

Linda Pasadava

1. What is one of your top priority county issues, and what will you do to address this issue? Pls be specific

I believe that the Planning Commissioners should be elected by the people not appointed by the Mayor. Their jobs are too important and far reaching to allow for selection at the whim of government officials. Furthermore, I believe that it should be a paid position requiring the commissioners to read and analyze the laws that should be the basis of their decisions. They must be held accountable and be required to follow the letter of the law and relevant procedures created to make decisions on how our island is going to be developed now and into the future. The effects of poor decision making will last for many years. If the commissioners are carefully chosen by the voters and if they are paid for the many hours they work then we should have a more effective and predictable Planning Department.

2. What will you do to diversify our economy to move away from our overdependence on tourism? Pls be specific.

The cost of doing business is high on Kauai so trying to romance businesses to move on island is difficult outside of the tourist and resort business. Having said that, we have to work within the economic framework of our island. Businesses need to look internally and say what else can we offer to sustain and diversify. For example, restaurants that do not cater may want to consider offering this new service. If there is a commercial kitchen, then the restaurant could lease out the facility during night time hours to a caterer or a baker. Kauai made products could be exported along with Kauai produce. We must think of how to export products not import them. We need to ask how can we achieve economic independence by employing out of the box thinking. We could have educational training seminars utilizing our unique eco system as the subject matter. Tuition and fees could be substantial. We would be able to promote both ecological information and use the opportunity to discuss sustainability and ecological responsibility.

3. Mayor Baptiste proposed a package of four land use bills to address the loss of ag land to non ag uses including 1.) imposing a one year moratorium on subdivisions, 2.) reducing density in lands zoned open 3.) requiring subdivisions go through a Class IV PERMIT PROCESS 4.) Treating the permitting of CPR's like the permitting of subdivisions. Do you support all or any of these bills and what are your top priority solutions to address the issue of loss of ag lands.

I support all four of these proposals which are long over due and need to be implemented immediately.

4. WHAT WILL YOU DO TO PROMOTE LOCAL FARMING OF FOOD?

The first step to addressing this issue is to focus on ag land use and protection. At this time, ag land is valued at the same level as real estate which makes it

difficult to afford purchase of lands for agricultural purposes. We must do everything possible to make farming affordable and attractive so that we can wean ourselves from the 95% food imports that we depend on at this time. Kauai has abundant fertile soil which should be used for farming. Local food production makes Kauai more independent which should be one of our primary goals. We should shop local and give tax incentives to those that are legitimately farming. In addition, stricter penalties should be imposed on "gentlemen farms".

5. Would you support an ordinance to limit or even ban the growing of genetically modified crops on Kauai and if no what do you propose to do to protect crops from GMO contamination and support the public's right to know where GMO's are being grown?

I do not support GMO crops on Kauai. The public should be very concerned that our Federal government does not require labeling of GMO products. We must look at who is providing the money, land and backing for this project. We must ask our government to answer the questions, "Is this good for the people of Kauai?" If the answer is no, which I believe it should be, then our leaders need to take a firm stand and say you cannot conduct your experiments on our island. We have seen cross germination with some papaya crops and a serious problem with the chemical sprays used around schools and communities where people live. As this is a new technology no one yet knows if genetic engineering of our food source is even safe. The burden should be on the GMO corporations who should be required to prove that there will be no cross germination and that the entire process is completely safe. Until such time, if ever, then there should be no mitigating ordinances, rather a complete ban on the GMO production.

6. What will you do to protect the public and the environment from pesticide exposure?

This is a world wide problem. There are so many issues involved in pesticide exposure, most urgent are the health ramifications. There are links to overexposure that may lead to liver disease and Parkinsons as well as serious birth defects. I lived in the L.A. area in the 1990's when they introduced aerial spraying for fruit fly infestation. It caused eyes to water, coughing and a tightening of the chest. City officials refused to acknowledge potential health risks. The public had a right to know but were not presented with the facts that would affect their health and well being. Today we know the dangers and researchers have been innovative in discovering alternatives to chemical pesticide treatments. New terminology has arisen like "integrated pest management" that explores ways to deal with invasive pests that can ruin crops and bankrupt the farmer. Alternatives are available for example insect sterilization which is costly but effective. Other methods such as polyculture and crop rotations as well as trap crops are also good alternatives in the appropriate agricultural environment. We must continue to see non toxic solutions that work well in our community farm lands. Chemicals that are sprayed go astray

contaminating the land, air and water. We can begin in our own homes in small ways like using fly paper instead of chemical bug sprays. Awareness and education are important. The public has a right to know and they need all of the facts in order to access safe food products and protect the health of their families.

7. The most recent draft of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Update recommends adopting an aggressive Max 3-R program, including phasing in curbside recycling, before building a waste to energy facility. Would you favor the fast tract development of Materials Recovery Facility, Center for Hard to Recycle Materials and the establishment of a centralized multi-organic material composting facility prior to taking actionable steps towards construction of an incinerator?

I favor a zero waste approach to this issue. If we could push the curbside program up from the projected 2011 date that would be most beneficial. I acknowledge that containers and pick up transportation has to be arranged but we are in a critical period and everything that can be done must be expedited to start the program. Kauai is already recycling 30% of their waste without a formal program so I believe that it is possible to extend that percentage with a goal of 100%, I believe that this first step should be taken before an incinerator facility with emissions issues of its own is built. I also support a MRF for CHARM to be instituted as soon as possible. I would like to see data on the possibility of reselling metal waste and transport of this type of recycled waste off island to established metal recycling facilities.

8. What specific actions will you take to reduce green house gas emissions in the areas of transportation, waste management, and energy use?

The need to control emissions is overdue. Energy efficiency is a good starting point in our efforts to minimize emissions and to save costs in the process. Global warming is a result of our failure to control emissions into the atmosphere

Fuel switching to lower carbon content fuels such as natural gas is a good step in reducing emissions. This works in areas of transportation and utility companies.

It is important to chart our annual emissions and set target goals in reducing that number. Constant monitoring will be required

On Kauai we have options such as the Kauai bus that is a solution to high fuel costs and for controlled emissions.

Hopefully new vehicle technology will address the emissions issues and be available in the near future. Car pooling, biking, walking are also viable alternatives that promote health for both the individual and the air.

Use of lower carbon products such as energy efficient lightbulbs and low emissions vehicles are things that we can do immediately to reduce the problem.

Laws to mandate green building is vital to the solution. Tax incentives to individual home owners can be considered including those who do repair and refurbishing of their homes.

The issue of burning waste for fuel needs to be scrutinized. If the proposed incinerator must be fueled by fossil fuel then we do not have a solution to the issue. Waste management techniques that reduce greenhouse gas emissions include land fill gas capture and the popular reduce, reuse and recycle concept. If we can curtail refuse production we can impact the problem.

9. How do you propose the concept of green building be addressed by our county?

We can begin today to legislate solar water heating and photo voltaic roofing on new and refurbished buildings. There should be no restriction on retrofitting older buildings with either of these energy saving methods. We have the technology but not the desire to invest in such environmentally friendly solutions because it will cost money on the front end to do this. What needs to be stressed is that the cost will be amortized over a short period of time and mean while the green aspect of this type of construction will benefit all concerned. Furthermore, I advocate continued tax rebates for those taking the initiative to install solar energy in their home or their business. We need to encourage this but also need to have laws in place that assure that those less enthusiastic about green building will comply because it is the right thing to do for our environment. No more build and run with the money on Kauai. Legislation must be drafted and once accomplished must be enforced by the administration with no exceptions.

10. What immediate steps will you take to insure that our potable water system is not reliant on electricity derived from imported fossil fuels?

This is a highly technical questions but it should be an area of concern to all of us. Kauai has many water sources but the goal is to define a system that is not dependent on electricity which promises to continue to be ridiculously expensive. One solution may be in a manual operation of a water treatment facility that produces, through filtering systems, potable water. There is technology in third world countries that do not have electrical sources and has proven to work effectively.

Another possibility are non electric steam water distillers and solar distiller that draw humidity from the air or moisture from the soil. This method produces limited amounts of drinking water.

Solar water pumps are not inexpensive but work off the grid and are perfect for more remote areas. There are several types including submersible pumps. With the ever evolving solar technology the reality of providing drinkable water without the high cost of electricity is now viable. Our community leaders can research the most effective methods for our needs but a new system needs to be implemented immediately and responsibly.

11. If elected, would you support the bills that have been pending before the county council for two years that would ban new gated communities and would require that developers provide lateral shoreline access to the public as conditions for resort

developments and subdivisions>? Is there other legislation you would introduce or support to insure public shore and /or mountain access.

My record on this issue as President of the Kilauea Neighborhood Association is clear. I support access in every way and in every area of the island. It is a travesty that this has not been done by current government leaders. We have already lost key access areas because of the inattentiveness and the apathetic posture taken by past government. Maps on file have failed to note and establish public right of ways. Recordation of access and right of ways were sometimes omitted from the map and in some cases, suddenly absent from map records. What good will public beach laws be if we are locked out of all access to them? Preservation of access and enforcement of access laws for new developments must be recognized and strictly enforced. I advocate condemnation proceedings if the land owner refuses to comply. Our Planning Commission must be committed to preserving and recognizing the importance of the access issue to the people of Kauai. Gated communities have no place here. It is an affront to the people of Kauai. It was never the custom to put up a gate and create the aura of them and us.

12. If you are elected, would you support an annual limit, consistent with the General Plan on the number of new tourist units that can be approved by the county every year. What if any other solutions do you propose to address the issue of long term sustainable tourist development.

I do support a limit on building new units and as our government has failed to control the amount of building proscribed in the General Plan I also advocate a moratorium on building for the next year or two.

We have a finite amount of space and at some point we will not be able to build anymore units. This fact means that there will be a finite amount of tourists on the island at any given time. Another good reason why Kauai must diversify the economy and become less dependent on tourism.

13. Are there specific amendments you would make to the current tax reform sill. Pls describe the specifi provisions in the bill that you support or oppose.

The county derives approximately half of its revenue from property taxes. The tax reform bill was formulated by county directors which may explain the skepticism on the proposed new tax reform bill. What needs to be clear is that property taxes for residents that live full time on Kauai should be affordable and predictable. The new bill proposes a raise in exemption amount but also proposes a higher tax bracket. If you stay in your home and do not plan to sell is this helpful? If your neighbor sells their home for a high price will this affect you and your tax rate? Should we rush to judgment and push through a bill that does not help local home owners? I think not.

14. What will you do to increase residents access to affordable hosing including rentals?

Affordable housing must be integrated within planning for new developments and Grnrtsl Plan updates. A substantial portion of the project should be dedicated to affordable housing. In addition, county subsidized developments like Kilauea Estates should also be built as time have proven that the concept has worked well. We must first concur that there is a serious and immediate need for more affordable housing on our island. How can we expand our business community if there is no affordable place to live for workers? How can we grow our families when there is no where to live within an average income base. Affordable housing should be in the forefront of issues that have the highest priority. It is the issue that is of paramount concern to many island residents.

15. What do you propose to do about the loss of access to and development over sacred Hawaiian sites, including burial grounds?

The Hawaiian people have spoken and we must listen to their view. History, ancestors, respect are all elements of this issue.

The PASH laws were created to address these issues and should be recognized and incorporated into existing laws and ordinances.

Leaders must be consulted and solutions must be sought that honor the culture that is rooted in the island's history.

Grave sites should be identified on deeds and property maps and can be treated like access areas to be preserved.

Buyers who are unwilling to acknowledge the cultural site need not purchase the property.

We must ask ourselves if greed and selfishness has overshadowed the sanctity of ancestral grave sites and revered cultural sites and access to sacred fishing and hunting areas.

We must honor these traditions because the price is too high to do otherwise.

16. Recognizing that enforcement is primarily the duty of the administration, what specifically would you do to address the problem of lack of enforcement of ordinances and to achieve accountability of department heads to enforce ordinances.

The County Attorney is the appropriate entity to oversee enforcement of our laws and ordinances. The administration has a fiduciary duty to uphold the laws and ordinances with no exception. A failure to do this is a breach of duty and should be addressed publicly and dealt with accordingly. Having said this, it is also necessary that the laws and procedures are clear to all concerned. I have witnessed great debate and confusion over procedures and regulations in public hearings. The bottom line is that our administration is charged with identifying, and applying the relevant law and procedure. A failure to do that is unacceptable.

17. What do you feel is the most eco friendly aspect of your lifestyle.

Becoming eco friendly is an ongoing process. It is empowering to meet the challenge and to find ways, even small ones, to support the concept of sustainability. In my home we recycle all that we can. We have a senior citizen pick up our cans. This exchange gives him a productive project and brings in money for his income. He enjoys it and we are happy to know that our recycled goods are being properly disposed of with positive results. We have also planted a vegetable garden and love to watch the produce grow. We are energized by the fresh and organic produce and enjoy the challenges of avoiding chemicals in pest control. We are planning on a solar water heater next and would love to have photo voltaic roofing someday when it becomes more affordable. These small steps can be taken by all of us and combined we are making great progress in our quest for eco friendly lifestyles. I am excited by the new prospects and technology that will allow us to reach our goals of sustainable living on this beautiful paradise.

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