



2020 Hawai'i Island Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Jaclyn Moore



Candidate Race: Hawai'i County Council – District 1

Candidate Website: www.facebook.com/moore4hi

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?

I would work to implement STVR policies that make sense. First, the policy needs to distinguish between hosted vs. unhosted AND resident vs. non-resident STVR's. Many residents are using vacation rentals to help support themselves and their families, and resident/hosted STVR's should not receive the same level of scrutiny as a non-resident/unhosted vacation rental. Vacation rentals do provide an important source of tax revenue; however, we need avenues for resident entrepreneurs to exist in Hawaii County. A shared economy (UBER, TURO) is the future. The County, at every opportunity, should be striving to provide a County system that supports and enables entrepreneur residents to thrive!

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?

We need to honor the non-dedicated ag tax system and further incentivize the dedicated ag tax system. There should be ag parcel distinctions in property taxes for Hawaii residents vs non-residents. There needs to be a way for local families in multi-generational homes to apply for a grant/exemption for reduced taxes.

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'uānāhulu. 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?

- A. We use the plastic to build/fix our roads. A European company is creating asphalt like sheets to pave roads made from plastic. The concept is currently being tested in the Netherlands.
- B. We incentive businesses and individuals to recycle
- C. We create a "smart" landfill and use the methane gas (natural gas) to generate electricity.

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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?

I believe in Smart Growth. Our permitting system needs to be revamped, and we need to look for alternative building materials to lower costs. Pocket neighborhoods provide an excellent opportunity for smart growth and Attainable Housing.

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?

County policies should focus on incentivizing vs penalizing. The County is plagued with inefficiencies. There is money to be found if you look hard enough.

- A. Promote businesses that are moving toward becoming carbon neutral.
- B. Become more self-reliant by incentivizing business owners and residents to buy local and produce locally.
- C. Expedite permitting for clean energy projects.

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?

Now is the time to build our renewable energy layer. The Kauai Island Utility Cooperative is a model I would explore further.

With the abundance of water in District 1, hydroelectric is a natural first choice for renewable energy, yet, permitting for hydroelectric is nearly impossible. This warrants further exploration. We have to make sure the County is accepting and expediting private renewable energy projects such as large-scale solar projects.

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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?

I appreciate and agree with the values, vision, and concepts portrayed in the CDP as well as the rationale behind growth in existing town centers.

I am having a hard time seeing how the development vision has translated to reality. Moreover, there appears to be no reasonable mechanism prescribed in the CDP for revisions should the needs of the community change, or current events (COVID) dictate priorities not mentioned in the CDP.

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?

I would do everything I could to incentivize resident entrepreneurs to open businesses. We need to encourage innovation and technology every chance we get. Many of Hawaii's young adults have relocated to the mainland for education, work, cost of living, or for more opportunity. I will work at the County Council level to help create opportunities for these young adults to come back home and bring the spirit of ingenuity and innovation back to the island. I can tell you from experience that the medical cannabis program has created such opportunities. Many families have been reunited because of it.

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?

We need to be very cautious with expanding municipal bond issuance even at historically low rates. This should be done for emergency situations only that require immediate repair ie: alternate emergency access, bridges.

We need to create efficiencies in every County Department to save money not go into debt to fund the status quo.

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