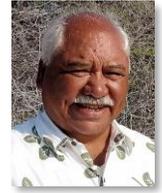




## 2020 Hawai'i Island Candidate Questionnaire

**Candidate Name:** Craig "Bo" Kahui



**Candidate Race:** Hawai'i County Council – District 8

**Candidate Website:** [www.bokahui.com](http://www.bokahui.com)

**1. In 2018, the Hawaii County Council passed Bill 108 (now Ordinance 2018-114), which regulates un-hosted short-term vacation rentals (STVRs) in Hawaii County. What policies would you implement to further regulate or deregulate short-term vacation rentals on Hawaii Island, whether hosted or un-hosted, and what will be the economic impact(s) of those policies?**

The covid19 crisis had affected tourism and placed an unprecedented dilemma on the vacationing short-term rentals; current policies may require changes as the County of Hawaii contends with budget "short-falls" that may require possible short-term special assessment.

**2. In 2019, the Real Property Tax Office implemented policies to assess properties at their "highest and best use". This changed the real property tax classifications for many residents, mainly those on agricultural-zoned parcels smaller than one-acre in size, increasing their real property tax bill. What are your thoughts on the County real property tax and how revenue may be increased without negative impacts for residents?**

I disagree with "higher assessed values on Ag Lands less than 1 acre, except with "gentleman properties with building assessed values of \$750,000 or more.

**3. Hawai'i County residents generate over 200,000 tons of solid waste each year. In 2019, the County closed the Hilo landfill and is now hauling solid waste across the island to a landfill in Pu'uuanahulu. Additionally, due to significant decreases in the global market for recyclables, the County of Hawai'i is no longer accepting some of the types of materials collected at the County recycling & transfer stations. What solutions would you propose to resolve the County's solid waste dilemma?**

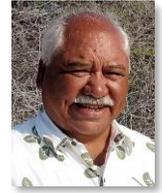
I would request the Council to conduct a study to Seek new and innovative industrial applications to sort, re-use and recycle solid waste for various application including renewable energy to reduce the amount of solid waste in the County land fill that would impact and extend the life expectancy of the land fill.

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**4. Median home prices in Hawaii County continue to rise with shrinking inventory and increasing demand. Since 2011, the median sales price for a residential home in Hawaii County has increased, year to year, by as little as 0.38% (2015-2016) up to 13.46% (2012-2013) per year. What are your top three (3) actionable items to address housing affordability?**

- 1) Seek increase in HUD funding to Hawaii County;
- 2) Support increasing Housing Tax Credit for Housing development;
- 3) Seek Private public partnerships for Housing funding and development.

**5. The Hawai'i state legislature recently proposed legislation that would put the responsibility on the counties to research and provide data on topics such as energy, coastal zone/sea level rise, etc. as they relate to climate change, without addressing funding for any related expenses. What three (3) specific solutions would you propose to address climate change, and how would these proposals be funded?**

- 1) Increase PV renewable projects;
- 2) Reduce utilizing carbon emitting energy generators;
- 3) Invest in local energy producers to produce renewable energy

**6. In 2015, the state legislature adopted a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) of 100 percent by the year 2045, positioning Hawai'i to become the first U.S. state to produce all its electricity from local renewable energy sources and establishing interim targets of 30 percent by 2020, 40 percent by 2030, and 70 percent by 2040. What is your position on expanding geothermal and/or other forms of renewable energy on Hawai'i Island?**

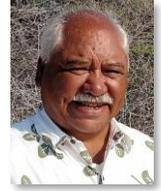
Renewable energy expansion is necessary to reach our 100% renewable goals of 2045.

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**7. What are two (2) things you like about the Community Development Plan (CDP) in your district that are working well? What are two (2) things in your district's CDP that are not working and why? How would you suggest those issues be addressed/fixed?**

No response at this time.

**8. The appearance of COVID-19 has brought the world economy to a halt and has exposed major faults in local government's blatant reliance on tourism for revenue. What are your plans to jump start and/or diversify the island's economy?**

- 1) Invest in diversified Agriculture/ Aquaculture;
- 2) Invest in Renewable energy to create long term green jobs;
- 3) Review and improve Hawaii's Resilience Plan

**9. Many municipalities across the country are exploring bond sales to raise capital for improvements to infrastructure, like road and wastewater improvements as an example; things that are sorely in need of attention on Hawaii Island. The County Council just this year advanced a \$103 million bond issue for road projects with Bill 145. What is your view on expanding municipal bond issuance to finance infrastructure while interest rates are historically low?**

I support bonds to improve Hawaii Island infrastructure.

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