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Subject: 2022 County Council Political Questionnaire
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To: admin@alanakayformayor.info



Thanks for filling out [2022 County Council Political Questionnaire](#)

Here's what was received.

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2022 County Council Political Questionnaire

Sierra Club Maui Group very much wants to hear your positions on key issues that will be up in the legislature and also your plans should you be elected this year. The following questions cover a mix of general and specific issues.

Note that any answers you have entered will be lost if you close this browser tab without hitting Submit at the end of the form. However, you can continue editing as many times as you like once you have submitted. There will be a link to do so after you hit Submit and you will receive email which also contains the link.

This is not a test! Please feel free to ask for explanation or clarification on any of these issues. Our interview process is a two way street where we learn from you and hopefully we'll be able to give you some new information too.

Email *

admin@alanakayformayor.info

Name *

Alana Kay

Position running for *

Mayor, Maui County



SIERRA CLUB
OF HAWAI'I
MAUI GROUP

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I. Agriculture

In the position you are seeking, what are the strongest and most effective actions you would take or support to encourage agriculture for local consumption, including a new generation of regenerative farmers?

This is likely my number one passion and concern. I would make sure the Dept. of Ag. is properly staffed and funded to ensure that it may carry out its mission according to the

properly started and funded to ensure that it may carry out its mission according to the charter. I would like to work with the college to design more opportunities for education in regenerative agriculture and encourage the collaboration of local farmers, Mahi Pono, UHMC and the Dept. of Ag. toward food security goals and responsible ag practices. I would use PR campaigns where necessary to educate and inform the community. I also would be an ambassador, getting out and talking story wherever possible.

II. Rezoning and fast-track development

A. Describe what characteristics affordable housing proposals should have to justify rezoning Agricultural lands to urban use? Examples: % of affordable units; price range of affordable units; length of time unit remains affordable; energy of water saving design; location away from sensitive areas or hazardous zones; etc.

I would not convert any ag lands for urban use. I believe we should change some zoning to allow for taller buildings in some cases. I believe we need to have a more realistic method of determining affordable, they should stay affordable in perpetuity. My desire to move away from a tourism based economy and focus on work force development would affect the affordability factor. If our economy was more balanced, we would not have a work force housing crisis. Interim emergency solutions are needed for housing crisis, but long term involves many facets.

B. What would your response be if a developer mobilizes his construction unions to lobby you?

I absolutely would not give in to any pressure from unions or lobbyists. My main concern is protecting our eco-system. Further more, I believe it is time for construction companies to learn about green building practices.

C. Describe how it would affect your deliberations if the development proposal contains affordable housing?

It seems to me that we have not resolved the issue of developers leaving before they build the required work force housing/affordable housing included in their entitlements. It

build the required work force housing/affordable housing included in their entitlements. It would not sway me one way or the other for many reasons. Furthermore, if we implement Integrated Water Resource Management and begin to pay attention to proper restoration and replenishment of our aquifers, all that would matter is that a development does not impede the hydrologic cycle.

III. Tourism issues

Three million visitors came to Maui in 2020, well over 60,000 per day, greatly exceeding the Maui Island Plan threshold of one visitor for every two residents. Residents feel the roads are clogged, parks are overused, housing under severe pressure.

In the position you are seeking, what are the strongest and most effective actions you could take, or support, to address these issues, and why?

We need a working group to develop a comprehensive plan for managed tourism to include caps on TAT's, possibility of a month or two of shutting down each year to let the eco system rejuvenate. We need a ten year plan to move away from a tourism based economy to agriculture, ag value added products, ag tourism, eco tourism and volunteerism.

IV. Community Plans

A. Describe how the recommendations made by citizen advisory groups during updates of community plans would influence your deliberations about the updates?

Not to clear on what you are looking for here. I am concerned about the community plans in that they are like models in the mainland. We need to think like an island. The community needs to be educated? I have always been confused by the concept of the community plan anyway. How can anybody predict the future?

B. What approaches would you take to influence the Council to update plans within the mandatory time limit (currently Council approval is the longest process)?

I don't feel I have a good answer for this question.

C. Describe your position and reasoning on whether zoning should override the land use assignments and land use language in community plans as has been proposed by some Council members?

Actually, I believe a whole new perspective needs to occur with regard to the community plans. I understand why this is an issue, but I recall testifying against the Krause project on Piikea Ave. in Kihei. The council allowed the zoning change because Mike Moran testified that it was ok because of the Kihei community plan. I think their entitlement has since expired, but I didn't believe it was proper justification to change the zoning. I thought there were more compelling reasons not to do it, building over wetlands and history of traffic gridlock (lack of collector road) That's just my opinion.

V. Saving important natural and cultural areas

A. What specific areas on Maui do you see as having the highest priority for long-term protection?

Shoreline, wetlands, aquifers and ag land.

B. Would you support use of County Open Space Funds to protect culturally important lands that were given urban land use entitlements because their cultural importance was not known at the time? What other effective actions do you intend to pursue to preserve our important natural and cultural areas?

YES. As we learn and evolve, we need to be willing to change our perspective and actions. I want to educate people in government and in the public on the importance of protection

our eco system and hydrologic cycle.

C. What funding strategies should the County use to acquire and manage key wetlands in coastal urban areas where flooding problems persist?

I believe we spend several million dollars each year "looking for new water sources" and paying groups to do "watershed restoration." That money would be better spent on restoring our hydrologic cycle, a part of which is the wetlands. I tell people the building over of wetlands is one of the reasons we have severe flooding and mudslides in Kihei. We need to cease building where there are supposed to be wetlands and where building negatively affects wetlands. We may need to consider condemning some properties at a point, but I realize that is drastic.

VI. Water

A. Currently, the water department's only plan for south and central Maui's future water needs is to drill potable wells in the Ha'iku aquifer and build a pipeline to transport the water, even though there is no firm data to support how much Ha'iku water can safely be developed. Would you support Maui County investing in a plan to determine a broader range of options for central-south Maui's future water needs?

I feel that we need to put a moratorium on building in central and south Maui until we come up with a plan. The Iao aquifer has been designated since 2003 and nothing has been done to fix the problem except cap off some wells. Aquifer sustainable yields in the Central Valley are impacted by reduced water diversions and the whole system needs a new overview.

B. Do you support Maui County's mayor moving forward to secure an intergovernmental agreement with the state for the East Maui stream water leases or do you support the leases being held for 30 years by an agri-business company controlled by a Canadian investment fund? Please give reasons for supporting either option.

I would like the county of Maui to take back control of the diversions (EMI, WWC, etc) and implement Integrated Water Resource Management. I think the use of the private water companies is an outdated idea.

C. What are the strongest and most effective actions you intend to pursue to reduce or eliminate the very long waiting list for Upcountry water meters, without jeopardizing water quality and availability for other high priority uses?

I know this is a really important topic and I hear it discussed all the time. I don't have any solutions that I can think of other than spend the money to process the water from the contaminated wells or make it easier to do catchment? I don't really know enough about this to answer accurately.

D. Please state your position and explain your reasoning on funding for increased water storage infrastructure (reservoirs etc) to hedge against drought and changing rainfall patterns?

I am a little hesitant to support this 100% even though it is mentioned often. It looks good on paper, but I am afraid it would impede the hydrologic cycle because it may contribute to the prevention of aquifer recharge. All these questions cause me to think of a company I used to work for a long time ago. CH2M based in Corvallis Oregon. They are experts on all of this stuff. They would have the answers to many of these questions. I would love to hire them for Maui, but not sure we can afford it.

VII. Affordable housing

Our island's residents face insurmountable obstacles in acquiring a home, while half of our sales are to people out of state or country

A. What policies would you pursue to ensure that new developments, including industrial/commercial, be required to contribute to providing

affordable housing for Maui residents?

Don't we already have policies? I would like to reroute the thought process and call the requirements, work force housing to include rentals (in perpetuity). I think the tourism industry should be contributing to work force housing.

B. Currently, affordable units only need to remain at "affordable rates" for 10 years. Please state your position, and explain your reasoning, on whether that is long enough?

I used to live at Paradise Gardens in Kihei. This is a prime example. It was originally work force housing built by the Grand Wailea. It was sold to a private investor and he uses it as a cash cow, spending the minimum needed to maintain it and skimming the profits every year to buy more properties in the mainland. This is why I always use the term, perpetuity. Of course, there could be a review if the needs of the community and the business landscape changes, then perhaps there would be an exception.

C. What specific structural changes would you propose and pursue to facilitate additional affordable housing? - e.g. a qualified Affordable Housing Advocate/Overall Coordinator, move responsibility to Planning from Housing and Human Concerns?

I don't like band aid solutions. I like to solve the problem where it originates and I believe it originates in the lack of diversity in our economy.

D. What are the things to watch out for when environmental sacrifices are requested to expedite affordable housing development?

I have thought about these things very much through the years I have been here. I have come to believe that our ecosystem is more important than everything else because without it we have nothing. We learned about the spectrum of impacts that human endeavors have on the ecosystem at the college in sustainability.

VIII. Environmental accomplishments

What environmental accomplishment have you contributed to in the County of Maui, that you are most proud of?

I developed my magazine, Sustainable Aloha, which is at a standstill right now (2020 I lost my staff) It serves the purpose of providing a hub of education, information and ideas, listings of farmers markets, volunteerism opportunities, ag tourism, etc.

IX. Environmental priorities

What environmental issues would you prioritize as most pressing in Maui County today, and what initial steps would you propose to address them effectively?

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). I know it would be expensive, and we would likely have to hire outside contractors initially because we probably don't have the necessary expertise on Maui. I believe it is critical that we look at this. We cannot continue to grow without it. I would have to consult experts, see what the cost of the software would be and determine what it would take to get it implemented. We have data from the Stream Stats that the State has as well as other data to be entered into the system. I think we pretty much have what we need to get IWRM implemented.

X. Anything else?

Please tell us anything else you want us to know about you or your positions

I would like to see the environmental groups, Mahi Pono, UHMC, the community and the government work together more effectively. I believe people are functioning very separately and I encouraged a young environmental enthusiast to get involved and he reported to me that the environmental groups are very cliquy. I agree.

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