As a future public health professional pursing program/project management within the field, the Hawaii Bicycling League provided me with a great opportunity in gaining hands on experience in project development in a non-profit. The HBL non-profit setting allowed me to be creative and innovative with ideas and future prospects of current and new programs. For example, after seeking and writing grants, I ensured funding and sponsorship to aid a program I assisted in creating. The program entails implementing 4 bike rodeos within a yearly period to under-served communities in Oahu. Educating and influencing community members, especially the youth, on the importance of self-transportation is a valuable outreach tool that promotes a sense of independency and healthier living.

In the non-profit setting, I've also learned how valuable everyone's input is and what it truly means to be a team player when organizing an event or program. Being creative is indeed a critical component in ensuring the optimal success of the organization's mission and its services. This is what makes working at HBL so enjoyable, if you're not working in creating something new and valuable, you're on your feet or bike, being proactive in serving HBL's underlying mission.

Nina Ahlers