

# 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 \***

Michael Bennett MD

**Candidate for \***

Senate - diamond head to Hawaii Kai (district 9)

**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?

As a cyclist and runner (10 ironmans) we need to make our streets safer. The current "pedestrian crossings" that are in the middle of high speed roads - without traffic lights- are extremely dangerous. Weekly on kapilolani I sadly watch both accidents and near misses.

If we would walk an extra block or two, to cross with the light, we would all be much safer.

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 am currently riding 200 miles a week and get a "close pass" numerous times on every ride. Aside from being buzzed by various F150 side view mirrors, the new danger is the distracted texting and Pokemon drivers.

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

As a Physician and Surgeon, our childhood obesity and diabetes rates are sky rocketing - we need to provide and encourage safe alternatives.

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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

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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 it can not be managed like our current politicians are managing the Rail.

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

I am a rider and runner. Sadly I have had to take the majority of my training off road to minimize my risks of becoming another accident statistic. We need to work collectively to fix this problem.

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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) \***

I would encourage updating these plans and modernizing for today's congestion and past failed projects.

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This form was created inside of Hawaii Bicycling League.

Google Forms