**Bicycle Theft Reduction Team Proposal**

**Submitted: 4/7/2015**

**Mission Statement:** Bicycle Theft Reduction Team is committed to reduce the bicycle theft in Oahu by over 90% while supporting the overall state’s main objectives of increasing the number of cyclists on the road through education, improved registration, and state cooperative partnerships. We envision Hawaii to transform from being one of the worst cycling states to becoming the number one cycling state in the U.S.

**Main Objectives:** To develop a successful campaign that raises funds to reduce bicycle theft by 90%, increase the number of cyclists, fuel educational initiatives, improve the registration system, and actively work with HPD to create a Bike Theft Task Force.

**Social Impact of Bicycle Theft:**

Facts:

* According to the American Community Survey Report (2008-2012), urban Honolulu (census designated place) is 15th in the nation with 1.8% of commuters biking to work. With roughly 340,000 residents, it’s estimated 6,120 commuting bicyclists.
* As the Nation turns, Hawaii is still driven. (Nov 2014) Across America, people are driving a lot less in their cars, but vehicle miles in Hawaii are way up. http://www.hawaiibusiness.com/as-the-nation-turns-hawaii-is-still-driven/
* Data obtained from HPD annual statistic reports

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| Data obtained from HPD annual statistic reports | | | |  |  |
| Item | Year (Jan-Dec) | Stolen | Value | % change |  |
| Bicycle | 1999 | 1456 | $844,309 | N/A |  |
|  | 2000 | 1850 | $975,973 | N/A |  |
|  | 2005 | 946 | $329,770 | N/A |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2008 | 522 | $     186,322 | N/A |  |
|  | 2009 | 828 | $     377,284 | 59% |  |
|  | 2010 | 860 | $     364,409 | 4% |  |
|  | 2011 | 1,077 | $     453,195 | 25% |  |
|  | 2012 | 1,101 | $     443,736 | 2% |  |
|  | 2013 | 1,063 | - | -3% |  |
|  | 2014 | Stats not yet available | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 5 year % change | | 104% |  |

* Circulate state wide survey to achieve more facts to support BTRT initiatives

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MKTP6M9

See below for current survey results.

82 respondents (82%) have a bicycle that is registered.

44 respondents (44%) had a bicycle stolen at least once.

Of the 44 respondents who had a bicycle stolen…

* 50% made a police report
* 16% had their bicycle returned

**Bike Theft Education**

* Events targeting bike theft reduction incorporating government officials, and local artists who support the cycling community.
* Increase awareness through educating on how to properly secure your bike, health and environment benefits
* Create a buzz on bike theft education through social media , radio, television, newspaper, and magazines to raise funds and awareness
* Transparency on bike theft statistics and other funding projects
* Target local businesses and corporations
* Incorporates HPD Bike Theft Task Force
* Integrate Bike index.org to HBL site and other affiliated organizations
* Grass roots initiative to educate community about bikeindex.org
* Example of current educational initiatives that are working

<http://edmontonbikes.ca/>

* Excellent educational initiative to compare the costs of cycling versus driving to the city

[http://www.citylab.com/commute/2015/04/the-social-costs-of-driving-in-vancouver- in-1-chart/389805/?utm\_source=SFFB](http://www.citylab.com/commute/2015/04/the-social-costs-of-driving-in-vancouver-%20%20in-1-chart/389805/?utm_source=SFFB)

**Bike Registration**

Improve a bike registration system

* Register our own bicycles for free using an internet-connected computer or smartphone, and upload photos of the bike.
* Look up bikes by serial number to see if a bike has been stolen.
* Report that a bike has been stolen and record the circumstances of the theft (where, when, how it was locked)
* Compile data about bike theft trends in Hawaii to help target theft prevention efforts.

Solutions to improve current registration system

* Internet based registration system [bikeindex.org](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fbikeindex.org&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNHcT662bM7P8suoNVPB6E9nBA521Q) or similar free site
* Bicycle stores to register bikes as they are sold and to encourage their customers to register with this system.
* To get the existing registration system ported to the internet system to enable the public to quickly look up bike status by serial number anytime. (Current system is limited to working office hours.)
* Bicycle organizations to link to this registration service from their website and internet and paper communications and encourage their members to use this service.
* Repeal or make optional the law requiring bike registration and the payment of the $15 for a bike tax sticker.

-If there is to be a tax on bikes: make it a percentage of the sale price of bikes that are sold on island and divorce the tax from the registration system (make it a non-regressive tax).

* Registering a bike in the Hawaii system should be free or optional to encourage compliance.

More reasons for repealing the current law and modifying the current system:

* Police primarily appear to be enforcing the law when visiting homeless encampments, where bicycles are confiscated. This may cause yet more bikes to be stolen.
* Bikes with the yellow sticker are easier to protect from police seizure and may be more likely to be stolen.
* It is a system unique to Hawaii. No other state, city, or county to our knowledge has a mandatory bike tax that leads to seizure of stickerless bicycles (incur a $50 ticket)
* Newcomers and tourists do not expect this system. There are many newcomers and tourists here. There are many untaxed bikes. A police crackdown on untaxed bikes (outside of homeless camps) would be unpopular and would not encourage bicycling.
* Bike kitchens and cooperatives (KVIBE, Cycle Manoa) are hampered in reselling donated bikes due to the current system.

Per an interview with Rick of McCully bikes on April 3, 2015:

* With the current system, it takes four or more weeks for the bikes to get in the police system if registered in the store and not at the customer service window. It has happened where a stolen bike that was new was registered by someone at the service window before the store-delivered paperwork was processed. A lawyer would have to be hired to get the bike back Rick told the customer.
* Only some people who buy expensive bikes do not put the sticker on it.
* The yellow sticker can be removed and reapplied to other bikes. This is currently done in auto body shops with car and moped stickers.
* It costs $5 and more paperwork to transfer ownership of a bicycle. On bikeindex.org this is free and fast.

**Honolulu Police Department**

* Create a Bike Theft Task Force (Portland Bike Theft Task Force) <https://www.google.com/search?q=portland+bike+theft+task+force>

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/66825>

* Implement Bike Bait Program (San Francisco reduce bike theft by 20%)

http://www.cbsnews.com/news/rise-in-san-francisco-bike-theft-leads-to-bait-bikes/

* Streamline theft reports and recovery system by creating our own software program or use an existing system such as bikeindex.org
* Improve methods on how people report stolen bikes and how they are recovered
* Increase HPD participation at MACB, BTRT meetings and other educational platforms
* Improve communication between HPD, Registration/Customer Service and Community
* Implement GPS system and map finder for those cyclists who use this theft protection technology
* Utilize invisible PIN technology that would allow police to identify bikes and bike parts with a scanner.

<http://www.kgw.com/story/news/local/technology/2015/03/24/clear-stickers-could-be-secret-to-catching-bike-thieves/70408042/>

**Winning Campaign to Raise Funds and Accomplish Main Objectives**

Local initiatives

* Create a bike cooperative ([https://bikebike.org/organizations/](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fbikebike.org%2Forganizations%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNErs1X07MPfjKimiiywTHZ5cPgxPA)) in Kaka’ako and other central locations throughout the islands

-Responsible for dealing with impounded bikes. (Currently impounded bikes are shipped off island for sale.)

-Bicycles could be kept in a warehouse where people have two weeks to claim their bicycles. After two weeks, these bikes could be sold by the cooperative to help fund a bicycle kitchen open to the public.

* Establish fundraising events geared toward education and advocacy with local artists and businesses
* Support current cycling events with table and tent dedicated towards education, improved registration system with bikeindex.org and how to lock your bike properly
* Increase options for bike registration to bring in additional revenue

-Package 1: The Pro Cyclist ($50.00)

GPS anti-theft unit and tracks mileage

Rewards Card utilizing “Cycle to Eat Cycle to Live” program

“Am I a Bait Bike” Sticker

Normal Registration sticker

-Package 2: The Weekend Warrior ($40)

GPS unit

“Am I a Bait Bike” sticker

Normal Registration sticker

-Package 3: The Beach Cruiser ($15)

“Am I a Bait Bike” sticker

Normal Registration sticker

-Package 4: Riders in Need ($0) Receives grant money from state to register

Normal Registration sticker

* Create and Implement “Cycle to Eat, Cycle to Live” Program

-Create incentives for people to commute to work and cycle more

-Buy a yearly discount card exclusive to cyclists that feature participating businesses that offer special discounts and earn rewards for riding your bike

National initiatives

* Bikewalkalliance.org Contact: Brighid O’Keane
* Advocacyadvance.org
* Pursue current contacts in Portland, Vancouver, San Francisco and other communities who are successfully accessing these federal funds.
* Apply for federal grants