

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: March 25, 2024 CONTACT: Eduardo Hernandez - 808-690-7396 - *eduardo@hbl.org* 

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## Hawai'i Bicycling League expresses condolences following the tragic death of two cyclists in Ewa Beach on Sunday, calling on Mayor Blangiardi and HPD to thoroughly investigate and re-affirm Honolulu's commitment to <u>Complete Streets</u> and <u>Vision Zero</u>.

## Everyone deserves the opportunity to be safe on our roadways.

On Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, two people riding bicycles were killed after a driver lost control of his vehicle while traveling on Iroquois Road at the intersection with Fort Weaver Road. The cyclists were crossing in a marked crosswalk when they were fatally struck.

"Our cycling community shares heartfelt condolences with the family and friends of these riders. While words cannot adequately address the immeasurable loss these families are experiencing, we are united in our aloha for them and all victims of vehicular violence. We will work relentlessly to prevent future tragedies from occurring," said Eduardo Hernandez, Advocacy Director with Hawai'i Bicycling League.

No one deserves to be killed while using and sharing our roadways on O'ahu (or anywhere). That's why transportation planners, policymakers, stakeholders, and members of the public are united in striving towards Complete Streets and Vision Zero. These proven methods to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities have been adopted at the City, State, and National Levels. Nevertheless, there continue to be too many fatalities, especially for the most vulnerable road users, including people walking and biking. Hawai'i Bicycling League calls on Mayor Blangiardi to reaffirm the City's commitment to Vision Zero and Complete Streets.

Additionally, Hawai'i Bicycling League calls on Mayor Blangiardi and the Honolulu Police Department to thoroughly investigate yesterday's deadly crash in Ewa Beach. The public has a right to know if illegal speeding or distracted driving were factors in this incident. Enforcement of public safety laws must be a top priority for elected representatives and the police. We must work together to prevent these tragedies from occurring in the first place.

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## About Hawai'i Bicycling League

Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 1975 with a mission to continuously evolve our community into a better place for biking. The organization advocates for more and safer biking facilities, along with legislation that improves safety for bicyclists. HBL provides education to people of all ages and abilities to improve their safety and comfort, and also instructs motorists about laws and how they can reduce crashes with people on bikes. HBL's BikeEd program, has taught bike safety to more than 100,000 4<sup>th</sup> graders since 1989. Signature events organized by HBL include the annual Honolulu Century Ride, Zachary Manago's Ride in Paradise, and the Hale'iwa Metric Century, among others and numerous weekly group rides. HBL is funded by grants, donations, memberships, and proceeds from events. Complete information is available at <a href="https://www.hbl.org">www.hbl.org</a>