

FEB - 8 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY TO RECOMMEND STATUTORY AMENDMENTS TO ADDRESS
THE SAFE AND PROPER OPERATION OF BICYCLES, MOPEDS, TWO-SEAT
MOPEDS, SEGWAYS, HYBRID BICYCLES, AND POWERFUL MOPEDS.

1 WHEREAS, the rising cost of petroleum-derived fuels has
2 caused people in Hawai'i to seek alternative modes of
3 transportation that are less dependent on petroleum-derived
4 fuels; and
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6 WHEREAS, traditional bicycles that are powered solely by
7 human muscle power may not be an attractive transportation
8 alternative, particularly for commuters who have relatively long
9 distances to travel; and
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11 WHEREAS, advancements in technology have made it possible
12 to design and manufacture bicycles with electric motors and
13 batteries to either supplement or to fully drive bicycles,
14 making it possible for riders to cover longer distances, such as
15 with hybrid bicycles that incorporate new technology and are
16 very similar in size and weight to traditional bicycles; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Segway and two-seat mopeds are also very
19 popular and are regularly seen on roadways and streets; and
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21 WHEREAS, mopeds are becoming increasingly powerful with
22 some capable of reaching a speed of forty-five miles per hour;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, chapter 291C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to
26 the statewide traffic code defines "bicycle", "moped", "motor
27 scooter", and "electric personal assistive mobility device"
28 (Segway), but there is no statutory definition for hybrid
29 bicycle, Segway, or two-seat moped, and existing definitions for
30 bicycle, moped, and motor scooter are outdated; and
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32 WHEREAS, the statutes are silent on the safe and permitted
33 street use of two-seat mopeds, Segways, hybrid bicycles, and
34 powerful mopeds; and
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1 WHEREAS, the streets and roadways in the State vary
2 considerably in width and congestion, two important factors in
3 the safe operation of traditional bicycles, mopeds, two-seat
4 mopeds, Segways, hybrid bicycles, and powerful mopeds; and
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6 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study to be coordinated by the
7 Department of Transportation and involving the transportation
8 departments of each county, as well as interested stakeholders,
9 is necessary to recommend changes to current laws in order to
10 accommodate the safe and proper operation of bicycles, mopeds,
11 two-seat mopeds, Segways, hybrid bicycles, and powerful mopeds;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has recommended
15 such a study in testimony before the Senate Committee on
16 Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs;
17 now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,
21 that the Department of Transportation is requested to coordinate
22 a study with the transportation department of each of the
23 respective counties and with interested stakeholders to
24 recommend changes to current laws in order to accommodate the
25 safe and proper operation of bicycles, mopeds, two-seat mopeds,
26 Segways, hybrid bicycles, and powerful mopeds; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
29 Transportation is requested to report to the Legislature no
30 later than twenty days prior to commencement of the Regular
31 Session of 2011 with findings, recommendations, and proposed
32 legislation; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,
36 Director of Transportation Services of the City and County of
37 Honolulu, and to the head of each department or agency for
38 transportation of the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai.
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OFFERED BY:

