

**Racquel Achiu**  
**District 2 Community Hui**  
**Questions for City Council District 2 Candidates**  
**March 26, 2022**

**5/9/22 Note: Please refer to the Community Network WhoWeAre, Mission Statement, and District 2 Map below as context for reviewing Candidate Racquel Achiu's response to questions from the Network.**

Why are you running to represent District 2? What is your vision for District 2? I am running to represent District II because I believe the people of our communities need to remain included, contribute & participate in matters that impact our lives & way of life.

A critical factor in being able to nurture our unique and truly privileged way of life that we have is to address the carrying capacity of our District (and really our islands). We must be able to address a carrying capacity to responsibly manage & maintain all aspects of our communities resources and everyday life.

Carrying capacity is, I believe, the root of how to effectively manage our resources, way of life and culture.

Further, I have been fortunate to work with Councilmember Tsuneyoshi on multiple issues that affect our community. I would like to see those measures through and continue to ensure that laws, policies & services provide a positive quality of life for our future.

Please explain your commitment to, or disagreement with, the values that are expressed in our mission statement.

Absolutely committed to what is expressed in the mission statement. No disagreement.

Who is your campaign manager, who is on your campaign team/staff, and what was your thought process in developing your leadership group?

Kathleen Pahinui is my campaign manager/Chair, Napua Casson Fisher, Vice Chair and Joely Brady, Treasurer.

Each individual was specifically chosen for their extensive knowledge of our communities and the history and culture it possesses. They're extremely trustworthy & have the utmost integrity in all they do.

How do you propose obtaining greater infrastructure investment in District 2? Give specific examples of areas in District 2 that need infrastructure improvement and how you would address these.

Much of the infrastructure, especially within District II is in dire straits. In all instances I would determine jurisdiction (as there is always the determination of State or County). I will work directly with appropriate agencies within County & State to pursue necessary Scopes of Work. For example, roads, depending on jurisdiction, I would aggressively pursue the scope of work to do a

complete dig and replace of the roads vs patch work or portion jobs.

During council budget planning, I would work with each community on their priorities and fight to get our fair share.

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One idea that I would like to try, is to get an economic analysis on how the District II ( and specifically the North Shore) contributes to the city's and state's bottom line, then use that information to get our fair share for the projects we need in our community. I think grant money could be found to do this study and I am sure there are people here tonight that would want to be a part of that effort.

Please describe your perspective on the priority issues in public safety (police, fire, EMS and ambulance service, lifeguards) and disaster preparedness facing District II. I have a strong drive when it comes to our public safety. These agencies require constant review. Currently I am pursuing the separation of Ocean Safety to be a stand-alone department with recruitment & hiring procedures to better support our ocean safety program. Our ocean safety team risk their lives every day for our residents and the visitors. They deserve better than what they are currently getting from the city.

Disaster Preparedness is a major concern and warrants FULL attention. I intend to work diligently with supporting agencies and groups to implement an appropriate and complete plan of action, both preventive and reactive, for our community from evacuation to shelter to recovery in matters of emergency situations (floods, tsunamis, hurricanes, fire, earthquake etc). Our resources are sorely lacking and can no longer be tolerated.

We need more police on the North Shore. It is a very large district and the reason that our crime numbers do not support more staff is not acceptable. I will fight for more officers and a substation for the North Shore.

I support the new fire station in Waialua and support turning the current station into offices for ocean safety. I am not aware of any immediate needs for our HFD team but if there are any specific needs, I will work to fill their requests.

Describe the steps you will take to increase and improve social services for mental health and homelessness in District 2.

I will continue to work consistently with area, county &/or state agencies to provide improved resources but also to place them within our communities for a more accessible and prompt response. I understand there are laws that have been passed to have HPD assist with social services during outreach. I also understand that these laws are not being implemented and those with serious mental and substance abuse issues are not getting the help they need. If I am elected, I will pursue this and work with the agencies to see that they are implemented and revised if needed.

I am open to homeless housing, but it needs to make sense and not be an undue burden for any

community. I will be working with Achieve Zero on their current proposal for the North Shore – several of us are meeting with them in about a week.

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What existing City housing programs do you support and what role can you play in providing more truly affordable quality housing opportunities for local residents?

I am very proud to support a project currently in the works in Waiialua for a significant amount of affordable rental houses for the local community. I will remain in contact and involved with the project coordinators and developers and encourage community input and involvement to support transparency.

What is your position on transient accommodations, the current proposed City regulation of vacation rentals, and what is your track record on this issue?

I support BILL 41 HOWEVER I also believe that the TVU situation is a matter that is a result of a domino result due to the lack of regulation in the real estate market and by DPP.

Please describe ways the City and County of Honolulu can help maintain equitable wage scales and working conditions for both public and private sector workers. Do you support the concept of a living wage?

Public wages are set by contracts with the unions that the council approves. I would support those contracts to ensure our public workers are fairly compensated. For the private sector, minimum wage and the possibility of a living wage are set by the state. I do not have specific suggestions for ensuring equity for the private sector but am open to recommendations from the group.

How can the City Council support the City Administration in providing better and safer roadways? Reviewing infrastructure backlogs, prioritizing areas up for road repair/maintenance and submit for implementation of these projects.

What are some ways the City can support Hawaii's clean energy transformation through its transportation policies?

A little different angle, as projects and renewable clean energy projects continue to be reviewed and funded, look at supporting remote working, reduced work weeks, flexible hours for working residents to reduce fuel, traffic and energy use in buildings. The push for and implementation of EV's is concerning due to the uncertainty of the ability of the grid to be able to support the EV's on such a large scale.

I do not support windmills and think our community has done more than it's fair share for this type of renewable.

I support solar as long as it is not on prime ag land.

What other Counties in Hawaii seem to be doing a better job for their residents' quality of life? What are some examples of things they are doing you would like to see on Oahu? [The way the island of Kauai handled the Haena road closure and how they used that as an opportunity to limit visitors to the area to reduce their impact was brilliant. I would like our rural areas work together to see if we could develop something similar and use alternate modes of transportation to reduce traffic in our communities.](#)

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Are you accepting contributions from donors who live outside the district or developers/companies that work for developers? What is your position on the proven history of "pay-to-play" politics in Honolulu and how will you avoid being beholden to major private donors and political insiders?

[Currently the only donations I have received are from myself and Kathleen – these are small sums need to set up the campaign committee, pull nomination papers and purchase signs. I have not made any push to ask for money. I will have a donate button on my website.](#)

[Outside of district but on Oahu – I have family and friends who don't live in the district and may wish to support me. I would accept.](#)

[I have friends on the mainland who may wish to donate, I would accept.](#)

[After that, I would scrutinize who is donating. I would prefer small donations from the families in our district. I am not a career politician so building a war chest for the next opportunity is of no interest to me.](#)

[However, if the company building the affordable housing in Waialua or homeless housing offer to donate – how would you feel about me accepting? What about the small businesses or organizations in our district? I am asking because these scenarios are a possibility and would like your thoughts.](#)

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## **District 2 Community Network**

### **Who We Are**

The District 2 Community Network is a collection of community residents and leaders in or associated with Honolulu City Council District 2 who have long been engaged in civic discourse and governance in our area and statewide. We have organized to gather direct information about the candidates running to represent District 2 on the Honolulu City Council, to share that information and our views with our community friends and neighbors, and to consider public endorsements of positions or candidate(s).

The members of the network include: Denise Antolini, John Reppun, Blake McElheny, Tēvita Kaʻili, Elizabeth Rago, Margaret Primacio, Larry McElheny, Joli Tokusato, Angela Huntmer, Raynae Fonoimoana, Kealoha Domingo, Corey Asano, Joe Wilson, Jessica Dos Santos, Dotty Kelly Paddock, Mike Biechler, Amy Perruso, Steve Holmes, Gary Hooser, Amy Luersen.

### **Mission Statement**

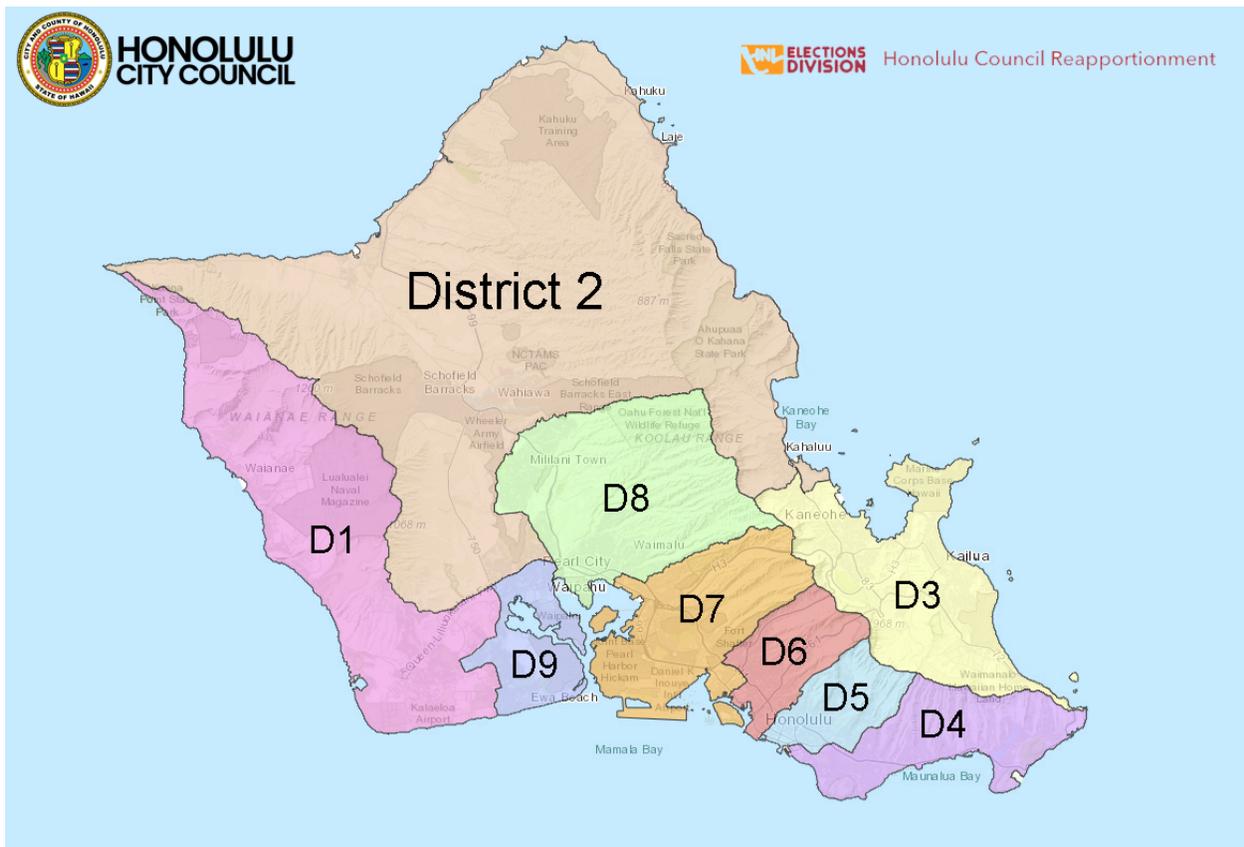
We envision leadership for Honolulu City Council District 2 that recognizes residents, local families, and future generations as the highest priority in developing and implementing City laws, policies, and services for our extraordinary and unique region.

We will support leadership for our region that:

- promotes sustainable, resilient, inclusive, self-reliant communities;
- is rooted in Hawaiʻi's indigenous wisdom and ahupuaʻa practices, and preserves and revitalizes cultural resources, traditions, and practices;
- acknowledges the carrying capacity and limits of our infrastructure and natural resources, and promotes nature over development;
- understands that sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, that sustainability implies equilibrium and limits, and that never-ending growth is not sustainable, especially on an island;
- protects and enhances a clean, beautiful, and healthful environment;
- protects and enhances public land, open spaces, parks, and public access;
- promotes environmental and social justice, prioritizing public over private economic interests;
- solves inter-agency coordination challenges to respond to urgent community needs on climate issues such as flooding, erosion, sea level rise, ecological impacts, and acts immediately on the climate emergency;
- promotes disaster preparedness, distributed energy, and emergency services;
- advances locally owned sustainable agriculture, cooperative food processing enterprises, and neighborhood food security;
- supports housing that is attainable for local families and working residents;
- can advance concrete solutions to mental health, houselessness, public health, and criminal justice issues in our community;
- embraces social justice issues, understands the challenges facing sexual and gender minority communities, recognizes the civil rights of LGBTQIA individuals, and commits to a safe and inclusive community for all;
- promotes a diversified economy based on liveable wages for workers and that promotes locally owned businesses that primarily serve the needs of the local community, substantially reduces reliance on tourism, and prohibits commercialization of public resources and recreational areas;
- understands complex governance issues, knows how to successfully navigate federal-state-county relationships and laws, has a track record of public service leadership,

and recognizes the potential statewide impact of the role and office of a City Councilmember;

- ensures effective implementation, accountability, and alignment with O‘ahu’s General Plan and the applicable sustainable community and development plans; promotes and understanding of and adherence to the principles of the Oahu Watershed Management Plan.
- advances strict adherence to City and County ordinances and rules;
- does not engage in pay-to-play or any type of quid-pro-quo conduct, is not beholden to major donors and/or developers, and supports publicly funded elections;
- The leadership of Council District 2 will be at the forefront of these issues.



Explore the 2021 Honolulu Council Reapportionment map and boundary descriptions [here](#).

Updated 5.9.22