

Spoke-n-Words

www.hbl.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2008 will be another year of change for HBL and the future looks bright. As incoming President, I look forward to working with all of you to advance HBL's cause to promote bicycling education and advocacy in our community. First, I would like to recognize and thank the outgoing HBL Officers, and welcome the new ones. Past President Bob Mon and Secretary John Goody have served HBL tirelessly for the past several years lending their talent, inspiration and time to move HBL's mission forward. HBL owes a great deal to these gentlemen for their contributions, and we look forward to their continued involvement and support of HBL in the future. I also want to welcome new Vice President Jennifer Diesman and Secretary Stephen Shoultz. They are both very qualified people who will carry on the work started by the outgoing Officers. Ed Young continues as our very capable Treasurer. The new Officers, including myself, have big shoes to fill. We are looking forward to a another year of success with the support of our wonderful HBL Staff and Board of Directors.

In the last President's Message, Bob Mon talked about implementing HBL's Strategic Plan and emphasized Advocacy, Education and Events as the three areas that will be our priorities this coming year. Carrying out the plan requires the dedicated efforts of the HBL staff and volunteers from our membership and the community at large. This means focusing our limited and precious resources on the most important tasks to accomplish our goals in these three areas. These important tasks include:

Advocacy – find ways to be more visible and relevant so that our collective voice is heard at City Council, State Government, and the public at large to influence changes in government policies and the public's attitude toward cycling. Promote improvements in traffic safety and cycling facilities to benefit all cyclists, our neighborhoods and communities.

Education – improve the BikeEd program and find additional resources to expand the program to serve more school children and even adults. Yes, adults! What better way could we find than to engage the parents of BikeEd students and other adults to educate them about the benefits and joys of cycling, and contribute to positive changes in our community.

Events – expand our sponsorships and find additional fund raising opportunities to support our Advocacy and Education goals.

We are looking forward to greater achievements in 2008. In order to do that, we need all of you to engage your family, friends and neighbors to help HBL achieve its goals. With your support we can realize our dream of making Hawaii a better place to bike and live. Oh.....and one other thing, ride your bike and have fun!

Bob Bengtson



John B. Kelley Haleiwa Metric Century Ride

Ride 25, 50, or 100 kilometers along the North Shore through Haleiwa and past Pipeline, Waimea, and Shark's Cove. This ride is fully supported with aid stations, mechanical support, police, and medical staff. Registration is open now – to register, download a registration form or register online.

Are Male Cyclists Killed More Often?

Read the Department of Health's "Summary of Motor Vehicle Crashes, Bicyclists" on HBL's website.



Visit HBL's website for a new, dynamic rides calendar with over a dozen monthly rides. To add your ride, email John Climaldi

WHAT'S INSIDE?

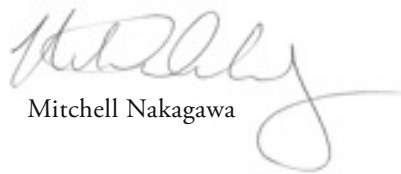
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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The HBL's Spoke-N-Words newsletters are way to communicate what's happening at the office, keep abreast of cycling news, and keep informed with your community. In each issue, we'll highlight Advocacy, Events, and Membership news to keep all abreast of what's happening. In addition, we'll include information regarding bikeway projects and our work with the Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Transportation Services (DTS), Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO), or the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Bicycling (MACB). These regular communications will be one way you can keep informed of what HBL is doing and how you can be involved.

These regular communications are one channel – our website is updated weekly with new content. Videos highlight a wide-range of topics, from livable communities to cycling in other parts of the globe. Forums allow us to keep in contact with others and make new friends. Committee email lists provide specific information in each of our programs. These are some of the tools to strengthen our ohana and maintain the close relationships and communications we've all built over the years.

We want to hear from you. Share your feedback with us; your ideas, suggestions, and visions. Stop by the office, call, email, or post on the HBL website and contribute to the future of cycling in Hawai'i.



Mitchell Nakagawa

RIDE OF SILENCE

May 16, 2007

The Ride of Silence aims to raise cycling awareness during bike safety month among the community, public officials, and motorists and cyclists alike. The ride is a chance to mourn and respect those who have already killed or injured while cycling; all riders wear black arm bands, red if you have had a bike/motor vehicle accident.

Who: Cyclists especially, but also runners and others who share the road.

When: May 16, 2007, 5:00pm. Registration and Check-in at Kakaako Waterfront Park (677 Ala Moana Boulevard) traveling on Ala Moana Blvd. to Nimitz Highway to Dillingham Blvd., to Waikamilo Road (heading Diamond Head) to N. King Street (turns into S. King Street, to Kapahulu Avenue to Ala Wai Blvd., to Kapiolani Blvd., to Cooke Street, ending at Kakaako Waterfront Park.

Why:

- to mourn and respect cyclists killed or injured;
- to raise awareness among the community, public officials, and motorists of cyclists on the road;
- to heighten the awareness of the "Share the Road" philosophy.

For more information call 808-735-5756 or visit www.hbl.org or www.rideofsilence.org



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Don van Deventer, Jessica Wooley

Executive Director
Mitchell Nakagawa

HBL Staff
Gail Lum, Administrative Assistant,
Chet Blanton BikeEd(sm) Team Leader,
Megan Happy & Geri Maeshiro,
BikeEd(sm) Hawaii Instructors.

- Organization**
- 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, incorporated December 1975.
 - Over 80,000 4th grade children in public schools taught safe bicycling techniques in BikeEd.
 - 3 full-time administrative staff and 3 part-time BikeEd instructors.
 - 15 member Board of Directors.
 - 6,000 children reached annually in BikeEd.
 - 5,000 participants annually in Events, that serve as fundraisers for HBL. 40% travel to Hawai'i to participate.
 - Members of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Bicycling and Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization.
 - Affiliated with the League of American Bicyclists (LAB), the United States Cycling Federation (USCF), NORBA, IMBA and the Thunderhead Alliance.

The mission of the Hawaii Bicycling League is to promote cycling for health, recreation, and transportation through advocacy, education, and events.

Improving Conditions for Bicycling: Yes We Can

Efforts to improve conditions for bicycling in Hawai'i are growing and change is imminent. With your support and participation, the bicycling community is poised to see some real results in the coming years.

New Pro-Bike Laws/Policies Hawai'i now leads the nation with the adoption of some of the most progressive laws and policies to support bicycling. Honolulu is one of the first City's to include language in its Charter to make the City pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Hawai'i is also one of the few states that requires its Department of Transportation (DOT) to spend a minimum of 2% of its highway funds for bikeways and work with advocate groups to assure implementation. Presently, there is legislation pending to strengthen protections for bicyclists on the road by amending the state traffic code.

Unfortunately, laws are not enough. The bicycling community must hold government agencies accountable to ensure these laws are effectively implemented. There are signs of positive change.

Changes at DOT The promotion of former Highways Deputy Brennon Morioka to DOT Director means continued (and perhaps expanded) support for greater bicycle (and pedestrian) infrastructure and programs. In recent months DOT:

- filled the long-vacant state Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator position with a dedicated engineer who is meeting with HBL regularly to address concerns.
- is developing a systematic method to track bicycle improvements in all DOT construction projects so plans can be monitored and information provided to the community
- contracted a firm to update the list of priority projects in the State Bike Plan with the intent of expediting implementation of more projects
- announced its community grants program for the federally-funded Safe Routes to School program that is designed to encourage more children to bike and walk to school (HBL has submitted a grant proposal to evaluate and update the Bike Ed curriculum and develop bike-to-school promotions with individual schools)
- adopted recommendations for bicycle improvements in its Strategic Highway Safety plan and is planning to work with community groups to develop implementation actions.
- The roadway maintenance staff continue to respond to bicyclists' reports of hazards along state roadways.

Changes at the City The City is updating its Master Bike Plan. Plans for community input will be announced in the near future. The focus on Transit-Oriented-Development (TOD) will help promote communities around each rail transit stop where bicycling (and walking) are the preferred modes of transport. These areas will be higher density, mixed use (housing in close proximity to retail and other services) and include bicycle/pedestrian amenities. There is a new Chair of the Mayor's Advisory Council on Bicycling and a new Director for Transportation Services. Planning for May 2008 Bike Month activities are well underway.

Safer Streets The surge of pedestrian fatalities in the state, especially among our elderly continues. Shamefully, Hawaii has the highest pe-

Photo Highlight

Have a photo to be considered in the next Spoke-N-Words? Email us at bicycle@hbl.org.



destrian death rate among the elderly nationwide and also has one of the highest bicycle fatality rates per capita in the U.S. Overwhelming support to make Hawai'i's roadways safer and more enjoyable for all users has generated a groundswell of activism, resulting in a powerful alliance of groups and individuals to form One Voice for Livable Islands. The membership of this group includes HBL, AARP, Sierra Club, American Planning Association, and Hawaii Public Health Association. One Voice is currently developing its Action Agenda for 2008.

Neighborhood Boards HBL volunteer, Natalie Iwasa, is coordinating an island-wide campaign to have each neighborhood board adopt resolutions supporting increased bicycle safety. Over 50% of the boards have passed the resolutions.

Is Your Community Bike-able? Under the Department of Health's Healthy Hawaii Initiative, HBL members are receiving training to conduct neighborhood bike-ability (and walk-ability) assessments to identify solutions to potential problems. Communities under consideration for assessments in the future are the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Kailua, Mo'ili'ili-McCully, 'Ewa, Leeward Coast.

Everyone's Going Green Want to reduce your carbon footprint: ride a bike for fun, health, to run short errands to the store, and commuting to work. With increasing gasoline prices, more people are re-examining their dependence on cars and its adverse effects including reliance on fossil fuels, pollution and global warming, traffic congestion/longer commuting times and resulting stress/loss of productivity, consumption of more land for roadways and parking, and the negative impacts of quality of life and public health.

Support Change! Now more than ever, HBL needs your support. Go to HBL's website for more detailed information on the projects mentioned and join HBL's advocacy list to get regular updates. We need your participation/input to assure we achieve real results.

Do a little or a lot. Just do something to ensure biking is safer and more enjoyable for all.



with Christopher Dacus

HBL is a member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Bicycling (MACB), which is comprised of "citizens who are interested in improving conditions for bicycling in Honolulu." The committee's purpose is to advise on bicycle projects, policy, and communication. To participate or for more information, contact Chris Sayers, the City and County's Bicycle Coordinator at csayers@honolulu.gov.

There are four working groups; project review, public policy, advocacy and research groups.

We thank John Goody for his years of service as the chair of the MACB and welcome Christopher Dacus, of the Department of Transportation, as the new chair.

which are held the second Tuesday at the Fasi Municipal building 3rd floor DTS conference room. Secondly, the MACB is comprised mostly of volunteers from the community that are interested in making Honolulu a more bicycle friendly city. Lastly, MACB has four working groups that meet in between MACB meeting which is great way for the community to participate in issues that interest them. There are four working groups; project review, public policy, advocacy and research groups. If you are interested send an email to bicycle@hbl.org.

What is the biggest challenge facing the cyclist today?

The biggest challenge for cyclists in Honolulu is the competition for the limited space on our roads. I think most people believe Honolulu's growth has outgrown the capacity of our roads. While cyclist see bicycling as the solution, our culture in Hawaii is very car oriented. The challenge is making bicycling one of the primary solutions to our congestion problems.

What do you see to be the most likely state of cycling in five years?

In five years, I would like to see Honolulu become a more bicycle friendly city with more people cycling on safe bicycle paths, lanes and facilities better connecting our home, work and major destinations – a more livable and sustainable city.

What is the MACB and why is it important?

The MACB is the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Bicycling. For bicyclists, MACB is very important as the venue for public involvement in the city's transportation decisions.

How do you see the MACB representing the community?

The MACB represents the community in a number of ways and provides a venue for representation of bicycle issues in transportation projects. Anyone can attend the monthly MACB meetings

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

HBL offers a number of ways to be involved, to suit your interests and time commitment. Here's a few of the ways how:

Advocacy Committee

The CAC is the vehicle in which HBL organizes its advocacy efforts. These goals and polices include legislative advocacy efforts, bike projects on the state and county levels, and relationship building at the city and state levels.

Contact Mitchell Nakagawa for more information.

Education Committee

The Education Committee strategically develops the BikeEd Hawaii program, integrates bicycling education in HBL's programmatic areas, and develops bicycling education for the organization.

Contact Mitchell Nakagawa for more information.

Events Committee

The Events Committee manages the Haleiwa Metric Century and Honolulu Century Ride, Bike to Work Day, Family Rides, Group Rides, and a number of community events.

Contact John Climaldi for more information.

Group Rides

Share a one time ride or lead a regular ride.

Contact John Climaldi for more information.

John B. Kelley Haleiwa Metric Ride

Volunteer at an Aid Station and keep riders refreshed.

Contact John Climaldi for more information.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee explores and develops new membership benefits, focused primarily upon exclusive HBL benefits. The Committee also oversees membership retention, service, and participation.

More Information can be found here.

Road Monitor Volunteer

Help by being a road monitor by reporting road hazards in the area you ride.

Contact Mitchell Nakagawa for more information.

OneVoice

OneVoice is a coalition of stake-holders advocating for pedestrian and bicycle safety. Through OneVoice, we focus on advocating the rights of cyclists and pedestrians to promote livable communities, healthy lifestyles, influence community design, and educate the public and policy-makers on key issues.

Contact Mitchell Nakagawa for more information.

UNCLE EDDIE'S BICYCLING TIPS . . .

I thought I would devote a few words to recapping some of the things learned this legislation session. This has come about through collective efforts to improve pedestrian & bicycle safety laws in the state, to participate in the planning process, and to actually influence policy - and more importantly, the outcomes of the operations of public agencies and the spending of our tax dollars.

Well, the first lesson is to be prepared. Forget that one, nothing you've ever done before can quite match wending one's way through the maze of written and unwritten rules of the legislative process in Hawaii. The only way to figure it out is to jump in for the ride, and get more determined each round you survive, continuing right on through the year.

Seriously though, the sooner you start drafting bills or resolutions and the more good help you can get to improve them, the better. It seems to me that we have come a long way with the cooperative advocacy and advisory networking in the last few years, but we still have a long way to go. It shouldn't be so hard to get the vast majority of pedestrian and bicycling safety advocates on board for an action, or at least to find out why there might be a problem.

It's time that our good intentions and vision of safer and saner mobility really had an impact.

Another thing that seemed to ring true, and that is we need to be good salespeople if you will, fired up about the possibilities a future transportation system that is actually functional, safe, and sustainable. No matter what. I found that most people in Hawaii are

beginning to think about these things, and it's possible to engage them around what is and what could be. I found that I had to inspire some of the legislative staff for example, before I could hope to get the senator or representative or department chief excited.

Finally, I just want to remind myself that there's talking about something (and saying the right things and being on the right side of issues), which is not unimportant, but . . . Then there is doing something about an issue, talking about safety, writing about it, participating in groups and committees, and so on, and that's all good.

Then there is focusing on the outcomes of actions, programs, and expenditures. What difference did it really make? Did more children actually walk or pedal to school, and if so, how many more? Were fewer pedestrians and cyclists killed or injured this year compared with previous years, or are the numbers staying the same, or getting worse? These are the kind hard questions we have to ask ourselves I think, to be accountable somehow. And this is what we have to show to the politicians and public agencies and others involved. It's time that our good intentions and hard work and vision of safer and saner mobility really had an impact. Or we want to know why not.

Happy riding,
Uncle Eddie



Events Calendar

Visit HBL's Events and Rides Calendar online for a complete listing.

April 19 & 20

Kokua Festival Bike Valet

When: Saturday April 19 and Sunday April 20

Where: Waikiki Shell, Front Gates.

Information: Those utilizing the bike valet will automatically be entered into to win free swag!. Raffle will take place from the main stage on both nights of the show.

April 27

John B. Kelley Haleiwa Metric Century Ride

When: Sunday, April 29 7:30 AM

Where: Kaiaka Bay Beach Park, Oahu North Shore, Haliewa, HI 96712

Who: Any and all interested in riding 25, 50 or 100 kilometers along the scenic North Shore. Riders pass world-famous surfing beaches such as Waimea Bay, Sunset, and Pipeline.

May 16

Ride of Silence

When: May 16, 2007 5:00pm

Where: Begin and end at Kakaako Waterfront Park (677 Ala Moana Boulevard).

Who: Any and all who are interested in riding in memorial to those who have been killed or injured and want to bring awareness to the need for a safer cycling environment in Hawaii.

Information: A memorial ride to remember those cyclists who have been killed or injured while riding their bicycle.

May 16

National Bike to Work Day

When: Friday, May 18, 2007, 7:00 am

Where: Downtown, Honolulu

Who: EVERYONE! We encourage you to ride your bicycle to work that day. Ride all the way in from home, throw your bike on The Bus, any which way.

Information: Come out for coffee, water and pastries as well as the chance to win some awesome goodies from local area bike shops!