

1. Please list your name and contact information for your campaign

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Esther Kia'āina, City Council District 3

2. Economic Sustainability/Livability & Quality of Life on our Island:

2. What is your vision for improving "Honolulu's livability?" How does city government facilitate, direct, stimulate and/or achieve this vision?

Improving "Honolulu's livability" cannot be achieved without addressing our cost of living, affordable housing, and homelessness issues. As a Councilmember, I would work with my colleagues, state and federal officials, the private sector, non-profit organizations, and community on the best ways to advance these issues during this challenging times.

3. The pandemic shutdown gives us an opportunity to look at carrying capacity of our natural resources, infrastructure and quality of life. In your vision of Honolulu's future diverse economy, what changes would you pursue in the percentage of the economy for hospitality; defense; agriculture; education; intellectual property development in technology, media and research; commercial and industrial entrepreneurship; etc. What do you anticipate the "new economy" to be? How will you prepare Honolulu to embrace, advance and lead the new economy?

While tourism will always be part of our overall economy, we should not go back to an unsustainable arrival count that pre-existed the coronavirus pandemic. We need to find the right balance with the number of tourists each island can sustain and the quality of tourism experience we seek to provide. This balance will be our greatest challenge, but I believe we can do it. The success of alternative industries and jobs that we can create to mitigate the loss in revenues from a decrease in tourism will help us meet this challenge. Any resumption of tourist arrivals without quarantine will require the strictest health and safety measures to protect our tourism industry workers and all of us.

Economic diversification will require a mix of supporting current industries (construction, federal) and helping core industries that are economically hurting (agriculture, small businesses). To stimulate diversification, we must also be supporting new sectors like technology, green, 'āina aloha, and energy-efficient industries, and aquaculture with the necessary policies and funding to make a difference effectively.

4. What are your thoughts on the rail? Should it stop (or pause) at Middle Street? Aala Park? Ala Moana? UH Manoa? Go to "at grade" and be rerouted on King Street? How can we ensure that stations and the tracks are better blended with the environment, have better landscaping and increasing trees along the route than is proposed or currently exists?

5. Noise pollution from weed whackers and vehicles modified to emit extra noise is dangerous and degrades quality of life. Specific noise ordinances are left to individual police to enforce, which results in no uniform policy or action. What concrete steps would you take to implement and enforce a uniform noise code like other cities have via muffler regulation and noise monitoring, etc.?

6. Homelessness routinely ranks as a top concern of residents. Understanding this is a complex issue, what are your plans to move people from the streets into housing and receive appropriate assistance, and reclaiming public areas, beaches, parks, streets and sidewalks for their intended uses by the public at large?

3. Green Space & Trees:

7. What is your commitment to enhancing the urban landscape? Specifically, how would you prioritize the proper planting, care and pruning of trees and stop the unnecessary cutting down of mature trees during public or private development projects? How would you include the public's on-going input in this process?

8. The city's current urban canopy coverage is about 20%, well below other "livable" cities and even with stated goals to increase tree canopy to 35%, no real progress is being made. This makes walking outdoors for work, shopping, etc. difficult and decreases livability. Given that climate models predict a much hotter Honolulu, what efforts would you propose to increase our tree canopy at a time when it is still decreasing by 1% annually?

9. Do you support traffic speed reductions, "bulb outs," on-demand crosswalk signals, and other traffic calming to increase pedestrian and bike safety and create walkable and aging-friendly cities?

10. Would you support the creation of a "Tree Czar" to ensure that the city departments work together to protect trees, oversee the increase of canopy shade tree planting and generally answer to the public on matters advocating for protecting trees and increased tree canopy coverage?

4. Tax Concerns:

11. Would you support a "green tax" to improve our green infrastructure, purchase open space, and better our parks as other cities have done?

12. Only Hawaii has a GET, which greatly burdens businesses but leaves end users with the impression that they pay less than 5%, while actually paying about 19%? Would you support elimination of the GET for essential goods like food and medicine? Would you support shifting to a sales tax to make the tax more transparent?

5. City Infrastructure Maintenance & Other Government Services:

13. Where do you stand on the Neighborhood Board system (some people want to dismantle it)?

14. How will you improve maintenance of city parks, sidewalks, bike paths and beaches?

15. How would you foster timely, open, transparent, and on-going communication with the public regarding issues relevant to their community? Too often the public learns about an issue too late to act. Would you support that each department to have a public liaison/ ombudsman to ensure that citizen concerns are being met and addressed at each department?

16. How would you work to ensure that Honolulu works to implement the best and brightest ideas for governance and livability from other cities around the world?

6. Sign Laws/Visual Pollution:

17. The Outdoor Circle has worked for over a century to keep Hawaii visual-pollution free with no off-site ads and strict controls on signage, something that is unique that keeps our state beautiful and protected from visual clutter. Will you oppose all commercial advertising & sign clutter on all public property, parks, and equipment (including TheBus) to respect the century-old tradition of banning off-site advertising throughout our beautiful state?

18. Will you support regulation of unrelated commercial advertising (for example a tour bus advertising for an unrelated

attraction) on vehicles, whether permanently parked or mobile?

19. Will you place controls on the sign clutter and visual blight caused by unregulated food trucks operating on commercial property in many parts of the island?

20. What steps will you take to reduce light pollution, as well as the visual blight from overhead utility lines?

7. Tourism:

21. How can we be smart about tourism, when it returns, to prevent overtaking of our infrastructure (traffic, parking at scenic spots, beaches, etc.), and destruction to our natural resources with fewer visitors, but higher daily per capita spend?

22. There is serious opposition to short term vacation rentals in many neighborhoods for a number of reasons. Should these types of rentals be permanently banned outside of tourist zoning areas?

8. Climate Change

23. Climate change is a global issue but with local impacts. While Honolulu has an office dealing with climate change, what is your view on the urgent needed to change direction, if any, to minimize or accommodate predicted climate change impacts on Honolulu? What would be your highest priorities to be achieved in your first term on climate change?

24. What position do you have on the proposed Ala Wai Watershed Army Corp Plan which has faced serious community opposition? Would you support signing the PPP agreement as it is?

9. Development:

How would you make enforcement effective against "monster homes" in our neighborhoods?

Development has been proposed that would violate existing zoning and/or land use laws. Will you agree to protect view corridors and scenic view planes as they currently exist, especially on city-controlled land?

Where do you stand on land-use rezoning, in particular the rezoning and repurposing of preservation land and the repurposing of residential lands for non-single-family home use. How do you feel about individual communities across Oahu being allowed to decide what should be built in their own communities? Will you agree to protect green space in all lands designated as "Preservation," "Conservation" or "Prime Agricultural."

What other comments or thoughts would you like to leave for our community?

10. Thank You!

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