

# 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:** Zahz Manawapou HewLen

**Email:** zahzhewlen@gmail.com

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

### Complete Streets Initiative

**Support for Complete Streets is:** 5

*From 1-5 (least to most)*

**Additional Complete Streets Comments:** In our district we aren't receiving the necessary advocacy and attention for funding the much needed upgrades for our roads. We have roads and intersections that see accidents monthly, obsolete in maintaining the health and safety of the public. I want to perform an economic impact study to determine possible outcomes of a small visitor fee. If successful we could bring millions in to Hawaii county to be allocated for environmental and infrastructure initiatives. Otherwise, it's important that I maintain strong collaborative and working relationships with fellow council members, the Mayor, state representatives, and senators despite personal beliefs to bring federal and state funding to our roads in District 7.

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## Vision Zero Initiative

**Support for Vision Zero is: 5**

*From 1-5 (least to most)*

**Additional Vision Zero Comments:** We do not have to keep doing things the same way we always have. I want to prioritize diversity in modes of transportation and ensure we have the infrastructure and systems in place to support it. I know that there are multiple organizations involved in Vision Zero and I want to make sure that we are receiving expert guidance to help plan our roads. I want to identify and prioritize building road connections that will have the greatest impact first and do so with pedestrians and bicyclists in mind.

## Navahine + HDOT Settlement Agreement

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

*From 1-5 (least to most)*

**Additional Emission Reduction Comments:** This case and resulting agreement involve state-wide accountability. As a council member in Hawaii County, I would prioritize allocation of funds to meet complete streets criteria. I would work closely with state officials to ensure accountability for the benchmarks in the agreement. I would also want to perform a study of our roads in our district to identify which see the most vehicle traffic and ensure those roads are built for alternative modes of transportation.

## Personal Transportation Habits

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

**Additional Comments About Public Transportation Use:** I do not use public transportation as a result of a low amount and frequency of routes throughout the district. Hawaii County has a public transportation system that is woefully underutilized because of the many inconveniences that come with this mode of transport. It is best suited for long distance travel around the island but once you get to your destination we don't have sufficient localized public transport. For example, you can catch a bus from Hilo to Kona but

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once in Kona, how do you effectively get around? The trolley helps but that system and route is tourist focused.

## **Frequency of Active Transportation Usage:** Several Times Per Month

**Additional Comments About Active Transportation:** I will typically just walk. District 7 is on the slope of Hualalai. It is very hilly to get around. We don't have direct access to hikes or walking paths unless you are in a neighborhood that has one near by. We don't have open parks or places to recreate. It's very difficult to want to get around by any means other than a vehicle because we do not have the infrastructure in place to foster a safe culture of walking or biking.

## **Additional comments:**

My vision for Kona is one that can facilitate a healthy lifestyle overall and we need a specific plan to get there. From point a to point b we need to evaluate who we build roads for and ensure that we are meeting the agreements and criteria found in Complete Streets, Vision Zero, HDOT Settlement, and Active Transportation. We need to find a balance with the way we connect communities and protect the environment. My main goal is to foster a culture of alternative transportation that is not dependent on vehicles and that starts with obtaining funding to improve infrastructure and utilize the technology available to improve traffic overall.