

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, you 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 opens 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 you 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, same 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	Laura Acasio					Did not respond to survey.	Co-Sponsored and voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
1	D	Lorraine Rodero Inouye					Did not respond to survey.	
1	D	Wil Okabe					Did not respond to survey.	
1	R	Helen C. Tupai					Did not respond to survey.	
2	D	Joy San Buenaventura	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
2	L	Frederick F. Fogel					Did not respond to survey.	
2	R	Dianne Hensley					Did not respond to survey.	
2	R	Holly L. Osborn					Did not respond to survey.	
3	D	Dru Mamo Kahuna					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
4	D	Herbert Richards (Tim)					Did not respond to survey.	
4	R	Nicholas M. Tancheff	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
5	D	Gil S. Coloma Keith-Agaran					Did not respond to survey.	Co-Sponsored and voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
6	D	Shaina Forsyth					Did not respond to survey.	

6	D	Tamara I. Goebbert (Mara)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undecided		
6	D	Angus L.K. McKelvey (Mac)	Yes - "I had the political courage to be the first legislator to introduce such a measure 10 years ago despite the warning from senior lawmakers and leadership that it would be political suicide to do so. I had faith a majority of the electorate of the 10th district had evolved on the matter like in other states and saw it as way to generate much needed revenue and increase spending from the visitor industry and have been reaffirmed in that view by my subsequent re-election.	Yes	Yes - "I also included this provision, called the "Ditch Weed Provision" in my bill and tried to make it part of the medical marijuana bill I co-authored and as CPC chair."	Yes		
6	R	Philip A. Raya	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
6	R	Sheila Walker					Did not respond to survey.	
6	G	Melissah Shishido (Mish)					Did not respond to survey.	
7	D	Leo Kaniela Caires					Did not respond to survey.	
7	D	Lynn Pualani Decoite					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
7	D	Walter Ritte					Did not respond	

							to survey.	
7	R	Tamara McKay					Did not respond to survey.	
8	R	Ana Mo Des					Did not respond to survey.	
8	D	Ronald Kouchi					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
8	AA	Kapana Thronas-Kaho'Onei					Did not respond to survey.	
9	D	Stanley Chang					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
9	N	James Malish (Ryan)					Did not respond to survey.	
9	R	Michael L. Parrish (Mike)					Did not respond to survey.	
10	D	Les S. Ihara Jr.					Did not respond to survey.	Co-Sponsored and voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
10	R	Leilani M. Soon					Did not respond to survey.	
10	R	True St. Thomas					Did not respond to survey.	
11	D	Carol Fukunaga					Did not respond to survey.	
11	D	Ian M.A. Ross	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
11	R	Benjamin Sakai					Did not respond to survey.	
12	R	Blake Boyd					Did not respond	

							to survey.	
12	D	Sharon Y. Moriwaki					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "NO" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
13	D	Karl Rhoads					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
13	G	Kapono Aluli Souza					Did not respond to survey.	
13	R	Matthew Tinay					Did not respond to survey.	
13	N	Michelle Kwock					Did not respond to survey.	
14	D	Donna Mercado Kim					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
14	R	Cheryl Rzonca					Did not respond to survey.	
14	N	Anegla Melody Young					Did not respond to survey.	
15	D	Glenn Wakai					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
15	R	Lorene A. Godfrey					Did not respond to survey.	
16	D	Brandon J. C. Elefante					Did not respond to survey.	
16	D	Bennette Misalucha					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "NO" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
16	R	Patricia Yuki Beekman					Did not respond	

							to survey.	
17	D	Donoval Dela Cruz					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
17	R	Karl O. Dicks					Did not respond to survey.	
17	R	Anna Misako Hudson					Did not respond to survey.	
18	D	Michelle N. Kidani					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "NO" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
18	R	Mary Smart					Did not respond to survey.	
18	R	Emil Svrčina					Did not respond to survey.	
19	D	Henry J. C. Aquino					Did not respond to survey.	
19	D	Roger Clemente					Did not respond to survey.	
20	R	Kurt Fevella					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "NO" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
21	D	Mike Gabbard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
21	R	Matthew D. Khan					Did not respond to survey.	
22	R	Samantha Decorte					Did not respond to survey.	
22	D	Maile S.L. Shimabukuro					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
23	R	Brenton Awa					Did not respond	

							to survey.	
23	R	Arthur D. Hannemann (Art)					Did not respond to survey.	
23	D	Gil Riviere					Did not respond to survey.	Voted "YES" with reservations to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
24	D	Jarrett Keohokalole					Did not respond to survey.	Co-Sponsored and voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
24	R	Antionette Fernandez					Did not respond to survey.	
24	R	Adriel C. Lam	No - "Trendy legislation does not make for good laws or safer communities. I would support legislation for responsible use and severe penalties for misuse and abuse of cannabis and civil liability from damages resulting from misuse and abuse.	No - "\$4.7 million in tax revenue is insignificant to the overall Hawaii State budget, the disparate impact of unprofessional and irresponsible use is currently a greater detriment to social and economic livelihood to the community than benefiting it. "	No - "As long as the private cannabis growers and users can reliably use and keep the effects of use within their own homes, there is no need for legislation for what is protected under the 4th Amendment. The issue is whether private growers and users can keep it within their own homes for personal use. Please provide more information that this is done responsibly, ethically, and without abuse or misuse. "	No		
25	R	Brian S. Lauro	Undecided	Undecided	Undecided	Yes		

25	D	Chris Lee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Co-Sponsored and voted "YES" to SB767 - a cannabis legalization bill - in 2021
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