

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 *

Nicole Lowen

Candidate for *

State House, District 6

Email *

nicole@nicolelowen.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?

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

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

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

Yes, and in addition this should be integrated with creating functional, usable, human-scale public spaces and places. Too often, in Hawaii County, I've seen complete streets policy implemented (i.e. there is a bike lane and/or sidewalk), but the design of the space is such that it is fundamentally still designed around automobiles, and is not inviting to the pedestrian or cyclist. Complete streets should also include consideration of secure places for cyclists to park/lock their bikes.

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

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

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

In 2015 I passed a resolution to create a working group to redesign our unsafe bike lanes through the center of Kailua-Kona. The working group successfully reached an agreement on a new design, and the DOT finished implementing the changes this year. In addition I support the work of PATH, especially the Queen's Lei Path project, and the bike share pilot that is coming to Kona soon!

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 can work with our advocacy groups to introduce legislation to further this effort, including requiring updates, funding needed positions, and encouraging our executive branch to implement their plans.
