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## Environmental Answers and Questions from The Sierra Club Hawaii

1. What environmental issue is most pressing for Oahu? \*

Climate Change as related to Pandemic, Health, and Economic issues.

2. What environmental accomplishment are you most proud of? \*

Creating [greenverdefarms.com](http://greenverdefarms.com), leading NGO's ccagef and ccapu with the introduction of numerous bills into the HI legislature on stopping Genetic Engineering and pesticide use, production of numerous environmental movies with TCR Productions LLC HI, promoting Environmental issues at the EU Commission in Brussels, attending as Press The UN's COP 25 in Madrid this past December, and membership in Sierra Club, Green Peace, and Green America.

3. What is the ideal future for HART and how will that be achieved?

HART should exist within the inner City from Downtown to University Avenue along King or Beretania Streets(possibly extended from Kalihi to Kahala when affordable). and via or SkyTrain connection to Ala Moana and into Waikiki. Can use the Main Street to reduce eminent domain conflicts of private property, and using 95% local talent for management, engineering, and labor. Control should be solely within Hawaii, and airspace above local stops can be leased out to business for additional income to existing budget/govt taxes/federal subsidies/etc.

4. What are your solutions for houselessness? \*

There is a need to keep the City orderly and clean. The parks are not camping grounds, nor are the streets places to sleep safely and securely. The greenverdefarms.com project is a good method to find a rural home for people to work together and produce food and income. Campgrounds and temporary trailers or special housing units could be considered offering lower costs to unemployed, underemployed, and the non-employable, Maybe a sea hotel can help. Prefer not being hard on the homeless with sit-lie bans, as there are ethical, compassionate, and constitutional issues to resolve.

5. A major reforestation and native tree planting program on city-owned lands, across the island, as well as in the urban core \*

Planting trees is critical for climate warming issues, environmental rejuvenation of compost soil and water storage, and is part of the greenverdefarms.com project to mosaic trees and plants into an ecological and food-producing system for sustainability and self-sufficiency. Some trees should be fruit or food-producing, along with local carbon balancing trees.

6. Increased infrastructure for electric vehicles, such as charging stations. \*

Anything to get gas polluting cars off the streets is critical to a self-sustaining, pure, ecological life style for Honolulu.

7. Increase tax incentives for battery storage for renewable generation to stabilize supply to demand \*

Battery storage is the key for electric cars offering longer driving capacity ratios to charging to make these cars acceptable and affordable to the public. Tax incentives for entrepreneurs and the public motivates progress due to saving money for more enjoyable expenses.

8. Support the modernization of Honolulu's Building Code to increase 100% renewable energy options in commercial and residential structures \*

Renewable energy in building codes is key to the sustainability economic/environmental program proposed for Honolulu. We do have to be careful with putting too many cost increases into our codes which is a burden to homeownership and locals being able to own their own home.

9. Support requiring large municipal and private commercial buildings to report energy consumption \*

Energy consumption needs to be better monitored taxing excess usage and promoting conservation with energy use until the population is self-sufficient in supplying their own energy through solar.

10. Implement greater coastal setbacks for development to mitigate against sea level rise \*

Rising oceans due to climate warming needs immediate control of building near the sea. The further the setback the less damage to the buildings near the sea and the infrastructure of the City around this building.

11. Prohibit new seawalls and remove existing illegal seawalls \*

Sea walls are not going to keep the rising sea level from intrusion into our land now and into the future. Sea walls create an imbalance between nature and private property, in this case creating more budget costs and ugly vistas now and into the future.

12. Overhaul DPP permit process to streamline rooftop solar project approvals. \*

DPP streamlining of the solar rooftop approval process goes a long way to encouraging homeowners and businesses to become self-

sufficient with energy production. Solar instead of oil is not only self-sufficiency at its best, but is not dirty and polluting, and does away with long-distance sourcing and its transportation abuse of more pollution and use of more energy to arrive on our beautiful shores.

13. Require County structures and commercial buildings to undergo energy and water audits once every 5 years. \*

Monitoring our energy and water use with chip computers with instant feedback to the web for government and public viewing, is a strong incentive to conservation, and self-sufficiency with energy production and consumption. Propose to also introduce chip monitoring of sewage and stream pollution to include toilets.

14. Investment in charging infrastructure for public buses to facilitate the rapid conversion of the bus fleet from diesel to electric. \*

Electric buses should be done immediately as the beginning to making our environment cleaner, quieter, healthier while improving quality of life and rider enjoyment. 'Charging efficiency' and battery life improvements are helpful in converting to an electric fleet of buses.

15. Creation of a hydrogen power infrastructure as part of the City's conversion to renewable energy. \*

Hydrogen can be a great addition to Honolulu's renewable energy system while primarily using solar. Concerns with safety of hydrogen should be addressed carefully.

16. What actions would you support (or oppose) and why or why not? Please be as specific as you can.

Support staffing People's Open Markets and Community Gardens. A self-sufficient economy starts with creating the opportunity for each one of us to produce our own food as much as possible and assist with marketing and distribution. Caution with expenses to

the City budget, as we try to keep our budget balanced and sustainable. Another way to create this service is with community volunteer management within each of the House districts and coordinated under a community Commission to guide the production and distribution of organic local food through the farmers market, markets, and direct home sales.

17. Regulate land use to protect agricultural lands and limit 'Gentleman Farms.' \*

Land use should be regulated now to keep much of the Country-Country. Oahu should not become a stroll of development; rather green belts, nature reserves, and farms with visibility restrictions to keep the beauty of the land by blending in the buildings and their infrastructure. Gereenverdefarms.com project is a direction to incorporate farming into the gentlemen farms requiring part of the land to be host to these small communities that in turn work the land for organic agricultural growth to the landowner and to the community.

18. Create recycle processing centers for glass and aluminum. \*

Sustainability requires recycling of all of our waste, especially glass and aluminum which may be easier than other materials, The key is to recycle these materials into a local industry to provide products and services to the community and to export the balance for local and government income.

19. Create community composting hubs and a commercial compost facility on island. \*

Community composting should be done in each legislative House district on Oahu, where some central neighborhood land along with organic farming and other community services are performed by local community enthusiasts for this circular economy. Taking organic waste and making it into organic compost for organic food and value-added products for our consumption and the market is good economics and environmentally correct. A commercial

compost facility can supply proper growing soil for this planned agricultural community.

20. Replace the City's diesel bus fleet with electric buses. \*

Changing the buses to electric alone would add much to the quality of life in Honolulu. Less noise, less pollution, better health, less tension, quality of ridership enjoyment, to name a few are the benefits. Noisy and polluting vehicles' are a lifestyle of the past. Also, open the windows to let the people breathe air instead of freezing circulation of air detrimental to our health especially with viral infections.

21. Incentivize public transport ridership through reduced or free fares for residents.

Free and lower bus fares is a good idea to increase ridership. But let's be careful keeping income and expenses balanced as a necessity for self sufficiency. If the Government gives free pass or reduced prices to everyone, taxes will increase on home owners and to the general population. Better to give passes or reductions to the people who need this the most.

22. Expand regular and protected bike lane network.

Like to see Honolulu the bike capital of the world. Bike lanes should be down side streets and not main thoroughfares. If we provide safe, clean, quiet and an extensive network, this could be the incentive to motivate more people to bike to work, for shopping, and for general living, Why not, biking is a great way to travel. It consumes no oil, keeps us in shape, and protects the environment.

23. Incentivize a rapid switch from private use of internal combustion engine vehicles to zero-emission vehicles

Incentives to reduce private use of internal combustion engine vehicles while promoting zero-emission vehicles is a good policy via use and an environmental tax to wean people off gas-guzzling cars

into electric and battery-operated transportation with incentives like subsidies or lower registration fees. Good for the environment, and the quality of life in Honolulu.

24. Support efforts for replenishing the County's watershed (storm water utility fee).

Water management is another key issue for the Community. Making watershed catchment and control for heavy rains and storms is important for property protection and value. And using this water for local irrigation and agriculture projects, and planting vegetation to include a perimeter forest of trees and foliage for land control, water purification, and local agriculture is possible.

