

## *Answers for the Honolulu Advertiser Voters Guide, August 2008*

### **1) Why are you running for office?**

Kauai is unique in the world and unique among the Hawaiian Islands. Our incredible beauty and rural character draw people from everywhere. We must maintain the qualities that make Kauai special and protect local residents and their children's ability to live here and prosper by honoring the General Plan. To do so we have to pace growth, protect ag land and grow smart in ways that are sustainable.

### **2) Should county government further boost tourism or invest in creating other types of jobs? Which jobs?**

While the visitor industry will remain our main economic engine and must be supported, the pace of growth in the sector has been too rapid in the last decade. We must diversify our economic base with a reinvestment in agriculture, high tech opportunities and increased local production of commodities we currently import. Investment in needed alternative energy projects will also create new jobs.

### **3) Do you support the late Mayor Baptiste's tax reform plan?**

Yes

### **4) How would you increase the availability of affordable housing?**

I supported Kauai's workforce housing bill that sets a percentage of new development priced affordable for local families. County government needs to invest in low income and workforce housing projects, support nonprofit efforts by Habitat for Humanity, Self Help housing & others. Regulation of vacation rentals, tax incentives, smart growth zoning, fee waivers and density bonuses are other tools.

### **5) Would you support a ban on new gated communities and a moratorium on residential subdivision of agricultural land?**

I have actively supported both. A moratorium should be for a limited time during which we pass bills eliminating the open space density bonus and make ag subdivisions complete class 4 zoning applications that include a review of ag criteria. Ag subdivisions should be for actual ag uses as envisioned in our General Plan since 2000, not de-facto urban sprawl that is contrary to smart growth.

**6) Should Kaua'i consider a waste-to-energy plant to dispose of trash?**

Before considering waste to energy we should first aggressively move to a max 3R (recycle, reduce, reuse) strategy. Components include automated curbside pickup of recyclables and green waste, composting and MRF facilities, pay as you throw, and a new landfill site all of which are called for in the Solid Waste Plan. The question is if we do all that is there enough waste streams left for WTE?

**7) What is the No. 1 quality-of-life issue facing Kaua'i County, and what would you do about it?**

Are there economic & housing opportunities for our kids to stay on Kauai & live the unique lifestyle Kauai has offered in the past? My answers to previous questions are a start. But without easy solutions we need to draw on our wonderfully talented & diverse community to guide the course. I will continue to listen & bring people together not to just talk but to face the challenges & achieve goals.

**8) What's the No. 1 initiative you would pursue in 2009?**

Good planning for the future. Traffic, inadequate infrastructure, lack of housing, loss of rural character & open space are the results of poor or no planning. Properly planning, regulating & pacing growth requires assessment of infrastructure needs & fund development strategies so any new development fairly addresses the impact on local families & preserves our vision for keeping Kauai special.