
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HYBRID BICYCLES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the rising cost of
2 petroleum-derived fuels has caused people worldwide to seek
3 alternative modes of transportation that are less dependent on
4 petroleum-derived fuels. Traditional bicycles, those powered
5 solely by human power, are a healthy and clean alternative to
6 vehicles that are powered by internal combustion engines.
7 However, traditional bicycles that are powered solely by human
8 muscle power may not be an attractive transportation
9 alternative, particularly for commuters who have relatively long
10 distances to travel.

11 Advancements in technology have made it possible to design
12 and manufacture bicycles with electric motors and batteries to
13 either supplement or to fully drive bicycles, making it possible
14 for riders to cover longer distances. Hybrid bicycles
15 incorporating new technology are very similar in size and weight
16 to traditional bicycles. These advancements make hybrid
17 bicycles a viable transportation alternative for many people.
18 The legislature notes that the popularity of hybrid bicycles is



1 rising throughout Asia and increasing on the European continent,
2 and it is anticipated that interest in hybrid bicycles will
3 continue to increase.

4 As part of its overall policy to explore transportation
5 alternatives and reduce dependence on imported fuels, the
6 legislature finds that traditional and hybrid bicycles are
7 consistent with this policy and would help advance the goals of
8 reducing our dependency on petroleum-based fuels and promote
9 energy diversity.

10 The purpose of this Act is to clarify the definition of
11 "bicycle" to include electric motor bicycles for purposes of
12 county vehicular taxes and the statewide traffic code, and to
13 clarify the specifications of bicycles that may be transported
14 on public buses.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 291C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
17 and to read as follows:

18 "§291C- Bicycles carried on public buses. Buses used in
19 public transportation systems may transport bicycles that meet
20 the following general specifications only: a wheel base no
21 longer than forty-four inches; tires that are 2.3 inches wide;



1 wheel diameters of twenty inches or larger; and a total weight
2 of no more than fifty-five pounds."

3 SECTION 3. Section 249-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending the definition of "bicycle" to read as
5 follows:

6 "Bicycle" means every device propelled [~~solely~~] either by
7 human power or by electric motor upon which any person may ride,
8 having two tandem wheels sixteen inches in diameter or greater,
9 and including any device generally recognized as a bicycle
10 though equipped with two front or two rear wheels."

11 SECTION 4. Section 291C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by amending the definition of "bicycle" to read as
13 follows:

14 "Bicycle" means [~~every~~]:

15 (1) A vehicle propelled solely by human power upon which
16 any person may ride, having two tandem wheels, and
17 including any vehicle generally recognized as a
18 bicycle though equipped with two front or two rear
19 wheels except a toy bicycle[-]; or

20 (2) A vehicle as described in paragraph (1) but having an
21 electric motor that can be used to supplement human
22 pedal power or to power the vehicle entirely."



1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. O. J.", written over a horizontal line.

JAN 25 2010



Report Title:

Transportation; Hybrid Bicycles; Bicycles

Description:

Clarifies the definition of bicycle to include electric motor bicycles for purposes of county vehicular taxes and the statewide traffic code. Specifies type of bicycles to be allowed to be transported on public busses.

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