

JAN 25 2010

S.B. NO. 2802

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# 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.

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**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.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

