State of Hawaii Candidate
Walking and Bicycling Questionnaire

Name: Jeanné Kapela
Candidate for: State House, District 5
Email address: jeanne@jeannekapela.com

1. I believe that walking and bicycling should be safe transportation options available to all, and that we need to drastically reduce injuries and deaths of people who walk and bike.

   YES

2. I support increased use of Hawaii's federal transportation funding allocations for bicycle and pedestrian projects to make walking and bicycling safer. Hawaii received $156 million in federal transportation funds in 2019, only 2% ($3.12million) of this amount is reserved for walking and bicycling projects. The state Department of Transportation can deploy these funds and has the option to use larger portions of federal transportation funds for walking and bicycling projects. This year, at least in part due to COVID19, more people are walking and bicycling than ever.

   YES

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. Considering the fact that this year there has been a dramatic increase in the sales of bicycles in Hawaii to meet the demand in bicycling, 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

4. Prior to COVID19 and the year 2020, eighty-one percent of Hawaii commuters drove as their primary way of getting to work and 12% walked, biked, or took 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

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

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

7. In large part due to the Stay at Home orders, we have seen a rise in the numbers of people walking and bicycling. Describe ways that you have supported, or plan to support, safer walking and bicycling in our communities. (short answer)

    My district on the Big island (State House District 5) is nearly 100 miles long and includes some highly economically disadvantaged areas. Some of these places even lack running water, much less safe bike paths and sidewalks. I believe that we need to better leverage federal and state resources to create safe walkways and bike paths, including by more heavily investing in and and incentivizing communal use of the federal Safe Routes to School Program.

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 plans? (short answer)

    I will call for a task force to evaluate the implementation of and update these plans, so that pedestrians and non-automotive travelers have safe spaces in which to commute. I believe that doing so will also support our state's goal of reducing carbon emissions in our fight against climate change.

9. Trees lower temperature during the day, provide protection from the sun and rain, are a nice buffer to cars, and have a calming effect on traffic. Given that trees make it safer and more comfortable to walk and bicycle, do you support adding more trees to your area's inventory?

    YES