



## **Hawaii Cannabis Policy Voter Guide 2024 State Legislative Primary Elections**

Hawai'i voters can cast their ballots for Hawaii's Primary Election Day from July 23 through August 10. Many races have no general election challengers, meaning for some races, this is voters' one and only chance to decide who represents them in the statehouse. All state representative seats are on the ballot, as are half of the state Senate seats.

The 2024 election will impact Hawaii's cannabis policy in 2025 and 2026, at minimum. After unusual debates on the House floor as SB 3335 passed three committees, the House Finance Committee effectively killed the measure. Subsequently, the Senate unexpectedly defeated an expansion of decriminalization, SB 2487.

The Hawai'i Alliance for Cannabis Reform (HARC) created a voter guide that explains where the candidates stand on cannabis legalization and related issues of justice and equity. Our guide includes responses to our candidate questionnaire, information on how incumbents voted on key cannabis bills, and other publicly available information on candidates' stances.

Start out by looking up [what's on your ballot](#) to find your state legislative districts. Then, check out your candidates' stances below and make a plan to vote.

Mail-in and absentee voting begins July 23. [Voter centers and ballot drop boxes are open from July 29 - August 10](#). In the primary election, you can only vote for candidates of your registered party. Our primary voter guide includes only races with more than one candidate. Check back before the general election for general election candidates.

If you speak to a candidate about cannabis policy, or come across other information that we didn't include, please let us know at [info@LegalizeHawaii.org](mailto:info@LegalizeHawaii.org).

We asked candidates:

- 1) Twenty-four states, three U.S. territories, and several countries — including Canada — have passed laws making cannabis legal for adults' use. States of similar sizes have

brought in tens of millions in annual revenue, which they have used for after-school programs, education, supporting health and social services, and investing in communities that have been the hardest hit by the war on drugs. Do you support making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales, for adults 21 and older?

2) Criminal records make it difficult to get a job, housing, and to otherwise achieve one's dreams. As part of legalization, many states are removing prior cannabis convictions from records, to avoid ruining lives over conduct that has been legalized. Do you support creating a state-initiated process to clear cannabis-related records, including convictions?

3) Many adult-use states have seen large multi-state operators develop a significant economic footprint in their cannabis market. Do you support policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii's emerging cannabis economy?

4) If a legalization bill would have to have specific provisions to garner your support, what are they?

Do you have any additional comments to share?



## Hawai'i State House of Representatives Candidates HACR Cannabis Policy Voter Guide — Primary Election 2024

**Key:** Candidates in **green** are solidly supportive of cannabis policy reforms. Candidates in **orange** have a mixed record, softer support or are undecided. Candidates in **red** have been opposed. We do not have information on the stances of candidates in **black** text — consider reaching out if you are in their district.

Don't forget to [look up](#) your Hawai'i House and Senate districts.

### **House District 2 — Democratic Primary — Open Seat**

**Tanya Aynessazian** — In a phone call with a member of HARC, said she is supportive of cannabis legalization. Has not yet had an opportunity to respond to our candidate questionnaire. — [www.Tanya4Hawaii.com](http://www.Tanya4Hawaii.com)

**Sue Lee Loy** — In a phone call with a member of HARC, said she is supportive of cannabis legalization. Has not yet had an opportunity to respond to our candidate questionnaire. — [www.SueLeeLoy.com](http://www.SueLeeLoy.com)

### **House District 3 — Democratic Primary**

**Kiana Kanahale** — Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. In an Instagram [video](#), says she supports legalization with reservations. — [www.FriendsofKKanahale.com](http://www.FriendsofKKanahale.com)

**Rep. Chris Todd** — Voted in favor of legalization (SB 3335), expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487), and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). — [www.ChrisToshiroTodd.org](http://www.ChrisToshiroTodd.org)

### **House District 5 — Democratic Primary**

**Rep. Jeanné Kapela** — Voted in favor of legalization (SB 3335), expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487), and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). Has also sponsored equitable legalization. Responded “yes” to all three of HACR’s yes-or-no questions. Supports:

- making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales for adults 21 and older
- creating a state-initiated process to clear cannabis-related records, and
- policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii’s emerging cannabis economy

When asked what provisions would be needed for her to support legalization, said, "I believe a legalization bill should be based on the principle of social equity, in which marginalized communities and those who have been harmed by cannabis prohibition are prioritized in developing the new cannabis industry.

Additionally, I strongly support strengthening restorative justice by establishing a statewide expungement program that clears low-level cannabis offenses from people's criminal records, so that they can gain employment, housing, and other personal needs. Finally, it is important to ensure cannabis revenue is directed toward schools, mental health and substance abuse programs, and other important public initiatives, rather than additional police units that will only worsen the drug war and undermine the intent of legalization." In "additional comments," she said, "It is high time to legalize cannabis in Hawai'i." — [www.JeanneKapela.com](http://www.JeanneKapela.com)

**Chantel Makuaole-Perrin** — Responded “yes” to all three of HACR’s yes-or-no questions. Supports:

- making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales for adults 21 and older
- creating a state-initiated process to clear cannabis-related records, and
- policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii’s emerging cannabis economy

When asked what provisions would be needed for her to support legalization, said, “My support for any legalization bill would hinge on specific provisions that align with my core values and the needs of our community.

“Public Education and Awareness:

- Comprehensive educational programs must be implemented to inform the public about the benefits and potential risks associated with legalization. This includes providing resources for parents, schools, and community organizations to educate youth on responsible use and the importance of mental health.

“Economic Opportunities for Local Businesses:

- The bill must prioritize local businesses and create pathways for small locally owned enterprises to participate in the new market. This ensures that the

economic benefits of legalization are distributed within our community, supporting workforce equality and creating jobs that keep our children in Hawai'i.

“Tax Revenue Allocation:

- A significant portion of the tax revenue generated from legalization should be allocated towards enhancing public education, improving infrastructure, and supporting services for the homeless. Specifically, funds should go towards mental health support, job training, and housing assistance programs to address our community's pressing needs.

“Health and Safety Regulations:

- Strict health and safety regulations must be in place to ensure that products are safe and that the industry operates responsibly. This includes robust quality control standards, proper labeling, and restrictions on advertising to prevent targeting minors.

“Workforce Development and Training:

- Funding should be directed towards vocational training programs to prepare residents for jobs in the new industry. This not only create job opportunities but also ensures that our workforce is skilled and ready to meet the demands of a growing market.

“Environmental Protections:

- Provisions must be included to ensure that cultivation and production practices are environmentally sustainable. This includes regulations to manage water usage, pesticide application, and waste disposal to protect our natural resources.

“By incorporating these provisions, we can ensure that legalization benefits our community holistically, addressing economic, educational, health, and environment concerns. I believe that with careful planning and responsible regulation, legalization can bring substantial benefits to our community while safeguarding our values.”

— [www.ChantelMakuaolePerrin.com](http://www.ChantelMakuaolePerrin.com)

### **House District 6 — Democratic Primary**

**John Betlach** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire.

**Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa** — Voted in favor of legalization (SB 3335), expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487), and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession

records (HB 1595). Responded “yes” to all three of HACR’s yes-or-no questions.

Supports:

- making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales for adults 21 and older
- creating a state-initiated process to clear cannabis-related records, and
- policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii’s emerging cannabis economy

When asked what provisions would be needed for her to support legalization, said, "I would like to make sure local businesses can thrive and ensure we have guardrails to allow local entrepreneurs to enter the market, including Native Hawaiian owned businesses. But this isn't a requirement of my support, just something I would like to see included in legislation." — KahaloaforKona.com

### **House District 10 — Democratic Primary**

**Rep. Tyson Miyake** — Voted in favor of legalization (SB 3335), expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487), and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). — [www.TysonMiyake.com](http://www.TysonMiyake.com)

**Jeremiah Savage** — In a phone call with a member of HARC, said he is supportive of cannabis legalization. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire yet.

### **House District 13 — Democratic Primary**

**Linda Ha'i Clark** — In a phone call with a member of HARC, said she is supportive of cannabis legalization. Has not yet had an opportunity to respond to our candidate questionnaire.

**Rep. Mahina Poepoe** — Voted in favor of legalization (SB 3335), expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487), and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). — [VoteMahina.com](http://VoteMahina.com)

### **House District 14 — Democratic Primary**

**Kanamu Balinbin** — In a phone call with a member of HARC, said he is supportive of cannabis legalization. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire yet.

**Rep. Elle Cochran** — Was excused during legalization vote on the floor (SB 3335), voted “yes with reservations” in committee. Voted in favor of expanding cannabis

decriminalization (SB 2487) and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). — [VoteElleCochran.com](http://VoteElleCochran.com)

### **House District 20 — Democratic Primary — Open Seat**

**John Choi** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [www.HiJohnChoi.com](http://www.HiJohnChoi.com)

**Tina Grandinetti** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [www.TinaforHawaii.com](http://www.TinaforHawaii.com)

**George Hooker** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [www.Hooker4Hawaii.com](http://www.Hooker4Hawaii.com)

**James Logue** — Responded “yes” to all three of HACR’s yes-or-no questions. Supports:

- making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales for adults 21 and older
- creating a state-initiated process to clear cannabis-related records, and
- policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii’s emerging cannabis economy

**Kevan Wong** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [www.KevanWong.com](http://www.KevanWong.com)

### **House District 23 — Democratic Primary — Open Seat**

**Pat McCain** — Responded “yes” to all three of HACR’s yes-or-no questions. Supports:

- making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales for adults 21 and older
- creating a state-initiated process to clear cannabis-related records, and
- policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii’s emerging cannabis economy

When asked what provisions would be needed for her to support legalization, said, “No sales near schools.” Added comment, “Hope we’re not last in the nation.”

**Ikaika Olds** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [www.OldsforHawaii.com](http://www.OldsforHawaii.com)

**Paul Robotti** — Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. When running for lieutenant governor in 2018, told *Civil Beat* Hawai’i should, “Legalize marijuana so the tax on it can pay public school teachers’ salaries. I think education is the only way we would be able to solve homelessness. And we in Hawaii deserve the best educators.”

**Ian Ross** — In a phone call with a member of HARC, said she is supportive of cannabis legalization. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire yet. — RossforHawaii.com

### **House District 25 — Democratic Primary**

**Kim Coco Iwamoto** — Her website says: "Kim Coco supports legislation legalizing use and taxing sale of marijuana for non-medical use; she does not support taxing marijuana for medications." — KimCoco.com

**Speaker Scott Saiki** — Voted in favor of legalization (SB 3335), expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487), and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). — ScottSaikiHawaii.com

### **House District 27 — Republican Primary**

**Wallyn Christian** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — WallynforHawaii.com

**Margaret Lim** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. Responded "no" to all three of HACR's yes-or-no questions. Opposes:

- making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales for adults 21 and older,
- policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii's emerging cannabis economy, and
- state-initiated expungements for cannabis possession.

Commented "'Medical marijuana is legal and obtaining a medical marijuana card is quite simple and easy; there is no need to legalize it for recreational or commercial purposes. " and "If our State cannot control our current crime, violence and homelessness problems, how can they control the massive serious problems which will be ushered in by legalizing commercial/recreational marijuana?

"THE REVENUE PROJECTED TO COME IN FROM PASSING THIS EVIL BILL WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO COMPENSATE FOR LIVES RUINED, RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILIES DESTROYED, THE COST OF NEEDING MORE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, MORE PRISON BEDS, LEGAL FEES, AND OTHER SOCIAL NEEDS. Since medical marijuana is already legalized, there is NO need to legalize recreational marijuana.



"We should focus on making Hawai'i a safer, cleaner place for business to thrive and for our Japanese and Chinese, AND TOURISTS ALL OVER THE WORLD to keep coming back." — [www.Lim4Hawaii.com](http://www.Lim4Hawaii.com)

### **House District 28 — Democratic Primary**

**Ernest Carvalho** — Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. As a candidate for Honolulu mayor in 2020, said, "We need to invest in our small farmer and seriously think about growing hemp and cannabis." and "New revenues would come from a new economic base, based on legalization of gambling in special zones, the growing of hemp and cannabis and the education of our children by making Honolulu an education center of the Pacific." — [CarvalhoforHawaii.com](http://CarvalhoforHawaii.com)

**Rep. Daniel Holt** — Voted in favor of legalization (SB 3335), expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487), and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). — [www.VoteDanielHolt.com](http://www.VoteDanielHolt.com)

### **House District 29 — Democratic Primary**

**Ikaika Hussey** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [Ikaika.House](http://Ikaika.House)

**Rep. May Mizuno** — Voted in favor of expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487) and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). Voted yes "with reservations" on cannabis legalization and regulation (SB 3335).

### **House District 30 — Democratic Primary**

**Shirley Templo** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [ShirleyTemplo.com](http://ShirleyTemplo.com)

**Rep. Sonny Ganaden** — Voted in favor of expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487) and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). Voted yes "with reservations" in committee on cannabis legalization and regulation (SB 3335), was excused from floor vote. Told *Civil Beat*, "There have been many instances where I stuck my neck out — I have taken public and unpopular positions against the U.S. military, voted no on the legislative budget in 2023, supported the legalization of cannabis and evidence-based reforms to our justice system and fought for the rights of recent immigrants." — [www.GanadenforHawaii.com](http://www.GanadenforHawaii.com)

### **House District 31 — Democratic Primary**

**Faifaiese Emosi** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire.

**Rep. Linda Ichiyama** — Voted against legalization (SB 3335), expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487), and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). — [www.LindaIchiyama.com](http://www.LindaIchiyama.com)

### **House District 35 — Democratic Primary**

**Domineque Bonifacio** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire.

**Rep. Cory Chun** — Voted against legalization (SB 3335) and expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487). Voted yes “with reservations” on state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). — [ElectCoryChun.com](http://ElectCoryChun.com)

**Ikeda Rahman Perreira** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire.

### **House District 37 — Democratic Primary**

**Ken Inouye** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [FriendsOfKenInouye.com](http://FriendsOfKenInouye.com)

**Rep. Trish La Chica** — Voted against legalization (SB 3335) and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). Voted yes “with reservations” on expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487). — [www.TrishLaChica.com](http://www.TrishLaChica.com)

### **House District 39 — Democratic Primary**

**Corey Rosenlee** — Responded in support of legalization in response to the Marijuana Policy Projects's 2022 candidate survey. Has not responded to HACR's 2024 candidate questionnaire. — [www.CoreyRosenlee.com](http://www.CoreyRosenlee.com)

**Reginald Garcia** — Responded “yes” to all three of HACR's yes-or-no questions. Supports:

- making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales for adults 21 and older
- creating a state-initiated process to clear cannabis-related records, and

- policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii’s emerging cannabis economy

In response to "If a legalization bill would have to have specific provisions to garner your support, what are they?," responded "I would like to ensure that responsible recreational cannabis use aligns with laws similar to that of smoking laws in the country. This means ensuring that youth are not targeted in marketing schemes for any companies that may operate legitimately. If elected, I would also work to ensure that law enforcement apparatus of the state has a seat at the negotiating table to ensure that the necessarily training protocols, guidelines, and internal policies and procedures can account for the shifts that may take place as a result of the potential passage of a recreational cannabis use law. Furthermore, I would work to ensure that the State partner with organizations already working in this space to ensure that an educational campaign is developed and moving towards educating the public, to clarify any misconceptions. On these matters, I would vote as the district residents would express their opinions, thus my stance on ensuring that public information or educational component be accompanied by any efforts. Lastly, I support the agricultural aspect of hemp production, and would work to ensure that the State look into developing and investing this burgeoning framework for this new potential industry.

“ — [www.FriendsofReginaldGarcia.org](http://www.FriendsofReginaldGarcia.org)

### **House District 40 — Republican Primary**

**Cory Asuncion** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire.

**Frankie McCurley** — Responded “no” to two of HACR’s yes-or-no questions. Opposes:

- making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales for adults 21 and older, and
- policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii’s emerging cannabis economy

Replied “undecided” on our question about state-initiated expungements for cannabis possession. — [FrankieMcCurley.com](http://FrankieMcCurley.com)

**Julie Reyes Oda** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [JulieReyesOda.com](http://JulieReyesOda.com)

### **House District 42 — Democratic Primary**

**Anthony Makana Paris** — Responded “yes” to all three of HACR’s yes-or-no questions.

Supports:

- making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales for adults 21 and older
- creating a state-initiated process to clear cannabis-related records, and
- policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii’s emerging cannabis economy

In response to "If a legalization bill would have to have specific provisions to garner your support, what are they?," responded "Let's explore the use of Hawaiian Home Land agricultural lots and other restorative justice efforts to compensate those who are disproportionately impacted by drug laws."

— [www.VoteMakana.com](http://www.VoteMakana.com)

**Summer-Lee Yadao** — Responded “yes” to all three of HACR’s yes-or-no questions.

Supports:

- making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales for adults 21 and older
- creating a state-initiated process to clear cannabis-related records, and
- policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii’s emerging cannabis economy

In response to "If a legalization bill would have to have specific provisions to garner your support, what are they?," responded, “There would need to be a provision that cannabis farmers provide for more sustainable building materials and other hemp products aside from cannabis sales.” Commented, “Hawai’i was the first to legalize [medical] cannabis, we should be leading the way in legislation that keeps people from being prosecuted and ways to create a stable economy using cannabis and hemp products.” — SummerLeeforHawaii.com

**Isaiah Baclaan** — Responded “yes” on our question about state-initiated expungements for cannabis possession. Responded “undecided” on the other two questions — about making cannabis legal for adults 21+, and taxing and regulating and supporting policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii’s emerging cannabis economy. — Offered this comment, "As Representative of my District my interests would be with representing the will of my constituency. If they support such a measure, it will have my support." — [VoteBaclaan.com](http://VoteBaclaan.com)

### **House District 43 — Republican Primary**

**Sheila Medeiros** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire.

**Rep. Kanani Souza** — Voted against legalization (SB 3335) and expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487). Voted for state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). — [www.VoteSouza.com](http://www.VoteSouza.com)

### **House District 45 — Democratic Primary — Open Seat**

**Cross Makani Crabbe** — In a phone call with a member of HARC, said she is supportive of cannabis legalization. Has not yet had an opportunity to respond to our candidate questionnaire. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [CrossMakaniCrabbe.com](http://CrossMakaniCrabbe.com)

**Desire Auguste DeSoto** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [DesireDeSoto.com](http://DesireDeSoto.com)

**Philip Ganaban** — Replied “no” to supporting making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales for adults 21 and older. Replied “yes” to HACR’s other two questions:

- creating a state-initiated process to clear cannabis-related records, and
- policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii’s emerging cannabis economy

In response to “If a legalization bill would have to have specific provisions to garner your support, what are they?” responded, “To support a legalization bill, specific provisions must ensure the responsible and safe use of cannabis, primarily focusing on medicinal rather than recreational purposes. Recent studies indicate negative long-term health effects, particularly gastrointestinal and intestinal issues, and it is crucial to address these concerns through stringent regulations and comprehensive public health strategies.

“First, the bill should include a robust framework for medicinal use, emphasizing research-backed medical applications. This would involve strict oversight by medical professionals, requiring prescriptions and monitoring for patients using cannabis for therapeutic purposes. Second, the bill must mandate extensive public health campaigns to educate the population about the potential risks associated with long-term cannabis use. These campaigns should highlight the latest research findings on gastrointestinal and intestinal health impacts, ensuring that individuals make informed decisions. Lastly, the bill should allocate funds for ongoing scientific research to continuously assess and understand the long-term effects of cannabis use, allowing for adaptive policy adjustments based on new evidence. By incorporating these provisions, the bill would

prioritize public health and safety while acknowledging the medicinal benefits of cannabis.”

**Ranson Kuiokalani Soares** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire.

### **House District 45 — Republican Primary — Open Seat**

**Chris Muraoka** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire.

**Tiana Wilbur** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire.  
— TianaforTruth.com

### **House District 46 — Democratic Primary**

**Mark Anthony Clemente** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — Vote-Clemente.com

**Rep. Amy Perruso** — Voted in favor of legalization (SB 3335), expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487), and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). — [www.VoteAmyPerruso.com](http://www.VoteAmyPerruso.com)

### **House District 49 — Democratic Primary**

**Rep. Scot Matayoshi** — Voted against legalization (SB 3335), state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595), and expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487).

**Kana Naipo** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire.

### **House District 50 — Democratic Primary**

**Rep. Natalia Hussey-Burdick** — Voted in favor of legalization (SB 3335), expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487), and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). — [www.NataliaforHawaii.com](http://www.NataliaforHawaii.com)

**Mike Lee** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire.  
— [MikeLeeforHawaii.com](http://MikeLeeforHawaii.com)

## **House District 51 — Democratic Primary**

**Rep. Lisa Marten** — Voted in favor of legalization (SB 3335), expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487), and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). Responded “yes” to all three of HACR’s yes-or-no questions.

Supports:

- making cannabis legal, and taxing and regulating its sales for adults 21 and older
- creating a state-initiated process to clear cannabis-related records, and
- policies to help ensure that local family farmers and small businesses in each county can participate in Hawaii’s emerging cannabis economy

In response to our question about what provisions are necessary in a legalization bill to earn her support, responded, “Strict controls against access and appeal to children. Strict enforcement against use in public places.” — LisaMarten.com

**Hopena Pokipala** — In a phone call with a member of HARC, said he is supportive of cannabis legalization. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire yet.



## Hawai'i State Senate Candidates HACR Cannabis Policy Voter Guide — Primary Election 2024

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Don't forget to [look up](#) your Hawai'i House and Senate districts.

### **Senate District 1 — Democratic Primary**

**Rep. Lorraine Inouye** — Voted against legalization (SB 3335) and expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487). Voted for state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession arrests records that did not result in conviction (HB 1595).  
[www.LorraineInouye.com](http://www.LorraineInouye.com)

**Laura Acasio** — Sponsored legalization bill and voted for it as a state senator in 2022. –  
[www.FriendsofLauraAcasio.com](http://www.FriendsofLauraAcasio.com)

### **Senate District 22 — Democratic Primary — Open Seat**

**Stacelynn Eli** — Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. Likely opposed. Shared a [post](#) promoting a March 16, 2024, rally against legalization publicly on her campaign Facebook page.

**Rep. Cedric Gates** — Vocal proponent of legalization. Voted in favor of legalization (SB 3335), expanding cannabis decriminalization (SB 2487), and state-initiated expungement of cannabis possession records (HB 1595). — [CedricforHawaii.com](http://CedricforHawaii.com)

### **Senate District 22 — Republican Primary — Open Seat**



**Samantha DeCorte** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [www.SamanthaDeCorte.com](http://www.SamanthaDeCorte.com)

**Teri Kia Savaiinaea** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire.

### **Senate District 23 — Democratic Primary**

**Clayton Hee** — Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. As a former state senator, he chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee, which did not hold a hearing on legalization in 2013. As chair, Hee rejected resolutions asking the federal government to free cannabis minister Roger Christie.

**Ben Shafer** — Position unknown. Has not responded to our candidate questionnaire. — [www.BenShafer.org](http://www.BenShafer.org)