
SENATE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHOULD ADOPT THE BASIC RIDER COURSE OF THE MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION AS A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE ENTIRE MOTORCYCLE COMMUNITY.

1 WHEREAS, section 286-108(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes,
2 requires an applicant for a motorcycle drivers license to
3 actually demonstrate the ability to operate a motorcycle or to
4 complete the motorcycle education course approved by the
5 Department of Transportation; and
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7 WHEREAS, section 431:10G-104(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes,
8 requires a persons seeking to obtain motorcycle liability
9 insurance coverage to also complete the same motorcycle
10 education course approved by the Department of Transportation;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, the current motorcycle education course of the
14 Department of Transportation is the Hawaii Motorcycle Safety and
15 Education Program, which was first developed nearly twenty years
16 ago and which is an outdated program that only two states today
17 still administer; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Motorcycle Safety and Education Program
20 has other deficiencies, such as a lack of nationally certified
21 instructors, inadequate oversight of course sites, limited or
22 non-existent availability of classes on the neighbor islands,
23 and potential lawsuits due to use of an outdated curriculum; and
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25 WHEREAS, the organization known as Street Bikers United
26 Hawaii has offered assistance to the Department of
27 Transportation to replace the Hawaii Motorcycle Safety and
28 Education Program with the "Basic Rider Course"; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Basic Rider Course was created in 2001 by the
31 Motorcycle Safety Foundation to replace a previous program
32 developed in 1986; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation is nationally and
2 internationally recognized for its more than thirty years of
3 work in developing and publishing a comprehensive,
4 research-based, rider education curriculum; and

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6 WHEREAS, the military bases in Hawaii conduct the Basic
7 Rider Course for military personnel; and

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9 WHEREAS, military personnel in Hawaii are unable to obtain
10 a Hawaii motorcycle drivers license or liability insurance
11 because the Department of Transportation has not approved the
12 Basic Rider Course; and

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14 WHEREAS, in February 2001, the National Highway Traffic
15 Safety Administration conducted a motorcycle safety program
16 assessment of the Hawaii Motorcycle Safety and Education Program
17 which was reportedly critical of the program; and

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19 WHEREAS, anyone who operates a motorcycle on United States
20 military bases anywhere in the world is required to take a
21 United States Department of Defense approved motorcycle training
22 course, and the only approved course is the Basic Rider Course;
23 and

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25 WHEREAS, many states waive their motorcycle drivers license
26 tests for military applicants who complete the Basic Rider
27 Course, but in Hawaii, these applicants must still complete the
28 Hawaii Motorcycle Safety and Education Program; and

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30 WHEREAS, obtaining motorcycle liability insurance in Hawaii
31 is difficult if not impossible for those who have completed the
32 Basic Rider Course but not the Hawaii Motorcycle Safety and
33 Education Program; and

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35 WHEREAS, current motorcycle license holders may face
36 problems when a new Basic Rider Course is adopted, such as
37 whether they will have to be re-tested and re-licensed; and

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39 WHEREAS, there are liability concerns for the State in
40 continuing to operate an obsolete and decertified motorcycle
41 education course; and

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43 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is aware of the
44 issue and problems and is purportedly working on a mutually



1 agreeable solution with interested parties but nonetheless the
2 creation of a task force is desirable to formalize the
3 discussions; now, therefore,

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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
7 that the Department of Transportation convene a task force on
8 motorcycle education to study and recommend:

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10 (1) Whether the Department of Transportation should adopt
11 the Basic Rider Course of the Motorcycle Safety
12 Foundation as a comprehensive educational program for
13 the entire motorcycle community including residents,
14 United States military personnel stationed in Hawaii,
15 and civilians working on United States military bases
16 in Hawaii; and

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18 (2) Whether current holders of motorcycle drivers licenses
19 should be required to be re-tested and re-licensed
20 under the new Basic Rider Course;

21
22 and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of one
25 representative of each of the following entities, to be selected
26 by the entity:

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28 (1) Department of Transportation;

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30 (2) United States Army;

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32 (3) United States Navy

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34 (4) United States Air Force;

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36 (5) United States Marine Corps;

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38 (6) United States Coast Guard;

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40 (7) Examiner of Drivers of the City and County of
41 Honolulu;

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43 (8) Honolulu Police Department;

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- 1 (9) Hawaii Insurers Council;
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- 3 (10) Motorcycle Safety Foundation (rider coach trainer);
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- 5 (11) Street Bikers United; and
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- 7 (12) Motorcycle Dealers Association;

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9 and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
12 Transportation report findings and recommendations to the
13 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
14 the Regular Session of 2007; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; U.S. Army, Pacific;
18 Pacific Air Forces; U.S. Pacific Fleet; Marine Corps Pacific;
19 14th Coast Guard District; Director of Transportation; Honolulu
20 Chief of Police; Examiner of Drivers of the City and County of
21 Honolulu; Hawaii Insurers Council; State Director of Street
22 Bikers United Hawaii; and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

