

# Walking & Bicycling Questionnaire for Candidates

This Walking & Biking Questionnaire for State Candidates 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 as you provide. Please respond by July 11, 2018. 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 \*

Val Okimoto

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Candidate for \*

State House 36 (Mililani Mauka, Mililani, Waipio Acres)

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Email \*

val@valokimoto.com

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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?

In the Sunday paper (7/8/18) we read an article about the eighth annual Zachary Manago's Ride, raising awareness about safety for all who use the road. This sad tragedy is just one example of the importance of walking and bike safety awareness and education. In order to help prevent another innocent loss of life, as Zachary Manago, bike and road safety awareness should be a priority for all communities. Transportation options are key in providing safe environments on the roads for all users.

Being that Mililani is a community where families of all ages and stages of life reside, I feel it is important to continue with Bike Education at school. I was able to participate as a parent volunteer for Bike Ed at my daughter's elementary school, and greatly appreciate the knowledge and awareness that was passed on to our keiki. A good population of our students ride their bikes to school each day. I feel that drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians would all benefit from more bike safety options at and around schools.

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2. Hawaii received \$178 million in federal transportation funds in 2018, 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 support the ethical use of government funds (federal and state) in order to keep our residents safe, especially in areas suffering a shortage of safe walking and bike paths.

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3. The state Department of Transportation's 2003 Bike Plan Hawaii provides a plan for development of a network of bicycle facilities to enable those of all ages to cycle for transportation. The plan has not been fully implemented. I support the immediate updating of this 15-year-old plan in order to integrate new bikeway planning practices and make it more applicable to current conditions. (YES or No, and any comments) \*

Yes

No

### Comments

I support the updating of the Department of Transportation's Bike Plan Hawaii in order to integrate bikeway paths in our communities statewide. Having said that I feel the paths should be properly placed on roads where they do not interfere with cars traveling. In Mililani we do have designated bike paths, however, in some areas they appear to not be properly placed (near the center of the car lane vs. nearer, /more parallel to the sidewalk) and could possibly cause a safety concern for both bicyclists and motorists in vehicles.

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4. 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

No

## Comments

I would support the establishments of specific targets to increase alternate transportation around my community and our state, such as bikes and walk paths. Utilizing these modes of transportation would also be healthy for the residents here as well as good for the environment.

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5. Vision Zero is a government commitment to achieve zero traffic fatalities tied with a comprehensive approach and specific actions in engineering, enforcement, and education. I support the adoption of a "Vision Zero" policy at the state level and development of a comprehensive plan with specific actions to achieve zero traffic fatalities. (YES or No, and any comments) \*

Yes

No

## Comments

It estimated that there are presently approximately 40,000 American traffic fatalities per year. I would support actions taken to adopt a "Vision Zero" where a team consisting of various contributors (i.e., engineers, policy makers, local traffic planners, and public health professionals) organize and implement a plan addressing issues relating to road safety.

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6. Red light and speed enforcement cameras have been proven to improve traffic safety for all roadway users (motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians) by reducing incidents of red light and speed violations. I support the implementation of red light and speed enforcement cameras at high injury intersections and corridors and in school zones. \*

Yes

No

## Comments

Hawaii has one of the highest fatality rates of deaths in cross walks. Due to the fact that our police department is stretched thin and is not able to keep up with all law enforcement issues, having red light and speed enforcement cameras at major intersections would be beneficial for the safety of all roadway users. This would help keep our residents safe, from kupuna to keiki.

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

Currently I serve as a Director on the Mililani Town Association Board of the MTA, which has allowed me to discuss the needs of our community that may come up in a future conversation and I will be better prepared to vote and answer questions.

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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) \*

If I'm fortunate enough to get on the transportation committee, I will be certain to follow up by implementing and renewing these plans. Makng sure it is comprehensive, implementable as well as funded.

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This form was created inside of Hawaii Bicycling League.

Google Forms