

Homelessness

1. What should the City do about homelessness which 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?

It is time for the City to 'own' the issue of homelessness, and I am ready to 'own' it during my time as Mayor.

It is not a crime to be poor so we should not criminalize the homeless.

To get the chronically homeless off the streets and into safe shelter, we have to be willing to spend more on drug and alcohol addiction and mental health issues.

I believe in sit-lie bans to help with getting people into the proper facilities, but we must invest in making these resources available. I do not believe 'compassionate disruption' has worked.

This begins taking a 'tough love' approach to our chronically homeless, especially for those who have chronic mental illness or substance abuse problems.

We must get treatment to those who are in no physical or mental state to help themselves. I am fully prepared to work closely with our courts to facilities these court ordered treatment options as we prioritize our budget.

We need to take steps to make sure more working families do not become homeless because they had their hours cut or because they were laid off due to lack of business.

I believe the City and State must make this new, safety net program a high priority and work together to construct an expanded rent subsidy program for working families. It should be income-based, and the subsidy grants should be paid directly to the landlord. This needs to be at least a two-year program in order to give business time to restore jobs and reinstate hours. If we are going to really deal with this crisis seriously than we need to insure we are willing to approach this problem head-on, with an unprecedented resolve.

Health

2. 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 you make in approach if a second wave of COVID-19 warrants new restrictions?

Getting our economy back on track will not be quick, but there are specific things we can do to help facilitate our recovery.

- 1) First, we cannot think about the economy and the safety of our citizens as two opposing paths. We need to take action to keep our people safe, and work towards getting our economy going again. I firmly believe that this is the critical mindset we have to have; otherwise, one or the other will needlessly suffer.
- 2) For our visitors, we should emphasize testing before they arrive, and after they arrive. Our plan will require an unprecedented level of cooperation with the State, federal government, hotels, airlines and other states and countries.
- 3) We will have to implement ongoing education for our visitors and residents involving wearing masks, social distancing, and all safety protocols. We will have to stress the importance of the responsibility of enforcement to the business owners, hotel operators, and all those working with the public that the need for strict adherence is a reasonable expectation.

We have to recognize that there will be new related costs associated with adhering to the safety protocols, and consequently we will have to provide businesses with the proper guidance and supplies necessary to reopen. This includes comprehensive safety measures and PPE to reopen safely, and to reopen soon.

In order to accomplish the above, we will absolutely have to help our small businesses navigate the new state and federal programs to receive the necessary financial aid.

Public Safety

3. 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?

It is my belief our police department is woven into the fabric of our communities, and consequently it is imperative they build relationships with the community through interactions with local agencies and members of the public. I also strongly believe in the concepts of transparency and accountability. As a result, I completely support community-based policing as an integral component of serving the public.

I believe in the leadership of Chief Susan Ballard, and I am very supportive of her recent plan of adding neighborhood patrols, and her initiative, 'Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered Persons'.

In addressing the issue of public safety, I think it important to mention that right now HPD has around 300 vacancies that need to be filled which represents about 15% of the entire department. For essential first responders that is unacceptable for our communities.

Rail

4. 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 it at Ala Moana Center, as planned? If so, how would you get the funding needed to address the shortage?

The discussion we are having right now is not pro-rail or anti-rail. That was finished in 2012. Given our current economic circumstances and uncertainty, right now this is a matter of getting us through this rail project with the least amount of damage to our community. I intend to do so.

If we are to complete the rail at any destination, we will have to:

- 1) Work with the federal government to gain more funding for the project.
- 2) Be realistic and open about our capabilities for the rail project to our public, including holding those in power accountable.

We need to be realistic in our thinking, and we will have to aggressively pursue federal funds for this project, but we cannot count on this coming in. If it is the case that we do not get more funding for this project, or if the \$744 million worth of federal funding we are promised is insufficient for our needs for the last city center segment of the rail, I will not raise property taxes for the sake of the rail, especially in this financial climate.

To me, it seems that federal funding and full collaboration with the federal government to finish this project is the only way we will get through this. However, I am open to alternative solutions to the rail, including stopping the rail at Middle Street, although it is too early to say given that we do not even know the full cost of the city center segment.

This is no time for empty promises or wishful thinking. I am ready to make the informed, responsible decision for our community on rail.

Accountability

Please respond with only 'Yes' or 'No' to this question:

5. The focus of today's event is Accountability. Will you commit to provide 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?

I am always open to transparency and accountability.