

Ron Agor

Question 1:

One of my top county priority issues is the inevitable population growth Kauai is faced with. We must identify and evaluate the trends of the population that will make up this inevitable growth and take advantage of it. If we identify a trend of a middle class retired population wanting to retire on Kauai for instance, we should decide where this population should live. For example, a retirement community could be placed in Waimea where the town is struggling economically and the community suffers from great social problems. A retired population would make great economic contribution to the small businesses in Waimea by spending their retired income in that town. Retired people can also contribute to solving the westside social problems by volunteering in tutorial, mentoring, story telling and guidance for our latch key children.

We should implement the 2000 General Plan Update. For example, the encouragement to densities the core of our towns sounds excellent. This reduces urban sprawl and helps restore the economics of our town cores.

Question 2:

To diverse our economy, I will try to get government out of the face of small businesses. I will make sure that when a business wants to expand and hire more people, the county will do every thing in their power to help this small business prosper.

I have always truly believed that industrial hemp could replace what the sugar industry provided for our local population in the past. As a council person, I will invite potential industrial hemp growers to submit proposals for this agricultural industry. Then, I would get our state legislators and the governor's office to assist in getting the DEA to not resist this industry.

Question 3:

(i): The proposed moratorium on agricultural subdivisions was based on the urgency seen by the late mayor in the proliferation of the situation before the study of our agricultural lands was completed. At this time the market is adjusting itself and we do have time to wait for the study to be completed. Therefore, I do not support a moratorium.

(ii): Yes, the density of open land should be reduced to equate with agricultural lands.

(iii): I would support having agricultural subdivisions to go through a Class IV permit process as long as regular subdivisions have the same requirement.

(iv): CPR's is a form of ownership and not use. This process is a state jurisdiction and not the county.

I will do everything I can to make agriculture a viable business, including the push for the growing of industrial hemp.

Question 4:

As a member of the State Land Board, I have recently been talking with farmers on state agricultural lands. I am learning that diversify agriculture is just not a feasible business. Issues like the lack of labor and housing contributes to the problem. I believe that we need to assist farmers by allowing housing for their employees on their farms. I would also allow farmers to conduct eco-tourism type of businesses on their farms to supplement their income.

Question 5:

I can't help but support the GMO corn seed work that is being done on the Westside. This industry now employs more workers than the Kekaha Sugar Plantation did. A lot of the workers are old family and friends. However, as a council member I will approach the seed companies and find out more about their process. I will also have them update the community on their science and technology on corn GMO.

Question 6:

Pesticides along our roadsides are a problem. Newer type of equipment to cut vegetation along side our highways is a must.

Question 7:

Our trash needs to be separated so only non-recycled trash goes to our landfill. MRF and CHARM centers must be built for recycling.

Question 8:

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions we must expand our bus system, go to a staggered 4 day work week, and aggressively explore for more hydro-electric plants.

Question 9:

As a council member I will continue my dialogue with Architects in having them convince their clients of higher end homes to built "green". The more the wealthy builds "green", eventually the cost of "green" construction materials will become more affordable to all. I would also encourage the restoration of older buildings rather than demolishing them and build new.

Question 10

Pumps for our water systems should be powered by solar or wind.

Question 11:

As a council member, I will continue my work of advocating for beach and mountain access as I have done as a state land board member. The current regulations for beach and mountain access must be enforced.

The issue of gated communities has been handled well in recent years by the planning commission. I don't believe a law must be passed to out right ban gated communities.

Question 12:

I would support limiting tourist units when I feel comfortable that our economy has diversified adequately.

Question 13:

The proposed tax bill shifts the burden of tax from homeowners and the elders to resort and businesses. When homeowners and elders are faced with an increase in taxes, they have no where to go. The resort industry and businesses can transfer tax increases to their businesses.

Question 14:

To address affordable housing, the county must perform their basic function of providing infrastructure to every zoned property. Then and only then, affordable housing can be realized.

Question 15:

The state's process of respecting sacred sites and burial grounds have been a problem for decades. Over the last few years DLNR, through the burial council, looked to the Kupunas for a solution to the problem. The policies today to protect, respect, provide access to sacred and burial sites are policies developed by our Kupunas.

Question 16:

To address enforcement of our ordinances, I will fight for funding more enforcement personal.

Question 17:

The most eco-friendly aspect of my lifestyle is riding a motorcycle and taking the bus when I am in Oahu on business.

1. Moratorium on Ag Subdivision- (NS)
2. Reduce density on open land- (S) Equal to ag lands
3. Ordinance to limit resort permitting – (NS)
4. Ban on gated communities – (NS)
5. Mandated solar water heater – (S)
6. Raising AC temperature in county bldgs – (S)
7. Superferry return without EIS –(NA)
8. Curbside Recycling – (S)
9. MRF – (S)
10. Construction of waste to energy incinerator – (S)
11. Ban on plastic bags – (S)
12. 7-day bus extention – (S)
13. Living wage ordinance – (NS)
14. Regular air sampling at Waimea and Kekaha Schools – (S)
15. Ban Conty spraying of pesticides at parks – (S)
16. Ban of GMO testing and growing – (S) Except for corn seed
17. Make County Attorney opinions public – (S)
18. Live cablecast of council meetings –(S)
19. “Three to one” building-to-land tax (S)
20. Repeal residential 2% land tax cap. (NA)