

Aloha Candidates,



Thank you for taking the time to briefly respond to the following questions for our voting guide. Please email your completed candidate surveys to babesagainstbiotech@gmail.com. We request that all Primary race candidates return completed surveys by 7/12/14. Candidates who do not have primary races and are automatically advanced to the General Election, may return their surveys by July 20th. Responses will not be edited but you are welcome to send a PDF if you so choose. Mahalo!

Do you support campaign finance reform such as publicly funded elections in order to reduce corporate influence on Hawaii politics?

I believe the theory is sound but in practice it could be very problematic. How do you limit the number of candidates? If there was to be public financing I can easily see a multitude of candidates receiving financing. The public would have to pay for it and it would mean higher taxes. Though our system is not perfect, my campaign Treasurer just finished sending in a state report that identified the contributions of my campaign to the dollar. We are not asking for matching support, as are others, because I believe we all should follow the same rules.

Do you support the county rights to home rule in regards to the regulation of pesticides and genetically engineered crops?

I support the laws in place regarding pesticides. I don't know of any laws regarding GMO crops. I believe what's missing is regular (2 times each year) independent testing of soil and water around all agriculture areas, streams and rivers. Then those results should be published. If there were violations, violators should be fined and made to reverse the damage.

Do you support policies that protect against invasive species?

Who would identify the invasive species? How would the protection be manned and funded? Are there studies that show the scope of the problem? While I consider our environment our most precious natural resource, I believe the DLNR would be the place to begin asking these questions. Once a sound plan was developed and endorsed by botanical specialists (of which we happen to have many excellent ones at the National Tropical Botanical Garden here on Kauai) then I would certainly be in favor of it.

Do you support mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods at the state level?

If Hawaii were to demand a different food labeling system than the rest of the United States, we would find far fewer products on our shelves, simply because producers couldn't afford a separate label for us. Those that were labeled specifically for Hawaii would have to be more expensive. Since the cost of shipping products to Hawaii is already high that added labeling and inventorying cost would be passed on to the consumer, whether it contained any genetically engineered food or not. Retailers base their mark-ups on the delivered cost of the product, so we can assume the added costs would double for the Hawaiian shopper. I don't think this is fair to the Hawaiian shopper.

Rather than that, I believe shoppers who want no genetically engineered foods should purchase those labeled organic.

Do you support lifting the cap on solar energy and mandating that HECO provide storage for renewable energy?

Yes, if the plan is sound.

Do you support legalization and/or decriminalization of marijuana?

I think I would like to observe Colorado and Washington for a while longer to see how it works there. If there are no problems and the state revenues increase then I would support it.

Do you support marriage equality?

Yes.

Will you oppose the privatization of our prisons in order to avoid a for-profit incarceration industry in Hawaii?

In general, I support all small businesses because they provide a healthy tax base and employment opportunities. I see no problem in such an industry providing it follows the laws of the land. If the business was very large, however, I would definitely want the infrastructure to support it in place before it began. I don't believe the idea for a large prison industry in Hawaii is an especially good image for the land of aloha, however.

What types of policies will you support to encourage local, sustainable food systems?

I'm very much in favor of community gardens. An excellent model is that of the San Francisco Ferry Building system, which regulates who plants which item so there isn't a lot of duplication. I'm in favor of selling part of the produce to support the costs of water and seed and giving the balance to the food banks. Naturally, the gardeners would barter among themselves. I think tax incentives should be given to those people who contribute the use of their land for the gardens. One of the things I've observed is that the gardens are maintained far better if they are smaller and easily accessible to the gardeners.

How will you balance requests for non-locally owned luxury developments, development on agricultural land and conversion of hotels and private properties into timeshares and vacation rentals, with the needs of locals for affordable land, housing, food and tourism jobs?

Before any development is undertaken, roads, water, sewer, power systems have to be in place to handle the project's growth. Our infrastructure is already burdened by this lack of foresight in planning. Housing needs for employees of these projects need to be mitigated from the very beginning of the project along with all of the other plans.

How will you address Hawaii's numerous water struggles and ensure small, local farmers and people have access to water?

In other states, water needs are planned ahead in zones. Each agricultural water user will identify how much is needed for the coming year. This information is sent in to the director of their zone and he/she determines if there is enough. If there is a lack of rainfall that creates a shortage, the zone directors apportion the water to all users

fairly. This also gives the zone directors information regarding the amount of storage necessary and, hopefully, provides it in time to help. The zone directors are elected. I think this system would work for Hawaii, too.

How will you address homelessness?

Homelessness is generally a problem created by the lack of employment. Again, the solution is to build the small business base so that there is more opportunity for employment. Another solution is to provide child care at a low cost to parents. Because our weather is so good, people tend to come here knowing that if they can't afford to live in homes, they can survive outdoors. I don't think it is a lifestyle choice. I think it is the last desperate option and it saddens me greatly to see it. We have to do our best to feed the homeless and find them employment as quickly as possible.

How do you think issues of political sovereignty and justice for Hawaiians should proceed?

Since I am native Hawaiian I have been to several meetings for this movement. While I agree that there has been injustice, I am concerned about some of the more radical attitudes of the supporters. In order for there to be a resolution, it has to be fair to everyone and not cause any further racial division. The spirit of "aloha" needs to be used in these negotiations.