

State of Hawaii Candidate Walking and Bicycling Questionnaire

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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: Using natural ways of transportation like walking, running, and biking should be a human right for all residents of Hawai'i. No one, regardless of age, should feel unsafe or incapable to commute. Government cannot keep urging people to be pedestrian commuters without providing the infrastructure and safety to do so.

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: Our state spends so much time and energy on trying to figure out how to reduce traffic and make commuting more efficient when some of the answers are quite simple.

Sidewalks, bike paths, and pedestrian bridges are easy, simple, and relatively cost effective measures to help our people move freely within their own communities.

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: The fact is, we live on island with year round great weather. If we become overly dependent on personal cars, we would live on an island packed with roads and parking lots. Most people I know only commute 5 miles or less to their destination so it should not be as hard as it currently is to bike/walk to work and school.

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Cutting our use of personal autos is good for our residents and our natural environment. Public funding needs to be centered on humans and not vehicles.

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: Other countries and cities have shown us that traffic fatalities are avoidable and are not a fact of life. Preserving human life should not just be the top priority of every government official, but the the top priority of every human being.

I fully support Vision Zero on behalf of every family who has lost a loved one too soon to an avoidable accident.

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: I have noticed at certain times, especially at night, vehicles will disregard all traffic signs and lights because of the lack of police presence. With a police force already experiencing low numbers, it only makes sense to make our traffic enforcement smarter and more efficient.

We have to stop this driver culture that views our safety laws as guidelines rather than strict rules.

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)

As a pedestrian commuter myself, I am a huge advocate for people to walk and bike to work, especially in the urban Honolulu area. I hope people use this period to learn how easy it might be them to walk to work. Unfortunately, there are so many streets in our urban core that have small or no sidewalks at all. There are also streets that can barely fit a single car, let alone room for an additional bike path.

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)

If government becomes an institution of broken promises, people will lose faith and withdrawal their involvement from critical projects.

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As a state senator, I would publicly address the the state transportation department to begin implementing the plans we spent so much time and money on drafting. I would introduce legislation that would increase the communication abilities between city and state departments so that no work done would be redundant.

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: Yes, 100%. Out of all the neighborhood board meetings I have attended I have noticed that residents always discuss adding more trees to particular areas. That, and there is always hostility if the state or city has to remove trees for safety and other reasons.

Outside of providing beauty and shaded comfort for outdoor recreation and pedestrian commuters, trees are critical to our environment in reducing pollution and curbing the effects of climate change. Adding more trees to our communities is a win win for our islands and our planet.