

## Parents must follow law to avoid e-bike tragedy

It was so sad to hear about the little girl who died from injuries after her e-bike collided with a car ("Girl, 7, dies 2 weeks after e-bike collision with car," Star-Advertiser, March 13). This tragedy is an opportunity to learn.

It is illegal for any child under the age of 15 to ride a "low-speed electric bicycle." Parents need to be educated on this. If they know this and still allow their underage children to ride one, they should be cited and face stiff penalties. If they continue, maybe they should be charged with child endangerment. As we have seen, it could be a life-or-death decision.

David Foss  
Aiea

## Additional DHHL funds will go to good home

Former state Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, who chaired the Hawaiian Affairs Committee, supported a range of legislation supporting the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. She often was reminded that Nanakuli has the largest Hawaiian population in the world.

Sen. Samantha DeCorte now represents District 22. When introducing herself and staff at a Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board meeting, her message was clear that she would fight for her community. Knowingly or not, some of her staff and maybe their ohana are DHHL beneficiaries.

Unfortunately, DeCorte, a member of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee, put down her boxing gloves at a joint meeting on March 18 and voted against granting DHHL an additional \$600 million. Does she understand that her "no" vote impacts neighbor island beneficiaries? DHHL Chair Kai Watson faced the Hawaiian Affairs and Ways and Means committees in January to explain why the additional funds are needed.

Johnnie-Mae L. Perry  
Waianae

## A stand with Ukraine is a stand for democracy

In these early days of the Trump administration, many people around the world believe we are witnessing re-



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Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi held a press conference at City Hall on Feb. 18 to sign into law Bill 52, a measure that establishes safety regulations for e-bike use. Blangiardi and Honolulu City Council member Augie Tulba view e-bikes at the event.

markable events that are of great concern for our fundamental American belief in democracy and justice.

A shameful public spectacle took place in the Oval Office on Feb. 26. It was a dishonest verbal ambush of the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, led by President Donald Trump. It was a complete contradiction to our long-held American belief in the democratic principles of national sovereignty and individual freedoms.

As a community of faith, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii (TIAH) stands for justice, integrity and decency. We bless the people of Ukraine in their fight for democracy and freedom. More than that, we call on all of people of good will to seek the facts and call to account national and world leaders to speak the truth and continue to be paragons of integrity.

Cynthia E. Lynch  
President,  
The Interfaith Alliance - Hawaii

## Trump permanently damaging republic

I had hoped that if we could just get through the next two years, the Donald Trump chaos would abate. Surely the Democrats would be able to win back control of both houses of Congress in 2026. Then, in 2028, there would be a good chance to put a Democrat in the White House.

Sadly, as I think this through, even if

the Democrats regain control, the damage done domestically and internationally may be irreparable. It will take years to rebuild gutted agencies. And what bright and capable job seeker would want a government career knowing they were potentially four years away from something like DOGE?

Similarly, what country would trust the U.S. as an ally or trading partner knowing they might be four years away from an administration that turns on them? All of the destruction will be very difficult to undo.

Jim King  
Waikiki

## Dems must stop resisting, be part of the process

Perhaps our Democrat representatives could change their tactics of resistance and name calling, because that doesn't seem to be effective or honorable. They seem to be in agreement with the current administration that there's wasteful spending and that a balanced budget is necessary.

If the Democrats would involve themselves in the process and present constructive input to refine the operation, then we might believe that their intentions are to improve our government instead of appearing that they have something to hide.

Guy Morgan  
Moanalua