

# 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 \***

Laura H. Thielen

**Candidate for \***

State Senate, District 25 (Kailua, Waimanalo, Hawaii Kai)

**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?

We need more off-road walking and biking options, including dedicated bikeways and paths separated from roads by medians, parking areas (King Street) or barriers.

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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

I recognize the law by itself will not ensure safety of cyclists or compliance by motorists, so I also support including education requirements, including in all license tests and renewals.

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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

I have been pushing the DOT to incorporate the dedicated funds for alternative transportation into their highway improvement projects, rather than treating the "Safe Routes to Schools" exclusively as a grant program, because very few community organizations can handle the complexity of capital improvement projects, especially when they touch state or county roads.

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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

Thankfully, due to a change in DOT Administration, we were able to get the complete streets approach incorporated into the DOT highway improvements going into Waimanalo. I was working hard on this over the past four years.

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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

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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

But we have to be mindful that targets alone do not get us the end product. We need allies within DOT, and among policy makers who can continue to champion these goals in our laws and budgets.

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

Worked with DOT to incorporate bike paths and sidewalks on Kalaniana'ole Hwy improvement in Waimanalo; prioritized bikeway connectivity planning for Kailua in our budget.

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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) \*

Keep working with DOT to incorporate Safe Routes to Schools in their projects for highways near schools, and using alternative funds to expand their projects elsewhere to include safe pedestrian and bike paths.

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This form was created inside of Hawaii Bicycling League.

Google Forms