

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 *

Karen Awana

Candidate for *

State House District 43

Email *

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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?

Communities have been faced with rapid growth. The infrastructural needs prioritize vehicular traffic as the mode of transport. We need to seriously look at safe walking and bicycling paths as a viable source for residents as a means of commuting. As the champion of the road widening project in the Waianae Coast, I made it clear that we need to incorporate walking and bicycling paths. It has been included and I am looking forward to the completion of this project. Both legislators and the administrators need to consider the safety of all.

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

Yes, I am willing to introduce such legislation as I believe it is an important step in taking the needs of bicyclists seriously. In the past, my bill provided the language for the "Move Over Law" to ensure that drivers move over one lane when an emergency responder is assisting a driver on a roadway. Providing a safe distance must be made available. Bicyclists deserve the right to use the roadway in a safe manner.

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

The Waianae Coast has encountered too many bicycling and pedestrian collisions with automobiles. In the past, this was caused by a lack of awareness in our community because we have been focused on roads for cars. I am grateful that your organizations have stepped up and played an integral role in informing others of these needs. In my earlier years, I would bike 10 miles each day on Farrington Highway. I understand the challenges of bicyclists. The dangers have increased dramatically. I have also been a member of the OMPO Policy Committee where I continued to be a staunch supporter of bike and walking paths.

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

Complete Streets must be at the forefront when planning transportation projects. Too many times, the priority is vehicular traffic. Biking and walking has been placed on the back burner and made available only when funds become available or is not considered at all. Although a law has been passed, the implementation of the law is where the administration takes the next step to ensure equal and safe access for all. I would support strong and expeditious implementation of Complete Streets projects and would support other legislators who are seeking support for projects in their communities.

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

As a member of the community, I supported a bicycling and walking paths that would allow people to circle the entire island. I had shared my ideas with then Council member Nestor Garcia's office during a telephone survey. Since the early 2000 the island of Oahu has grown dramatically. Yet, the 2003 Bike Plan has not. I would support the update of this project to ensure that roads are made safe for bicyclists, logical connectivity is established, funding is provided and a the ability for those without a bike, may be able to acquire one temporarily through a series of bike stations located throughout the island. More need to know that biking can become a viable lifestyle. If elected, I would help to make this a reality.

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

In my discussion with residents, many would utilize modes other than an automobile for transport if they could. Because we have made roads for cars, commuters have used the system for this purpose. This would be an excellent opportunity for community advocacy in the form of education address the need to increase the rates of other modes of transportation - bike, walk, public transportation. I have attended many community meetings to discuss these issues, yet we fall short when it comes to follow up to ensure these ideas come to fruition. Kauai has taken the lead and there are pockets of success elsewhere. We can learn from these achievements and provide growth and improvement elsewhere.

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

I have participated in AARP community meetings to discuss safer walking and bicycling. I have attended City and County of Honolulu meetings on the future of bicycle projects. As a member of the OMPO Citizens Advisory Council and the Policy Committee, I have spoken in support of safe walking and biking paths. I have championed a major capital improvement project that incorporated safe walking and bicycling paths. I have shared my support for safe walking and bicycling paths in many other candidate questionnaires because I believe this is an important issue. I have had discussions with pedestrians and bicyclist in and out of the community. I have walked and biked in my community.

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) *

I would work with other legislators to establish a caucus or working group focused on ensuring the implementation of these plans. In addition, we would work with community and organizations to hear their concerns and issues. We would work with the administration to ensure they are aware of our issues. Lastly, if funding is required, I would introduce legislation make sure adequate funding is provided.

This form was created inside of Hawaii Bicycling League.

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