

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 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.	Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes	Comments
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 1	Heather L. Kimbal					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 1	Troy S. Martinez					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 2	Maurice Goulding	Yes - "The war on drugs, as it has been waged, is racist and unconstitutional.	Yes - "Other countries and other states have done this and it overall helps those places increase their quality of life."	Yes - "It's a plant that can be easily contained. It poses no threat to anyone. Also, native Hawaiians should be given the exclusive opportunity to invest and create legal local production and distribution before non-native residents and non-residents for the first 2 years after legalization. "	Yes		
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 2	William Halversen					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 2	Jennifer Kagiwada (Jenn)					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 2	Matthias Kusch	Yes - "With caveats, of course."	Yes - "With caveats, of course."	Yes - "With caveats, of course."	Undecided		
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 2	Timothy Wehrsig (TK)	Yes - "18, If you are old enough to die for this country. You're old enough to make life choices."	Yes - "Cannabis is not something like tobacco. Someone can grow their own. If it is legal. why should it be regulated over a certain age?"	Yes - "We should be able to be self-sustainable. Grow our own food, Regulations are created by failure with a response of force.	Yes		
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 3	Darcy M. Alameda (Malani)					Did not respond to survey.	

Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 3	Susan Lee Loy (Sue)					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 4	Ashley Kierkiewicz					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 4	Gregory A. Y. Lum Ho Jr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 5	Desmon A. Haumea (Des)					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 5	Matt Kanealii-Kleinfelder	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 6	Colehour Bondera	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 6	Henry Cho III (Bo)					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 6	Michelle M. Galimba					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 6	Shane Palacat-Nelsen					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 7	Rebecca A. Villegas					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 8	Lee-Ann Heely					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 8	Holeka Goro Inaba	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 9	Jeff Kalani Coakley					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 9	Cindy Evans					Did not respond to survey.	
Hawaii Councilmember, Dist 9	Chris Toafili (Kalei)					Did not respond to survey.	

Maui Mayor	Chullan H.M.M. Bell					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Mayor	Richard Bissen (Rick)					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Mayor	Kim Brown					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Mayor	Alana Kay	No	No	No	No		
Maui Mayor	Kelly Takaya King					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Mayor	Jonah M. Lion					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Mayor	Mike Molina					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Mayor	Mike Victorino					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Councilmember (Kahului)	Cara Flores	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Maui Councilmember (Kahului)	Tina Pedro					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Councilmember (Kahului)	Tasha Kama					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Councilmember (Kahului)	Carol Lee Kamekona	Yes	Undecided	No	Maybe		
Maui Councilmember (Kahului)	Keoni Watanabe					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Councilmember (South Maui)	Tom Cook	Yes - "Our drug testing rules and laws for workers compensation need to be addressed with the legalization of use. Construction and CDL drivers need to know	Yes - "Our drug testing rules and laws for workers compensation need to be addressed with the legalization of use. Construction	Yes	Maybe		

		what is allowed and what is not."	and CDL drivers need to know what is allowed and what is not."				
Maui Councilmember (South Maui)	Robin Knox	Yes - "Cannabis should be legal for adult use."	Yes - "Hawaii is missing out on one of the best opportunities we have for a diversified economy by not legalizing recreational use of cannabis by adults."	Yes - "Cannabis is a plant and anyone who wants to, should be able to cultivate it for personal use. It is especially important that patients who use cannabis medicinally retain the ability to grow for personal use."	Yes		
Maui Councilmember (South Maui)	Dennis O'Shea					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Councilmember (Makawao-Haiku-Paia)	Aram S. Armstrong					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Councilmember (Makawao-Haiku-Paia)	Nara Boone					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Councilmember (Makawao-Haiku-Paia)	Dave Deleon					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Councilmember (Makawao-Haiku-Paia)	Nohe Uu-Hodgins					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Councilmember (Makawao-Haiku-Paia)	Robin D. Vanderpool	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Maui Councilmember (Upcountry)	Renee Cruz					Did not respond to survey.	
Maui Councilmember (Upcountry)	Jordan Hocker	Yes	Yes	Yes - "Only if measures are in place to ensure all funds generated went into funding our public school systems (including an increase in teacher salaries) and infrastructure to address homelessness and	Yes		

				disenfranchisement of Native Hawaiians. "			
Maui Councilmember (Upcountry)	Yuki Lei Kashiwa Sugimura					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Mayor	Megeso-William Denis					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Mayor	Derek S. K. Kawakami					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Mayor	Mitch McPeck					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Mayor	Michael Roven Poai					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	Addison Bulosan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Kauai Councilmember	Bernard Carvalho					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	Felicia Cowden					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	Billy DeCosta					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	Luke A. Evslin					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	Fern Anuenue Holland	Yes - "I strongly support legalization of cannabis."	Yes - "I support legalization for common sense reasons and to generate revenue for our much-needed budgets."	Yes	Yes		
Kauai Councilmember	Rosemarie Jauch	Yes - "Use restrictions: same as alcohol"	Yes - "Dispensary model"	Yes - "In secured areas."	Yes		
Kauai Councilmember	Ross K. Kagawa					Did not respond	

						to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	KipuKai L. P. Kualii'i					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	James Robert Langtad	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Kauai Councilmember	Jeffrey Lindner					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	Lila Balmores Metzger					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	Nelson H. Mukai					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	Jakki Nelson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Undecided		
Kauai Councilmember	Mel Rapozo	No	No	No	Undecided		
Kauai Councilmember	Roy Saito					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	Rachel M. Secretario					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	Shirley R. Simbre-Medeiros					Did not respond to survey.	
Kauai Councilmember	Kapana B. Thronas-Kahoonei	Yes - "Alcohol has been a proven problem and has been legal for how many years? Cannabis has proven medical break throughs, I support the health and well-being of our People, especially if it's a step towards taking one's health care and medicinal practices into their own hands."	Yes - "If the quality of the cannabis that would be sold in stores were Medical Grade, then yes I support the sales of Medical Cannabis Grade Products being sold to create more jobs for our people."	Yes - "Again, I support Medical Grade Cannabis being grown for personal use, by and for each individual user, and I know that it could prove to be beneficial for the community in many other ways."	Yes		

Kauai Councilmember	Clint A. Yago Sr.					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist II	Racquel Achiu					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist II	Lupe Funaki					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist II	Makuakai Rothman					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist II	Chad Tsuneyoshi					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist II	Matt Weyer	Yes - "Legalizing recreational cannabis would reduce the burden on our criminal justice system, protect the rights of those currently incarcerated for nonviolent cannabis-related crimes, better keep cannabis out of the hands of our youth, generate revenue for the state, and promote public safety with increased product testing and standards under a regulatory framework."	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist VI	Tyler Dos Santos-Tam					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist VI	Ikaika Hussey					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist VI	Nalani Jenkins					Did not respond	

						to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist VI	Chance K. Naauao-Ota					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist VI	Dennis Masaru Nakasato					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist VI	Traci K. Toguchi					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist VI	Chad Toshiro Wolke					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist VIII	Charmaine T. Doran	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist VIII	Ron Menor					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist VIII	Dion Mesta					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist VIII	Val Aquino Okimoto					Did not respond to survey.	
Honolulu Councilmember, Dist VIII	Keone F. Simon					Did not respond to survey.	