

Walking & Bicycling Questionnaire for Candidates

This State candidate questionnaire was developed by Hawaii Bicycling League, Kauai Path, Maui Bicycling League, and PATH - Peoples Advocacy for Trails Hawaii to address current state issues of importance for walking and bicycling. Your responses will be made available online and distributed to our organizations' email networks. Your response will NOT be used as the basis for any endorsements - your response will be displayed verbatim. Please respond by July 25, 2016. Late responses will be accepted and will be posted as promptly as practical.

Thank you!

Hawaii Bicycling League

Kauai Path

Maui Bicycling League

PATH - Peoples Advocacy for Trails Hawaii

Name *

Rep. Gene Ward

Candidate for *

State House District 17 (Hawaii Kai)

Email *

repward@gmail.com

1. I believe that walking and bicycling should be safe transportation options available to all and we need to drastically reduce injuries and deaths of people who walk and bike. (YES or NO, and any comments) *

Yes

No

Comments?

Crosswalk deaths are very avoidable and we need to use modern technologies available to cut down this dangerous but simple act of crossing the street. Ditto more bike lanes and trails to help cyclists.

2. "Safe Passing" laws require that motorists provide sufficient space (3-4 feet for cars) when passing bicyclists; 32 states have such laws. I support the adoption of a "Safe Passing" law in Hawaii with specific passing distances. (YES or NO, and any comments) *

Yes

No

Comments

Why has this bill not been heard and passed is beyond me.

3. Hawaii received \$171 million in federal transportation funds in 2016. While only ~2% of this amount is reserved for walking and bicycling projects, the state Department of Transportation has the option to use larger portions of these funds for walking and bicycling projects. I support increased use of Hawaii's federal transportation funding allocations for bicycle and pedestrian projects to make walking and bicycling safer. (YES or NO, and any comments) *

Yes

No

Comments

Traction is being made for making Honolulu more walking and bicycling more friendly over the past 10 years and needs to be continued.

4. The state has a "Complete Streets" law designed to create equality of access for all road users (people walking, biking, driving, and taking transit) by requiring streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel for users of all ages and abilities, regardless of their mode of transportation. I support the strong implementation of "Complete Streets," including creating procedures that ensure full "Complete Streets" consideration on every project. (YES or NO, and any comments) *

Yes

No

Comments

I was not aware of this law.

5. The state Department of Transportation's 2003 Bike Plan Hawaii provides a plan for development of a network of bicycle facilities that have not been fully implemented. I support the immediate updating of this 13-year-old plan in order to integrate new bikeway planning practices and make it more applicable to current transportation and development conditions. (YES or NO, and any comments) *

Yes

No

Comments

Yes, I was in office at the time and was for the development of this plan.

6. Eighty-one percent of Hawaii commuters drive as their primary way of getting to work and 12% walk, bike, or take public transportation. I support the establishment of specific targets to reduce dependence on private automobile transportation and increase bicycling, walking and transit use, as Kauai County has done. (YES or NO, and any comments) *

Yes

No

Comments

I was the first to introduce Driveless Car legislation in Hawaii in order to reduce traffic congestion and the number of auto accidents. I hope you would consider this in your mix of traffic mitigation options in the future. (BTW, this question also bumps up against the rail project-but i won't go there....)

7. Describe ways that you have supported safer walking and bicycling in your community. (short answer) *

I have worked with HPD and the City and County to increase or modify to make safer a number of crosswalks in Hawaii Kai, especially on Kalaniana'ole Hwy at Portlock Road, and in Kalama Valley. I am also in my third year of discussions with prohibiting left turns out the Chevron station at the Koko Marina Shopping Center - which is absolutely dangerous! Lastly I have introduced legislation that calls for blinking light technologies embedded in the pavement outlining the perimeters of crosswalks.

8. The State has the Bike Plan Hawaii (2003) and the Statewide Pedestrian Master Plan (2013) for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. What will you do when elected to implement these plan? (short answer) *

Consult with the bicycle league first and then with Mr. Fujigami, Director of DOT; to create a timeline. My room at the Capitol is 318 and I welcome a briefing from your leadership before the 2017 Session. Mahalo for the questionnaire!

This form was created inside of Hawaii Bicycling League.

Google Forms