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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: Rebecca Villegas

Email: bambooshute@gmail.com

Contest: Hawai'i County Councilmember **District:** District 7

Complete Streets Initiative

Support for Complete Streets is: 5

From 1-5 (least to most)

Additional Complete Streets Comments: As the Hawaii County Council Member for District 7 at the time of this Proclamation, I voted in support of Complete Streets. I will continue to require any and all developments to abide by these practices and push for older roads and pathways to be improved and brought up to these standards.

Vision Zero Initiative

Support for Vision Zero is: 5

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From 1-5 (least to most)

Additional Vision Zero Comments: Achieving Hawaii County District 7's Vision Zero goals requires a comprehensive approach aimed at eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while promoting safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all road users.

During my first three terms in office I advocated for engineering and infrastructure improvements. I've been a strong voice in support of safe road design, complete streets requirements, traffic calming measures and protected bike lanes. I voted in support of the passage of Vision Zero in Hawaii County, utilized contingency relief funds to support public education campaigns, lowered speed limits in high risk areas, and worked to ensure that safety improvements and resources were distributed equitably across the island. In order to improve response times, I've supported our first responders and approved funding to make sure they have the necessary equipment and resources.

My continued advocacy for these, and other, actions and strategies, support Hawaii County's work towards achieving its Vision Zero goals, creating safer and more equitable streets for all residents and visitors

Navahine + HDOT Settlement Agreement

Support for Emission Reduction Efforts is: 5

From 1-5 (least to most)

Additional Emission Reduction Comments: Reducing emissions from the transportation sector in Hawaii County, while improving multi-modal transportation options in alignment with Vision Zero, involves a multifaceted approach.

I will continue supporting the development of active transportation infrastructure in District 7. This will include expanding the network of protected bicycle lanes and encouraging cycling as a safe and viable mode of transportation. I have allocated funds directly for the expansion of the Biki Bike Sharing program so our community has

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convenient access to bicycles. I'll also continue supporting improvements to and expansion of sidewalks, pedestrian pathways and crosswalk to promote walking, especially in Kailua Village.

As the Council person for District 7, I've provided policy and legislative support to develop and enforce policies that support sustainable and low-emission transportation options. I approved funding for sustainable transportation projects through grants, public-private partnerships, and dedicated local taxes.

I continue to vote in favor of policies to increase the availability of EV charging stations throughout the County and approve of providing incentives for residents and businesses to purchase electric vehicles. Our county and public service fleets are transitioning to electric vehicles and I've supported this transition every step of the way.

By focusing on these and other strategies, I am an advocate for Hawaii County's work towards reducing emissions from the transportation sector, enhancing multi-modal transportation options, and aligning with Vision Zero goals to create a safer, healthier, and more sustainable environment for all residents and visitors.

Personal Transportation Habits

Frequency of Public Transportation Usage: No Usage

Additional Comments About Public Transportation Use: Unfortunately, public transportation isn't available in my area at this time in the capacity necessary for me to fulfill my responsibilities and obligations of service as District 7's Hawaii County Council Member. However, I'm honored to have supported and helped fund the County of Hawaii Mass Transit Agency during my first three terms in office. They have made monumental strides towards providing timely, equitable and efficient opportunities for more community members to utilize public transportation.

Frequency of Active Transportation Usage: Weekly

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Additional Comments About Active Transportation: I live on the Waiua Road Park Walking path and use it often for exercise, to visit neighbors and to walk the dogs. During my first two terms I advocated for much needed improvements and repaving of the path. During my third term, I collaborated with the Department of Parks and Recreation and Department of Public Works to fund and complete the project.

Additional comments: