

# ECO-ROUNDTABLE 2008 CANDIDATES FORUM QUESTIONNAIRE

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## Written Response Questions:

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

**Traffic is one of my priority issues that I would like to concentrate on being that it affects all residents and visitors to our island. I would like to see bus service expanded to seven (7) days a week, and add in more buses during peak travel time. I would also like to open up the possibility of utilizing our idle tour buses to feed into our economy and provide the extra service for buses.**
2. What will you do to diversify our economy to move away from our overdependence on tourism? Please be specific.

**Tourism is what we here on Kaua`i have been dependent on for years. It has provided for us well, but we need to look at ways to diversify our economy by promoting our Kaua`i made products and exporting them out to other islands and beyond, we have the means to do it, but we as the county need to be more supportive for this. We need to buy Kaua`i, support Kaua`i, and expand beyond.**
3. Mayor Baptiste proposed a package of four land use bills to address the loss of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses, including (i) imposing a one-year moratorium on agricultural subdivisions; (ii) reducing density in lands zoned open (iii) requiring agricultural subdivision go through a Class IV permitting process; (iv) treating the permitting of CPRs like the permitting of subdivision. Do you support all, or any, of these bills, and *what are your top priority solutions to address the issue of loss of agricultural lands?*

**I would like to see a one year moratorium imposed, why? To see where we stand and to give us a chance to looking at ways to reprocess and evaluate just how bad the situation has gotten. I believe that our Ag lands should be used for what it was zoned as. I can't really say that I support this bill as a whole, but if elected I would like to be sure that I am educated enough about this and to hear from the general public about their views and standpoints on this.**
4. What will you do to promote local farming of food?

**We can all say that we support our local farming, but do we have the manpower and those who desire to continue on this task of a very hard industry. As the county, I would like to see breaks and incentives on water usage to these farmers. Of course there needs to be legitimate use of the water and the**

**farming as well. But I feel that if we offer this, our farmers will have the resources necessary to continue farming and provide more local produce for Island residents. I would like to even see more support for our farmers markets.**

5. Would you support an ordinance to limit or even ban the growing of genetically modified crops on Kaua`i, and, if not, what do you propose to do to protect crops from GMO contamination and support the public's right to know where GMOs are being grown?

**I believe and support science and research, but I feel that Kaua`i should not be an open lab for these GMO crops. I would like to see this being done in an enclosed and controllable environment; it is too much of a risk for cross contamination on our islands crops. We can't stand by and let this happen. I do also respect that this also provides jobs for our residents, but we need to also malama and take care of our natural resources.**

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

**I would like to see a way possible that harmful pesticides can be replaced with something more environmentally friendly for our `aina and also for the well being of our people. It deeply worries me that our children on the Westside, along with the teachers and faculty have been put in danger more than once. It is our responsibility to ensure that we are taking care of one another and limitations and bans on harmful pesticides must be enacted to protect our public and the environment.**

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 track development of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHARM) and the establishment of a centralized multi-organic material composting facility *prior to taking actionable steps towards construction of an incinerator*? Please give us an overview of your solid waste management plan and proposed solution to the landfill issue.

**I would like to see our county look at "beefing" up our recycle program for the island. I envision that we can reuse and recycle so much more of our trash than what we are currently doing. I would like to support legislation to provide island wide curbside and home recycling. This is a benefit that will help us in the long road ahead. Although a waste to energy facility is a good idea as well, I would like us to look at reusing first before we start burning our waste.**

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

**Provide more access and usability to our public transportation, initiate an intense recycling program, and to also see more solar energy being used in our county facilities and infrastructures. I can vision us utilizing the solar and wind energy to power our waste plants, water pump stations, and even our county offices.**

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

**This is no secret that it costs a lot more money to build green. We as the county should provide incentives to those who take the initiative of building green. I can't honestly say how I or we can address this, but hopefully we can work with administration and the building and planning offices to find pro-active solutions to this concept.**

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

**The installation of solar and reusable energy in these facilities is a way that we are not so reliant on the higher cost of importing fuels. This will cost more to update, but if there is a will there is a way.**

11. If you are 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 development and subdivisions? Is there other legislation you would introduce or support to insure public shoreline and/or mountain access?

**I would support placing a limitation and a ban on gated communities. Our shoreline access is dissipating and if we continue to allow our access to be cut off we will no longer have the ability to enjoy what is rightfully public access and property. I look at this way, and not offend anyone who lives in these communities because I have utmost respect for everyone, but realistically thinking we all use the same water and the same public utilities, so why should we allow more gated communities. I would like to support legislation for our access to the mountains, I understand that there is liability issues that must be looked at, but it hurts me as a native Hawaiian that we are restricted from accessing areas to gather what rightfully belongs to us, the people.**

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?

**As a person who has made a career in the visitor industry and currently working in this field, I would have to say "yes" I would support an annual limit on new tourists units. The**

reasoning for this and the way that I look at it from my viewpoint, is that if we continue to over develop more tourists units, how can we sustain business in our current and existing units that we are struggling to fill to capacity. We should malama and take care what we have now, and maintain and limit our growth level.

13. Are there specific amendments you would make to the current "tax reform" bill? Please describe the specific provisions in the bill that you support or oppose.

I would like to be sure that this "tax reform" will benefit everyone and not just some. Our businesses needs to be offered some tax break and incentives if we would like to see the diversity of our businesses here on Kaua`i. If we all say that we want to support our Islands businesses, we must not be glass half full and provide for our people. I want to see that our tax rate is not determined by just the value, but have our county budget determine what the tax will be. The more it increases the more we are forced to sell out.

14. What will you do to increase resident's access to affordable housing, including rentals?

We as a county needs to look at way's that we can be of assistance. This is a hard issue to answer and I must honestly say that I don't have an immediate plan of action, but I would like to tap into the community to form a coalition of committee made up those are affected to see what we can do to be pro-active and provide for our so many struggling families today.

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

So much hukihuki (disagreement) on this issue I have seen for all my life and it still continues. We are losing our sacred sites by having these rich developments being allowed and approved. Who really has the right to say that it's okay to build your home or resort on our Kupuna? No one, but it is all of our Kuleana (responsibility) to be sure that awareness is raised and education is done for all of the entities that makes these decisions. I am saddened that sometimes, all to frequently a judgment is made based upon personal gain, if you are an official whether appointed or elected it is the people you represent not a person!

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?

There needs to be cohesiveness within the administration and the county as a whole. This is something that is easy to say, but hard to do. We all know that there will always be

disagreement on both sides, but the actions we take and the decisions we make must be held with accountability. So if you decide for or against something, you must be sure that you will be accountable when a question is addressed to you on why you decided that way. Fairness, trust, and openness is the key to accountability. We must treat one another fairly, if we say no or yes to one, we must remember why and the next person as well.

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

I try my best to reuse and recycle. When I began to use my reusable shopping bags, a lot of friends and family did not realize how one act can go a long way. I began to spread out and get others in my family to join on and it's working. I conserve the use of water, electric, and the little stuff that can go a long way. Being eco-friendly is hard, harder than what most people realize, but if we all start small it will make a difference.

#### “Support”/ “Do Not Support” Phrases:

The following short phrases define current proposed measures on Kauaʻi or represent issues that the county has some jurisdiction over. For each issue, please indicate with the appropriate symbol whether you “Support” (S), “Do Not Support” (NS) or have, “No Answer” (NA). You are invited to clarify your answer in writing using **no more than 25 characters** or five words, whichever is more. For example:

Curbside recycling. *Support; in high density residential areas*

We are limiting responses so they can be put in an easy-to-compare chart format for publication purposes. You are invited to explain your positions on important issues more thoroughly in the written response questions above.

1. Temporary agricultural subdivision moratorium (**S**)
2. Reduced density on open land (**S**)
3. Ordinance to limit resort permitting (**S**)
4. Ban on new gated communities (**S**)
5. Mandated solar water heating on all new residential construction **Support; but would like to see incentives.**
6. Raising AC temperatures in county buildings (**S**)
7. Superferry return without full EIS (**NS**)
8. Curbside recycling (**S**)

9. Construction of a Material Recovery Facility **(S)**
10. Construction of Waste to Energy Incinerator **(NA); beef up recycling first**
11. Ban on plastic shopping bags **(S)**
12. 7-day extended hours Kauai Bus services **(S)**
13. Living wage ordinance **(NA); need more research**
14. Regular ambient air sampling at Waimea and Kekaha schools **(S)**
15. Ban county spraying of pesticides at parks **(S)**
16. Ban on GMO growing/testing **(S); test in control environment**
17. Make County Attorney opinions public **(S); if no confidentiality broken**
18. Live cablecast of council meetings **(S)**
19. "Three to one" building-to-land tax **(NA)**
20. Repeal residential 2% land tax cap **(NA); not at ease (S) or (NS)**