

# WALK. BIKE. VOTE.

## 2024 Hawai'i Active Transportation Candidate Survey



The [Hawai'i Bicycling League](#) (HBL), [Kauai Path](#), [Maui Bicycling League](#) (MBL), and [People for Active Transportation Hawaii](#) (PATH) emailed candidates for election in Hawaii across eight contests including: State Senator, State Representative, County Councils statewide and Mayor in Hawai'i County and Honolulu. This survey aims to understand candidates' positions on key transportation initiatives, including Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and the recent Navahine F. + Hawaii Department of Transportation settlement agreement. These initiatives focus on creating safer, more accessible, and environmentally friendly transportation options for all residents and visitors of Hawai'i.

*Responses below are pulled directly from survey responses and have not been edited by HBL.*

**Candidate Name:** Blaine Kenji Bautista

**Email:** blaine4hawaiiicounty@gmail.com

**Contest:** Hawai'i County Councilmember **District:** 2

### Complete Streets Initiative

**Support for Complete Streets is:** 5

*From 1-5 (least to most)*

**Additional Complete Streets Comments:** I'm a strong believer in Complete Streets policies. To make them a reality, I would hold public forums to hear directly from residents about the areas they use most and what safety improvements they need. By prioritizing these community concerns and areas, we can create streets that are safe and accessible for everyone.

### Vision Zero Initiative

**Support for Vision Zero is:** 5

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*From 1-5 (least to most)*

**Additional Vision Zero Comments:** I wholeheartedly support integrating Vision Zero principles into everyday driving habits. Regular education is key! Imagine requiring refresher courses on safe driving practices every time you renew your license, say every five years. This, combined with ongoing efforts to improve road safety through infrastructure changes, would create a powerful ripple effect. Safer roads and more educated drivers would significantly reduce traffic accidents and fatalities.

## **Navahine + HDOT Settlement Agreement**

**Support for Emission Reduction Efforts is: 5**

*From 1-5 (least to most)*

**Additional Emission Reduction Comments:** I would encourage widespread adoption of fuel-efficient cars. First, by offering more attractive incentives, buying a hybrid or electric car (EV) would become a smarter financial decision. Second, building a robust and much needed network of convenient charging stations around the Big Island, that would eliminate range anxiety for EV owners. Finally, car manufacturers should focus on developing hybrids with even better fuel economy, making them even more appealing to a wider range of drivers.

## **Personal Transportation Habits**

**Frequency of Public Transportation Usage:** No Usage

**Additional Comments About Public Transportation Use:** I appreciate the Hele-On bus system, but for my work, it's not always the most practical option. My job requires me to travel to various locations, and unfortunately, the bus routes don't always reach those areas. Additionally, with Hilo's frequent rain showers, many bus stops lack proper shelters, making waiting for the bus uncomfortable.

**Frequency of Active Transportation Usage:** Weekly

**Additional Comments About Active Transportation:** I'm lucky to be active at work and have a furry walking buddy! Judo and Jiu-Jitsu also keep me fit. However, getting around

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Hilo mainly by walking isn't always feasible. Unlike Oahu, where many errands can be done on foot, Hilo's sprawl and limited sidewalks make walking impractical for most trips. Additionally, while I love exploring downtown, safety concerns have become a factor in recent times.

## **Additional comments:**

Our streets should be safe for everyone, regardless of how they choose to get around. That's why I'm a strong advocate for Complete Streets policies that prioritize the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. This means designing roads with wider sidewalks, protected bike lanes, and well-marked crosswalks. These improvements not only encourage active transportation like walking and cycling, but also make our streets safer for everyone.

Vision Zero, the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and serious injuries, should be at the forefront of our transportation planning. By focusing on infrastructure improvements, education campaigns, and responsible driving practices, we can create a safer environment for all road users. Encouraging active transportation options like walking and cycling further reduces reliance on cars, contributing to a safer and healthier community.