

Colleen Hanabusa
Written Responses

Homelessness

1. What should the City do about homelessness which is different from what the City is doing now? For example, what is your stance on the effectiveness of sweeps? Would you continue this practice, or use a different method? Do you have an idea for a new program? Should any existing program be expanded or modified? Should any existing program be reduced or cut? How much in additional funding would it take to implement your ideas?

The primary problem in tackling homelessness is evidenced in this question: what should the “City” do? Tackling homelessness by the City, the state and federal governments have wasted resources and is ineffective. There needs to be one entity in charge of this and who can answer the fundamental questions of: who are homeless, why, and what are the needs? We cannot broad brush the homeless; their individual situations and needs may be very different. I have dealt with sweeps since my time in the Hawaii State Senate. The City swept Ala Moana Park and the homeless went to the Waianae Coast. Sweeping just moves the issue to communities which people believe will be less resistant. The State has the Dept. of Health, the legislative powers such as Ohana zones and the power of the purse. There needs to be a mayor who can work with the federal and state governments to develop a true joint effort with one lead agency provided with the necessary funds and support. Currently, the ACT law of 2019, which requires due process, has \$500k in funding from the City to test the law and force the homeless with mental illness off of our streets and into treatment. This is a grant from the City to the State’s team. The State or City (and counties) have to step up and take primary responsibility. There should not be an increase in cost if all funds are pooled. There is a definite need for those who may be swept due to the sit-lie bills to be sheltered. This will have a cost because shelters will need to be built. In order to answer how much more money, we need a comprehensive inventory of what is currently available and does that inventory meet the needs.

Health

2. Reopening our economy to tourism may bring a second wave of COVID-19 infection that could be worse than the first, and that may necessitate imposing restrictions on business, travel, and activities. What is your assessment of the measures taken so far to keep Hawai‘i safe from COVID-19, and what changes, if any, would you make in approach if a second wave of COVID-19 warrants new restrictions?

The assessment that there will be a second wave of COVID-19 is being confirmed right now.

We have had the highest spikes in numbers in the past two weeks. We need to understand why. There is an anticipation of reopening but the 14-day quarantine has not been lifted. The recent action by the City Council has made it clear that they believe August 1 is too early to reopen.

Clearly, the actions taken to date have shown us that no rule or regulation to address this issue is and will remain effective unless the people accept that it is serious and practice social distancing, etc. The State Department of Health is now issuing “red cards” that indicate an establishment is not following the rules and cannot operate. I believe that until there is a vaccine, no community is safe. And even with a vaccine, we need to continue to safe practices. safely practice. Now we have a recent announcement that Hawai`i does not have enough test kits which will hamper contact tracing which will add to the problem. If the State continues with the Alaska model and uses the 72-hour pre-test, it must adopt the whole model and do the second test within 5 days of arrival. Without test kits and a better understanding behind the rise in the positive tests in the recent weeks, opening without public buy in will be too dangerous for our people.

Public Safety

3. If elected, what is your plan to reform and strengthen accountability within the HPD, and with the larger community? Do you support the concept of community-based policing? If so, what steps would you take to implement it?

I believe HPD along with other agencies of the City can always benefit from reform, accountability and oversight by the larger community. HPD is the one entity that the people of the City permit the right to carry arms, restrain our liberties in the name of the public good and safety. It should be the first to recognize that in exchange for this public trust, it should be accountable to the people. I believe the problem is in the lack of powers of oversight on the part of the Police Commission. Though there was an amendment to the Charter in 2016, it still lacks the necessary powers of true oversight which led to the resignation of Justice Levinson. I plan to reform the structure. An example is how we as a nation have historically dealt with the delegation of power in the military. Though the branches of the military are well funded and established, the Constitution puts civilians in charge, such as the Department of Defense headed by a Secretary of Defense along with each branch being led by a civilian. I believe HPD needs the oversight of a police commission. I am looking at whether voters will support a Head of the Police Commission to be a cabinet level appointee who is then accountable to the Mayor and who the public can hold responsible. I do support community-based watch programs which have been successful in certain neighborhoods. I would speak to them and groups who are interested in this concept to see what can be done. This is also a balance of public safety as they do these programs. It might be time to revisit a return of the “beat cop” or possibly a retiree who could take on this responsibility.

Rail

4. In light of the shortfalls in funding rail, are you in favor of reducing the length of the rail line, or are you in favor of ending it at Ala Moana Center, as planned? If so, how would you get the funding needed to address the shortage?

I know Rail has been a project that FACE has been a strong advocate for. I am in favor of ending the line at Ala Moana Center. At this time and with my knowledge of the funding of rail, I am not convinced that there is a shortfall. I understand that there is a belief with the reduced GET and TAT revenue that rail will suffer a shortfall. We need a Mayor who can convince the FTA

that the project will be managed correctly and it should contribute its share to the project. HART's CFO says there may be a \$100 million shortfall. The FTA owes the project \$750 million. Construction is slowed due to the delay in the P3, assuming that is awarded in August. There will be a pause in construction as those details are worked out and the FTA is in concurrence. It is important to know that the funding of rail goes to 2030. If we do not tap the financing component of the estimate, then there should be about \$1 billion in financing cost which may be applied to rail. You need a Mayor who understands the financing and who has the relationships with the federal government and State to work on the financial plan in light of COVID. We must understand what happened to the funds collected from 2007 to 2011 when HART took effect. According to the Auditor, about \$750 million was collected during that time.

Accountability

Please respond with only 'Yes' or 'No' to this question:

5. The focus of today's event is Accountability. Will you commit to provide regular updates for Faith Action and the rest of the community, and meet with Faith Action as appropriate on your progress regarding your commitments made here today?

Yes.