fine line between the two. Unfortunately, "acceptable substance use" is often a facilitator into unacceptable substance abuse. With the advent and availability of smart phones and shorter attention spans, there seems to be an increase in the number of addictive personalities. As a society, we could probably benefit from a deeper look at primary and second-order effects? To successfully determine the point at which substances would no longer be treated as a matter of public health, more data is needed.

INTRO13. PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT FOLLOWS

Prosecutors are possibly the most influential player in the criminal legal system, yet there is little publicly-available information about how prosecutorial decisions are made.

Q17. Do you support legislation to promote transparency in county prosecutors' offices by requiring increased data tracking and disclosure?

Yes No Prefer not to answer

Q17a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I absolutely and strongly support legislation to promote transparency in county prosecutors' offices by requiring increased data tracking and disclosure. My strong advocacy for this type of transparency is founded in cases such as "People of the State of California v. Brock Allen Turner" (2015), and the case of Ethan Couch (2013). Brock Turner was indicted on two charges of rape, two charges of felony sexual assault, and one charge of attempted rape, but was subsequently sentenced to six months in jail (of which he only served three months) followed by three years of probation. Ethan Couch was indicted on four counts of intoxication manslaughter but sentenced to ten years of probation after his legal team successfully argued that the teen had "affluenza" and needed rehab instead of assignment to a penitentiary, because his wealthy parents didn't give Ethan any restrictions as a youth. Though there was no case-law precedent for "affluenza," there was a moral obligation to ensure justice was fulfilled. As stated elsewhere in this questionnaire, there is usually a certain degree of prosecutorial latitude in sentencing guilty offenders. And though these two cases may represent extreme outliers in an otherwise fairly equitable system, in all cases, empathy for the victim should come first; followed closely by accountability for the offender. To ensure justice is served... to ensure the victim receives empathy and the offender is held accountable, I support legislation to promote transparency in county prosecutors' offices by requiring increased data tracking and disclosure.

INTRO14. PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS

Q18. Do you support increasing funding for re-entry services for those who are released from incarceration?

Yes No Prefer not to answer

Q18a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support increasing funding for re-entry services for those who are released from incarceration. He or she is still a member of our extended Ohana. As such, he or she will be a contributing or contravening member of society. The choices and options for him or her to re-integrate into society are as much ours as they are his or hers.

Q19. Do you support measures to decrease barriers to employment for formerly incarcerated individuals?

Yes No Prefer not to answer

Q19a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support measures to decrease barriers to employment for formerly incarcerated individuals. I believe in the availability, the promise, and the power of being afforded a second chance. Mistakes happen; lessons are learned. As a society, we should do more to decrease recidivism and increase reconsideration? If not, we will again be left with the choice of reintegration or removal.

Q20. Do you believe that Hawaii's criminal legal system is working?

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

Q20a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I believe that Hawaii's criminal legal system is working. However, I have seen some rather high-profile cases where repeat offenders are responsible for a significant amount of crime. As discussed in an earlier question, I believe we can do more to reduce an overall lack of transparency while increasing accountability of people who are charged with ensuring the safety of the law-abiding public. Lastly, I believe the Kealoha case serves as an example of how the legal system is working.

INTRO15. Houselessness

PLEASE READ THE STATEMENT BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE THREE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW

Hawai'i has one of the highest houselessness rates in the country. The number of unsheltered people has exploded in the past decade even though we have had low unemployment and a relatively strong economy. With COVID-19's harm to the Hawai'i economy, the number of people experiencing houselessness is likely to grow.

Q21.

What do you believe is working and is not working about Hawaii's approach to houselessness?

Please explain your thinking in the space below.

The houseless situation in Hawaii is complex. However, there are areas that can be better incorporated to facilitate an optimized integration of resources. For example: Over the past 10 years, there seems to be an increased awareness of the myriad challenges associated with the houseless situation. For example, there has been a gradual education of the general public on the wide range of demographics of the houseless population. Accordingly, among the organizations that work with the houseless population, there is an overall better knowledge management system in place. And, in some cases, because there is no massive push to "get the homeless off the streets," there are improved relationships among the houseless and the agencies with whom the houseless interact. These factors have led to a greater understanding of – and better tracing of houseless individuals – along with increased integration of services by various agencies like The Institute for Human Services (IHS). To be sure, we could be doing things better. For example, simply moving and re-moving houseless individuals is not a long-term solution. And addressing the mental-health challenges continues to be a tall order. Similarly, addressing the entrenched drug problems will require a full integration of disparate resources and organizations (across the county, state, and federal levels), as an integrated organization of several subsystems, to fully address the reality of the growing houselessness challenges in our state.

Q22.

Do you support legislation establishing a homeless bill of rights?

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer



Q22a. Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.

Yes, I support legislation establishing a homeless bill of rights. The challenge facing houselessness is complex; the homeless bill of rights should be exceedingly simple. Houseless individuals are not, in of themselves, a protected group. However, as a reminder to citizens who are more fortunate than houseless individuals and families, a homeless bill of rights could serve as not only a reminder to serve our community members with compassion and empathy, but also function as a call to serve in a manner that we can – whatever that manner of service may be.

Q23.

How do you plan to address houselessness in Hawai'i in the short, medium, and long term?

Please explain your thinking in the space below.

I plan to establish (or join an existing) Task Force to research, study, and further implement best practices (among states and other industrialized countries). We have to remember that our houseless members of society are houseless for various reasons. Some are houseless because of decisions they have made; Some are houseless because of drug addictions; And yet, some are houseless because they CHOOSE to be houseless. Thus, solving the challenge is complex, intricate, multifaceted, and far from singular in scope. I sincerely believe that we need a comprehensive approach that will bring to bear a full integration of resources (as an integrated organization of several subsystems) to fully address the daunting reality of our houselessness population.

END.

Mahalo for your participation.

Please select the **'Submit survey'** button to submit your answers.

Aloha!

