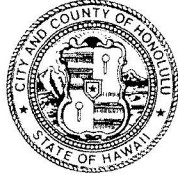


DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS
ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 30300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



DANA TAKAHARA-DIAS
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

February 2, 2009

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 403
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Souki and Committee Members:

Subject: H.B. No. 1655, Relating to Mopeds

The City and County of Honolulu is opposed to H.B. No. 1655, which will require the registration and titling of mopeds.

Currently, mopeds are only issued permanent certificates of registration at a flat rate of \$15.00. The conversion of the existing file of 21,679 registered mopeds would be an extremely difficult, if not impossible task. In order to obtain the taxable weights, we would need to contact all moped manufacturers and manually input the moped's shipping weight plus 30 pounds (Section 249-1, HRS). Finally, we would need to stagger the moped's expiration date.

The City and County of Honolulu recommends that H.B. No. 1655 be held.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Kamimura".

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
Licensing Administrator

Attachment

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MOTOR VEHICLE, Registration of mopeds as motor vehicles

BILL NUMBER: HB 1655

INTRODUCED BY: Ching, Brower, Finnegan, Nishimoto, Pine, Ward, 5 Democrats and 1 Republican

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amend HRS section 249-2 to provide that mopeds shall be subject to the annual tax imposed on motor vehicles.

Amends HRS section 249-7 to require mopeds to have license plates instead of tags.

Amends HRS section 249-13 to provide that each county government shall determine the rate and minimum tax of mopeds similar to motor vehicles.

Makes conforming amendments to add references to license plates of mopeds while deleting references to treating mopeds as bicycles for licensing purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2010

STAFF COMMENTS: Currently mopeds are treated as bicycles and registered in the same category as bicycles. While the statewide traffic code dictates that a moped must use bike lanes and paths if available, mopeds currently utilize the same roadways with automobiles and should bear some of the burden of road maintenance. The adoption of this measure would provide that mopeds pay their fair share of highway construction and maintenance.

Digested 2/3/09

awana3-Elenoa

From: J.R. - Mopeds Hawaii [mopedshawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 8:43 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: mopedshawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: HB1655 - Mopeds -- Description of Bill Text: Requires mopeds to have license plates, similar to motorcycles, as opposed to tags. Treats mopeds like motor vehicles instead of bicycles for registration purposes.

Dear Honorable Legislators of the State of Hawaii:

As an owner of a moped rental agency in Honolulu since November 2003, I am opposed to HB1655 since it will require mopeds to be licensed and registered as motorcycles. This will, in turn, require our rental clientele to possess a motorcycle operator's drivers license to rent a moped. If this is the case, our business will go bankrupt... seriously! I would say 99-percent of our clientele do not possess such a license; therefore, they only qualify to rent mopeds (otherwise they might rent motorcycles).

During these extraordinarily difficult economic times I respectfully request on behalf of my entire company and the moped rental (and sales) industry as a whole that you do NOT vote to support this bill as written. It will literally wipe out my business, I will neither be able to pay my mortgage nor comfortably support my family. PLEASE ASSIST... this is an urgent matter requiring your utmost consideration for many livelihoods in the moped industry at stake here, not just mine.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack H. Gottlieb

Owner - Operator

Adventure Rentals, LLC

159 Kaiulani Avenue, Space 107

Honolulu, HI 96815

Ph: (808) 924-2700

awana3-Elenoa

From: Glenn's Cycle Supply [glennscycle@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 5:06 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: House Bill 1655 (re: mopeds)

Categories: Green Category

Hearing date/time: Wednesday, February 4, 2009; 8:30 a.m.

To: Committee on Transportation
Chair: Joseph M. Souki

To state it as simply as possible, this bill is the worst idea I've heard in a very long time.

I realize the state has a serious financial shortfall, but you're barking up the wrong tree.

This bill is going to seriously impose financial hardship on the people who can least afford it.

You are singling out a portion of the population who can't possibly afford the extra expense this will impose on them.

This is at a time when the state is looking for alternative means of transportation that will bring about less congestion.

We need to do more to promote cheaper means of transportation, not less!

I firmly believe this bill will negatively impact all businesses that deal with mopeds. Just another example of legislation that creates a negative atmosphere for businesses.

The ultimate question is how is this bill going to impact the people you pretend to support? Good or bad? Or is this just a way to build the state coffers?

Could you try to be more creative and stop picking on the little guys?

Glenn Koishigawa
Owner
Glenn's Cycle Supply

awana3-Elenoa

From: hsroahu@gmail.com on behalf of Nathan Bingham [nathan@hawaiianstylerentals.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 4:15 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: ATTN: Committee and Transportation Chairperson Representative Joseph m Suki
House and Vice Chairpeson Karen Lainani Awana; HB Bill #1655 on February 4th, 2009
Room #309 at 8:30

Aloha,

The state of Hawaii Department of Transportation website states that "Hawaii's legislature deliberately excluded mopeds from the definition of a motor vehicle so people could drive them without purchasing motor vehicle insurance. The objective was to motivate people to use mopeds and decrease fossil fuel consumption." The opportunity costs are that no passengers are allowed, a maximum speed of 30 miles per hour is implemented, and one must stay off of any roadway which is faster that 35 miles per hour. With these restrictions, mopeds have become a very local mode of transportation and can be a secondary vehicle to a person's main automobile. Right now in these rough economic times and uncertainty with gas prices, the process of purchasing a moped should not be made any more difficult. Mopeds are a more environmentally safe alternative and help to avoid the financial costs of insurance and parking. As Hawaii's legislature stated above, the objective for excluding mopeds from the definition of a motor vehicle is to get them on the road. Passing Hawaii Bill 1655 will push people away from using mopeds, encourage less environmentally safe vehicles and create more financial burdens on Hawaii's people.

=====
Nathan Bingham
President
Hawaiian Style Moped Rentals
2556 Lemon Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96815

=====
Mailing Address:
848 9th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816
M:808-375-5544
B:808-94MOPED(6-6733)

www.hawaiimoped.com
www.hawaiiharley-davidson.com
www.hawaiibeachbikes.com

From: Mopedconnection@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 12:09 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: HB1655

Good Day;

In reference to this bill I have no objections except for the following;

1. Insurance requirements ? Will insurance be required if this bill becomes effective? If so, I would think this bill has a hidden agenda. It would become obvious to me that the primary intent is not public service but cronyism in the insurance industry. If that is the case the insurance company will reap the benefits while damaging the common person. I am no dummy and am very educated in business as well education, holding several college degrees.

2. Why would the state "flip flop" on this issue? Moped registrations used to be issued on a yearly basis and then it went to lifetime permanent registration. It made no sense to me because of tax revenue lost to the state when they issued this law.

3. Why in the world would the state impose a tax when we are having a huge economic downturn. It is colossal in nature and this bill will only damage the common persons income. If you are going to introduce a bill like this then it should be done in an inflationary period instead of a deflationary period. I follow US government economic reports religiously, on a weekly and monthly basis which I chart and analyze them and they definitely are not good. Ask an economist in the state regarding this and I am sure he will tell you the same thing.

4. It is my true feeling there is much more involved than just plating mopeds. I feel it will give the state much more revenue in the following ways;

- a. Issuing citations for No insurance, no registration, no safety check
- b. Yearly tax revenue on issuing plate.

My recommendations are as follows;

1. Keep the sticker and make it a yearly registration fee of \$25.00
2. No insurance; that would be the obvious to me if this was incepted into this new bill. This would be the utmost deception if this were to occur.

There are approximately 20,000 mopeds registered in Hawaii. You can still increase your tax revenue by simply instituting a yearly registration fee. Issuing license plates are not practical and will also change the focus of the HPD's priorities. What are they going to do ? Stop mopeds for the next 10 years to make sure everyone has a license plate. It is the short sidedness of the state in the first place to create these problems.

I am all in favor of a increasing the tax minimally and on a yearly basis. I would like to know the reasoning behind this new proposal. The average moped rider earns less than \$20,000 per year and is less than 25 years old. I do not understand the thought process as to the average moped rider is already paying a gas tax and now may be paying insurance and higher registration fees. The average moped rider is already at the poverty level and with Hawaii's inflationary economic environment this absolutely makes no sense to me.

This bill is obscure at it best.

Respectfully,

Joe Shimkonis

awana3-Elenoa

From: Don Fern [dfern@cyclecityltd.com]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 9:40 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: Testimony on HB 1655

Categories: Green Category

To: Committee on Transportation
Chairman: Joseph M. Souki
Hearing Date and Time: Wednesday, February 4, 2009
From: Donald S. Fern, President, Hawaii Motorcycle Dealers Association

Aloha Mr. Chairman,

We are extremely opposed to this bill. To make the least expensive motorized transportation more expensive during this extreme economic down turn is a really bad idea.

Not only will it cause problems for the general public that use this mode of transportation, the burden you will put onto the safety check stations will be enormous. They already lose money every time they do a car or motorcycle check and now the possibility of adding more vehicles might put some of them out of business.

Please stop this bill from going any further for the good of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Don

awana3-Elenoa

From: Wells, Omar [Omar.Wells@boh.com]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 9:14 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: HB1655 - Measure that would require Mopeds to be registered as a motor vehicle

Categories: Green Category

committee on transportation
Chair: Joseph M Souki

My moped was purchased for a couple of reasons. One was to conserve energy and put more of my hard earned money back in my pocket, the second was the ease to operate and own here in Honolulu. I believe this bill would take that away.

I'll probably go back to my car and morning traffic.

Omar Wells
Moped owner for 1 year
Honolulu resident for 31 years
Born and raised in Hawaii

From: Chelle Carvalho [cherelle@motorcyclesperiod.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 3:08 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: BILL# HB1655

During this time of huge economic downfall...I strongly oppose this bill. Mopeds are a convenient choice of transportation for many of our customers here on Kauai. It is saving them a huge amount of money with gas prices rising back up again as well as outrageous insurance costs and ridiculous traffic issues.

With fuel prices rising...again, a safety check bill, dot taxes, and insurance costs...Our customers will have no other alternative choice but to drive a car...and traffic will get WORSE!

committee: Committee on Transportation

Chair: Joseph M. Souki

**The hearing for this bill is Wednesday, February 04, 2009
8:30 am - State Capitol - Conference room 309.**

**Chelle Carvalho
Parts/Accessories Dept Manager
Motorcycles Period
4495 Puhi Road
Lihue, HI 96766
808-632-0000 - phone
808-632-0002 - fax
cherelle@motorcyclesperiod.com**

awana3-Elenoa

From: Donald Adelstein [dmadel@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 8:21 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: Committee on Transportation(HB1655) hearing Wednesday, February 04, 2009 8:30 am - State Capitol - Conference room 309

Committee on Transportation
HB1655
Hearing: Wednesday, February 04, 2009
8:30 am - State Capitol - Conference room 309

Honorable House Chair: Joseph M. Souki,

I am strongly opposed to bill HB1655 which would require Mopeds to be classified as A Motor vehicle. This will make buying, selling and renting mopeds much more difficult and much more expensive. It will incur safety check and insurance requirements, resulting in the least expensive motorized transportation becoming more expensive during this extreme economic downturn. The other downside to this is that if the bill passes it will result in mopeds being classified as motorcycles meaning that the maximum speed restriction currently at 30 MPH could in effect be increased making mopeds much more dangerous, the opposite of what i think rhe bill is aimed at which is safety. Educating new operators and enforcement of current laws i believe is a better solution. Again I am strongly opposed to HB 1655. Thank You.

Donald M. Adelstein