

Hawaii Cannabis Voter Guide Primary Election – Saturday August 13, 2022

Saturday, August 13 is Primary Election Day for Hawaii! This year, every elected office in Hawaii is on the ballot. You may recall that the state Senate passed a legalization bill by a significant majority in 2021. However, the measure failed to gain traction in the House and died in this year's legislative session. This year's elections will be critical in determining whether Hawaii will finally adopt cannabis legalization in 2023.

MPP has created a voter guide that explains where the candidates stand on cannabis legalization. It includes responses to our candidate questionnaire along with information on whether incumbents supported cannabis bills in their past votes.

Due to redistricting, your legislative district may have changed since you last voted. You can find your state Senate and House district — along with everything else that will be on your ballot — on [Ballotpedia](#). If you're not already registered to vote, you can find your voting center here. The deadline to submit a paper voter registration application for the primary election is August 3. Voters can also register to vote [online](#). To access the online system, must have your Hawaii state driver's license or ID card and know your Social Security number.

Mail In and absentee voting begins July 26 and ends August 6. In-person voting will be open on Saturday, August 13 from 7am to 7pm. Please remember, that in the primary election you can only vote for candidates of your registered affiliate party. Only the Democrat and Republican parties have competitive primaries this year.

If you happen to speak to a candidate and get new information that we didn't include, please let us know at dward@mpp.org.

Here are the questions asked in the candidate questionnaire:

- 1.) Nineteen states including every state along the western seaboard and Nevada have passed laws making cannabis possession legal for adults. Would support legislation making cannabis legal for adults 21 and older to possess cannabis for personal use in the 2023 session?
- 2.) Do you support legalizing and regulating retail sales of cannabis and cannabis-infused products to adults 21 and older to create jobs and revenue for Hawaii?
- 3.) Most of the legalization jurisdictions allow adults 21 and older to discreetly and securely cultivate their own limited supply of cannabis for personal use, much as every state allows the home brewing of beer. Do you support allowing adults to grow their own cannabis for personal use?
- 4.) If Hawaii legalizes possession and retail sales of cannabis to adults 21 and older, would you support measures in the cannabis market to prioritize and incentivize opportunities for native Hawaiians and the communities most impacted by cannabis prohibition?

Color Key for Candidates:

Green = supports legalizing cannabis for adults' use

Orange = uncertain on candidate's position OR less supportive of legalization

Red = opposed OR much less supportive than other candidates

Dist.	Party	Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes	Comments
1	D	Mark M. Nakashim					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019. Co-Sponsored HB7 - a legalization bill - in the 2021 legislative session
2	R	Douglas Kaiama Gora					Did not respond to survey.	
2	D	Richard H. K. Onishi					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019. Co-Sponsored HB7 - a legalization bill - in the 2021 legislative session
3	D	Shannon Lopeka Matson					Did not respond to survey.	
3	D	Christopher L.T. Todd	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
4	R	Keikilani Ho					Did not respond to survey.	
4	D	Greggor Ilagan					Did not respond to survey.	
4	N	Brian C. Ley					Did not respond to survey.	In a June 26, 2022, interview with Honolulu Civil Beat Mr. Ley d "The biggest problem right now is crime. The majority of our crime is drug and alcohol related. Legalize marijuana using some of the tax

								revenue for drug and alcohol rehab both inpatient and outpatient."
4	L	Candace T. (Candy) Linton					Did not respond to survey.	
5	R	Lohi Goodwin					Did not respond to survey.	
5	D	Keanne Kapela	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Sponsored a legalization bill in the 2021 session
5	L	Michael L. Last					Did not respond to survey.	
6	D	Ilya Barannikov					Did not respond to survey.	
6	D	Lono Mack					Did not respond to survey.	
6	D	Kirstin A. K. Kahaloa					Did not respond to survey.	
6	R	Jonathan P. Kennealy					Did not respond to survey.	
6	R	Bronsten Kalei Kossow					Did not respond to survey.	
7	D	Nicole Lowen	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
8	D	Makai Freitas					Did not respond to survey.	
8	D	David A. Tarnas					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019. Also voted "YES" on HB321 to allow for medical cannabis dispensaries in 2015.

8	R	Monique CobbAdams Perreira					Did not respond to survey.	
9	D	Sam (Kamuela) Peralta	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
9	D	Justin Woodson					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019. Also voted "YES" on HB321 to allow for medical cannabis dispensaries in 2015.
10	D	Troy Hashimoto					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
11	R	Shekinah P. Cantere					Did not respond to survey.	
11	R	Netra Halperin	Yes - "Cannabis like alcohol helps people relax while not being physically addictive. Also, especially in combining the THC (psychoactive) and CBD (healing and non-psychoactive) elements in a pill form it can be beneficial to people suffering from pain anxiety or insomnia.	Yes - "I would like to see the ownership of the dispensaries and grow operations spread out to more local residents."	Yes - "Empowering users to grow their own helps level the economics of cannabis."	Yes		
11	D	Terez Amato (T. Amato)	Yes - "Yes. I have been an advocate of legalization for over a decade. As a stroke survivor it has helped me. In	Yes - "Absolutely. It is high time we legalized this medicine. I further propose that some of the	Yes - "Absolutely. There are many here in HI who cannot afford expensive dispensaries. I	Yes		

			Hawai'i many cannot afford the medical marijuana 329 license. I support full legalization for those over 21 including recreational use."	tax revenue be used to improve healthcare in Hawai'i."	support all local farmers including those who grow medicine. Legal means profits go to help the community."			
11	D	Randal N. Jr. Maiai					Did not respond to survey.	
12	G	Summer Starr					Did not respond to survey.	
12	R	Dan Johnson	Yes	Yes - "Could allow the retail sale consumption and use of cannabis but also control quality and safety." This would definitely be a revenue source and would reduce non-violent incarcerations.	Yes	Undecided		
12	D	Kyle T. Yamashita					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
13	R	Scott Adam	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
13	D	Linda Ha'I Clark					Did not respond to survey.	
13	G	Nick Nihilananda	Yes - "As long as it is taxed and reasonably kept from those under 21"	Yes - "I have supported legalization of cannabis for fifty years including since my first	Yes - "As I said above, I have supported legalization of cannabis for fifty years. Yes, I support	Yes		

				<p>political campaign for office in 1992 prior to any legalizing even medicinal marijuana use. As a member of the Green Party of Hawai'i and the Green Party of the United s I have continually testified written and spoken about this issue. Yes, it definitely would be beneficial for our economy by creating numerous jobs and employment for residents. I do support legalizing and regulating retail sales of cannabis and cannabis-infused products in Hawai'i for those 21 years and older."</p>	<p>allowing adults to grow their own cannabis for personal use. Of course, we have to first legalize it! We have arrested millions of people for possession of cannabis; a majority of who are minorities and people of color. As a result, it has had a huge negative impact on many people's lives. It is absurd that cannabis is not already legalized, and people have the freedom to grow their own similar to growing their own vegetables without the fear of authorities citing and/or arresting them and being impacted by the criminal justice system. Yet in the United s in numerous jurisdictions people under 21 may legally purchase and possess military style assault weapons."</p>			
13	D	Chase (Kealimalu) Nomura					Did not respond	

							to survey.	
13	D	Mahina M. Poepoe					Did not respond to survey.	
14	R	Kelly J. Armstrong					Did not respond to survey.	
14	D	Kanamu Balinbin					Did not respond to survey.	
14	D	Elle Cochran					Did not respond to survey.	
14	AA	Leonard K. III Nakoia					Did not respond to survey.	
14	R	Philip A. Raya					Did not respond to survey.	
15	R	Greg Bentley					Did not respond to survey.	
15	D	Nadine K. Nakamura					Did not respond to survey.	Co-Sponsored HB7 - a legalization bill - in the 2021 legislative session
16	D	James Kunane Tokioka					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "NO" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019. In a March 2019 story by the <i>Garden Island</i> , Mr. Tokioka said he opposes legalization.
16	R	Steve Yoder	No - "Crime homelessness and a weakening of society have followed in every that has legalized marijuana for	No - "I'm against legalizing marijuana for recreational use."	No - "Who do we pay our hard-earned money to through taxation to monitor privately cultivated growth of	No		

			recreational use."		cannabis on a limited scale the DEA. The correlation of beer consumption or any alcoholic beverage in justifying recreational marijuana use is inconsistent and deceitful. When I drink an alcoholic beverage, I do so to enjoy and taste of the beverage. Different alcoholic beverages are preferred with different types of meals: white wine and seafood red wine and red meat beer and salty foods. Marijuana is consumed strictly to get high. If smoking is bad for a person's lungs, why put more smoke in it via marijuana. I can enjoy brownies without get high also."			
17	R	Jose Felix-Keamoai (JFK)					Did not respond to survey.	
17	AA	Punohu N. III Kekaulua					Did not respond to survey.	
17	D	Daynette Morikawa (Dee)					Did not respond to survey.	A March 2019 story by the <i>Garden Island</i> stated Rep.Morikawa

								opposes cannabis legalization.
17	R	Michael D. Wilson					Did not respond to survey.	
18	R	Gene Ward					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "NO" to HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
19	D	Kathy Feldman					Did not respond to survey.	
19	D	Mark Jun Hashem					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" to HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
19	R	Theresa (Kinsey) Texeira					Did not respond to survey.	
20	R	Consuelo Anderson (Liz)					Did not respond to survey.	
20	R	Jessica (Priya) Caiazza					Did not respond to survey.	
20	D	Bertrand (Bert) Kobayashi					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
20	D	James Logue	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
21	R	Julia E. Allen					Did not respond to survey.	
21	R	Joelle Seashell					Did not respond to survey.	
21	D	Jackson D. Sayama					Did not respond to survey.	Co-Sponsored HB7 - a legalization bill - in the 2021 legislative session

22	D	Andrew Takuya Garrett	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undecided		
22	D	Dale Kobayashi					Did not respond to survey.	In a July 2022 interview with Honolulu Civil Beat Rep. Kobayashi said, " If we're to be serious about economic diversification we can leave no stone unturned serious consideration needs to be given to revenue sources such as lottery gambling and recreational cannabis". Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
22	R	Jeffrey H. Imamura					Did not respond to survey.	
23	D	Scott Y. Nishimoto					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
24	R	Jillian T. Anderson					Did not respond to survey.	
24	D	Ikaiaka M. Olds					Did not respond to survey.	
24	D	Adrian Tam					Did not respond to survey.	Co-Sponsored HB7 - a legalization bill - in the 2021 legislative session
25	D	Kim Coco Wamato	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
25	D	Scott K. Saiki					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.

25	R	Rob Novak					Did not respond to survey.	
26	D	Della Au Belati					Did not respond to survey.	
26	D	Kanzo Nara					Did not respond to survey.	
26	D	Valerie C. Wang					Did not respond to survey.	
26	R	Charlotte Rosecrans					Did not respond to survey.	
27	R	Wendy Balidoy					Did not respond to survey.	
27	R	Margaret U. Lim					Did not respond to survey.	
27	D	Gary Gill	Undecided	Undecided	Undecided	Undecided		
27	D	Jenna Takenouchi					Did not respond to survey.	
28	D	Robert Mikala Armstrong	Yes - "As long as it is taxed and reasonably kept from those under 21."	Yes - "As long as there is a regulating body overseeing these activities such as the Health Dept."	Yes - "Limited supply needs exact definitions for approval such as number of plants per person."	Maybe		
28	D	Ken Farm					Did not respond to survey.	
28	D	Daniel Holt					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
28	AA	Ernest Carvalho	Yes - "Making Cannabis legal for adults should have been done a long time ago on	Yes - We should have been ahead of others in this area. Hawaii has fallen way behind, and	Yes - "As long as people are growing for their own personal use, I continue to support this."	Yes		

			all and federal levels."	our present laws fall way short of where they should be."				
29	R	Carole Kauhiwai Kaapu					Did not respond to survey.	
29	D	John M. Mizuno					Did not respond to survey.	Co-Sponsored HB7 - a legalization bill - in the 2021 legislative session
30	R	P. M. Azinga					Did not respond to survey.	
30	D	Romy M. Cachola					Did not respond to survey.	
30	D	Ernesto (Sonny) Ganaden					Did not respond to survey.	Co-Sponsored HB7 - a legalization bill - in the 2021 legislative session
30	D	Shirley Ann L Templo					Did not respond to survey.	
31	D	Linda Ichiyama					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
32	D	Micah Aiu					Did not respond to survey.	
32	R	Garner M. Shimizu					Did not respond to survey.	
33	D	Tracy Aaron Arakaki	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undecided		
33	D	Sam Satoru Kong					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "NO" to HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
34	R	Theodene S. Allen					Did not respond	

								to survey.	
34	D	Gregg Takayama						Did not respond to survey.	
34	D	Roy M. Takumi						Did not respond to survey.	
35	R	Josiah P. Araki						Did not respond to survey.	
35	D	Cory M. Chun						Did not respond to survey.	
35	D	Jolyn Garidan Prieto						Did not respond to survey.	
35	D	Inam Rahman						Did not respond to survey.	
35	D	Nathan H. Takeuchi						Did not respond to survey.	
36	D	Maurice T. Morita	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
36	D	Rachele Fernandez Lamosao						Did not respond to survey.	
36	R	Veamoniti Lautaha						Did not respond to survey.	
37	R	Jamie A. Detwiler						Did not respond to survey.	
37	D	Eric M. Sarrafian	Yes	Yes	Undecided	Undecided			
37	D	Ryan I. Yamane						Did not respond to survey.	Voted "NO" to HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
38	D	Marilyn B. Lee						Did not respond to survey.	

38	R	Lauren Matsumoto Cheape					Did not respond to survey.	
39	D	Jamaica A. Cullen (Mai)					Did not respond to survey.	
39	D	Corey Rosenlee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
39	R	Austin L. S. Maglinti					Did not respond to survey.	
39	R	Elijah Pierick					Did not respond to survey.	
40	D	Rose Martinez					Did not respond to survey.	
40	D	Wayne K.S. Kaululaau	Yes - "I would support adults possessing cannabis for personal use as long it is done safely. Operating a motor vehicle not allowed"	Yes - "It's a win, win situation for the consumer. Business and the economy."	Undecided			
40	D	Julie K. Reyes Oda					Did not respond to survey.	
40	R	Janie Gueso					Did not respond to survey.	40
40	R	Michael Starr	Undecided/Need more information ""Tell Your Children: The Truth about Marijuana Mental Illness and Violence" is a book that gave me pause. I used to fully support legalization but am undecided now with new information. And a most recent study suggests that use of cannabis is responsible for	Undecided/Need more information "Again if the most recent data regarding cannabis legalization and its effects on the individual and society are accurate (increased violence schizophrenia etc.) I think Hawaii should pursue other avenues for job growth. "	Undecided/Need more information "Growing cannabis for personal use seems innocuous and fair but I am still undecided based on recent studies that run counter to the belief that cannabis use is safe and with little side effects."	Undecided		

			upwards for "25 percent of new cases of schizophrenia in young men. This figure is far higher than previous estimates which generally ranged from 5 to 10 percent." Considering the implications including a propensity for violence by untreated schizophrenics I wonder if society as a whole would be a safer, more peaceful and prosperous place after legalizing cannabis."					
41	R	David A. III Alcos						Did not respond to survey.
41	R	Daniel P. Wade (Dan)						Did not respond to survey.
41	D	Matthew S. Lopresti (Matt)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
42	R	Diamond Garcia						Did not respond to survey.
42	D	Lori Goeas						Did not respond to survey.
42	D	Sharon E. Har						Did not respond to survey.
42	D	Anthony Makana Paris	Yes - "I support a program for adult-use cannabis in Hawaii that protects our current patients, remediates the past wrongs of America's war on drugs, provides a path to legitimacy for local growers, fosters a vibrant commercial industry, creates good jobs, reinvigorates Hawaii's agricultural sector and brings in new revenue for the state."	Yes - "It is important that we restrict adult-use cannabis to adults who are fully capable of making decisions for themselves. Common sense regulations and restrictions to protect our youth and neighborhoods are an important part of any well-regulated adult-use cannabis regime. At the same time the more accessible	Yes - "Adults should be allowed to cultivate their own cannabis for personal use with common sense limits similar to what is currently allowed for medical patients. An important part of any successful adult-use program is an expanded decriminalization regime for cannabis and expungement of past offenses.			

				<p>and inclusive the industry is to patients, customers, and entrepreneurs the more Hawaii will take important strides to combat the illicit industry and its negative effects. Creating a new accessible industry that creates good jobs in agriculture processing retail management and export while providing new revenue sources for the state should be a primary goal of the legislature in the 2023 session."</p>	<p>Giving adult-use participants the opportunity to cultivate their own cannabis is an important element of a successful ongoing program of decriminalization that seeks to remediate the greatest harms of America's drug war in our most vulnerable communities. Limited home grow also continues a long Hawaii tradition of home grow for personal use and the creation of unique strains that are now known and valued internationally. No one knows agriculture in Hawaii like the Native Hawaiian and other local communities. Our rich tradition of both cannabis and agricultural production going back centuries should be harnessed by any adult-use program in Hawaii to help make the program a success. Incentivized participation in an adult-use industry will provide jobs education funding and community-building throughout the communities most adversely impacted by cannabis prohibition.</p>			
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					Native Hawaiian and other local communities are responsible for cultivating and maintaining a rich evolving history of unique local cannabis strains. Only an inclusive approach to cannabis regulation will empower these communities to engage with the commercial system and give them the tools needed to protect their strains. With careful investment by the state in these projects Hawaii can provide these communities with a solid foundation to participate in and benefit from what will soon become an enormous international market for Hawaii's unique connection to cannabis"			
43	D.	Stacelynn K. M. Eli						Did not respond to survey.
43	R	Rachel Kelley						Did not respond to survey.
43	R	Kanani Souza						Did not respond to survey.
44	D	Darius K. Kila						Did not respond to survey.
44	D	Jonathan Lee	Yes - "From day 1 of my campaign I have been advocating for the legalization of recreational marijuana. It is imperative that we act now before the market gets	Yes - "Our top two sources of revenue are tourism and the military and locals don't seem to be proud of either fact. We can diversify this in	Yes - "The number one way we can diversify our economy force Big Pharma to lower drug prices and create agriculture jobs at the same time is to legalize	Yes		

			oversaturated and the price per pound goes down the drain. We also need to make sure we don't tax it too high in order to make sure the black market doesn't need to exist. "	three steps but it won't be easy and will take the political willpower to do so: 1) Order the military to downsize their presence on the island and give the land back to Hawaiians [Politicians who get donations from military contractors don't want to relocate the Army to the mainland]; 2) use SOME of the land the military once occupied as agricultural land to grow cannabis; 3) sell the cannabis year-round on the islands and be in the best position to sell overseas once the Federal ban is lifted. This plan would take years and require leaders with a vision for Hawaii's future who look to the 'aina for change and care deeply about our economy self-sustainability."	recreational marijuana at a and federal level. For the time being we need to get ahead of the curve in Hawaii and start offering grants and subsidies to local farmers to start growing now. We can and should prioritize kanaka and small family business with licenses and absolutely allow people the freedom to grow at home if they so choose. "			
44	R	Kimberly Kopetseg					Did not respond to survey.	
45	D	Cedric Asuega Gates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
45	D	Jo Jordan					Did not respond to survey.	
45	R	Cherie Kuualoha Oquendo					Did not respond to survey.	
45	R	Maysana A. Aldeguer					Did not respond to survey.	
45	R	Tiana Wilbur						
46	R	Lester L. Fung					Did not respond to survey.	

46	R	John E. Miller					Did not respond to survey.	
46	D	Amy A. Perruso					Did not respond to survey.	Co-Sponsored HB7 - a legalization bill in the 2021 legislative session
46	D	Cross Makani Crabbe					Did not respond to survey.	
47	D	Sean Quinlan					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
47	R	Mark Talaeai					Did not respond to survey.	
48	R	Wendell A. Elento					Did not respond to survey.	
48	D	Lisa C. Kitagawa					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
49	R	Kilomana Danner					Did not respond to survey.	
49	D	Scot Matayoshi					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" on HB1383 to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis in 2019.
49	D	Kana Naipo					Did not respond to survey.	
49	D	Shawn L. Richey					Did not respond to survey.	
50	D	Toni C. Difante					Did not respond to survey.	
50	D	Natalia Hussey-Burdick					Did not respond to survey.	
50	D	Lee Michael					Did not respond to survey.	
50	R	Roxana A. Jimenez					Did not respond to survey.	
50	R	Kathy Thurston					Did not respond to survey.	
51	R	Edward W. Jr. Enos					Did not respond to survey.	
51	R	Kukana K. K. Kama-toth					Did not respond to survey.	

51	D	Kaleo Kwan					Did not respond to survey.	
51	D	Lisa Marten*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undecided		