

**Committee on Transportation**  
**Testifier List and Summary as of 02-3-10**  
 Wednesday, February 3, 2010

HB 2679 RELATING TO HYBRID BICYCLES

<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
State of Hawaii-Department of Transportation	OPPOSE
City & County of Honolulu-Department Transportation Services	OPPOSE
City & County of Honolulu-Department of Customer Services	COMMENTS
Richard J. Rakin	SUPPORT
Roy Yanagihara	SUPPORT

HB 2952 RELATING TO MOPEDS

<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
State of Hawaii-Department of Transportation	COMMENTS
City & County of Honolulu-Department Transportation Services	SUPPORT

HB 2898 RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
State of Hawaii-Department of Transportation	SUPPORT
State of Hawaii-Department of Health	SUPPORT
City & County of Honolulu-Police Department	SUPPORT
Injury Prevention Advisory Committee	SUPPORT
The Queen's Medical Center	SUPPORT
State Farm-Carolyn Fujioka	SUPPORT
Dustin Edwards	OPPOSE
Robert Souza	OPPOSE
Bryan Marks	OPPOSE
Jan Dreu	OPPOSE
David Frazier	OPPOSE
Brian Grayling	OPPOSE
Elliot Kano	OPPOSE
Mick McDole	OPPOSE
Jeff Rogers	OPPOSE
Karen Kikukawa	OPPOSE
Steve Carter	OPPOSE
Wayne Huddy	OPPOSE
Alvin Ozaki	COMMENTS
William R & Audrey L. Meehan	OPPOSE

Nick Cambra	OPPOSE
Brad DeMello	OPPOSE
Ronald L. Troia	OPPOSE
Lesley Cooper	OPPOSE
Ben Kinney	OPPOSE
Brad Hickle	OPPOSE
Joseph Kerska	OPPOSE
Kimo J. Lowe	OPPOSE
Russell Awana	OPPOSE
Steph Caires	OPPOSE

HB 2263 RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
State of Hawaii-Department of Transportation	SUPPORT
City & County of Honolulu-Department of Customer Services	SUPPORT
Kapono Gaughen	SUPPORT
Chris Dein-Gaughen	SUPPORT
Gail W Jackson	SUPPORT
Roger Harrison	SUPPORT
Barbara Funk	SUPPORT

HB 2726 RELATING TO TAXATION

<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
State of Hawaii-Department of Transportation	OPPOSE
State of Hawaii-Department of Taxation	OPPOSE
Tax Bill Service	COMMENTS
High Technology Development Corporation	SUPPORT
Hawaiian Electric Company-	SUPPORT

HB 1976 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
Enterprise- Chris Sbarbaro	SUPPORT
National- Dave Wilson	SUPPORT
Alamo- Christian Heimbach	SUPPORT
Hertz- Aaron Medina	SUPPORT

HB 2370 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
Tax Bill Service	COMMENTS

National- Dave Wilson	SUPPORT
Enterprise- Chris Sbarbaro	SUPPORT
Alamo- Christian Heimbach	SUPPORT
Hertz- Aaron Medina	SUPPORT

HB 2602 RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY

<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
State of Hawaii-Department of Transportation	SUPPORT
City & County of Honolulu- Department of the Prosecuting Attorney	SUPPORT
City & County of Honolulu- Police Department	SUPPORT
Hawaii Transportation Association	SUPPORT
Melvin Fukunaga	SUPPORT
Darrell Omuro	SUPPORTw/Amend
Keith Higa	SUPPORT
Chuck Oh	SUPPORT
Clement Jung	SUPPORT
Bart Aronoff	SUPPORT
Ernest Murphy	SUPPORT
Ron Hashiro	SUPPORT
Wayne Greenleaf	SUPPORT

HB 2693 RELATING TO CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINTS

<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
State of Hawaii-Department of Transportation	SUPPORT
Charles M. Hirata	SUPPORT
Lisa M. Dau	SUPPORT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2010  
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO. 2679

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HYBRID BICYCLES.

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

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

Advancements in technology have made it possible to design and manufacture bicycles with electric motors and batteries to either supplement or to fully drive bicycles, making it possible for riders to cover longer distances. Hybrid bicycles incorporating new technology are very similar in size and weight to traditional bicycles. These advancements make hybrid bicycles a viable transportation alternative for many people. The legislature notes that the popularity of hybrid bicycles is rising throughout Asia and increasing on the European continent, and it is anticipated that interest in hybrid bicycles will continue to increase.

As part of its overall policy to explore transportation alternatives and reduce dependence on imported fuels, the legislature finds that traditional and hybrid bicycles are consistent with this policy and would

help advance the goals of reducing our dependency on petroleum-based fuels and promote energy diversity.

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

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

**"§291C- Bicycles carried on public buses. Buses used in public transportation systems may transport bicycles that meet the following general specifications only: a wheel base no longer than forty-four inches; tires that are 2.3 inches wide; wheel diameters of twenty inches or larger; and a total weight of no more than fifty-five pounds."**

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

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

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

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

- (1) A vehicle propelled solely by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels, and including any vehicle generally recognized as a bicycle though equipped with two front or two rear wheels except a toy bicycle[~~-~~]; or**
- (2) A vehicle as described in paragraph (1) but having an electric**

motor that can be used to supplement human pedal power or to power the  
vehicle entirely."

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

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

INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.*



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097**

February 3, 2010

**TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2679**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

The Department of Transportation does not support this bill as it attempts to address the definition of a bicycle. As much as we agree that the definition of bicycles needs to be revisited as the use and technologies applied to bicycles has changed, it is a piecemeal approach where a more comprehensive review is more appropriate.

Sections 3 and 4 of the bill address the definition of a bicycle in 249-1 and 291C-1, but the bill does not address the definition in 286-2, HRS.

If the bill is going to modify the definition of a bicycle, the use of an electric bicycle should also be considered. For example, allowing an electric motor on a three-wheel bicycle may encourage people to take these vehicles on longer trips, which could involve the use of bike lanes and bike paths. Since three-wheel bicycles are wider than two-wheel bicycles, using three-wheel electric bicycles on a bike path could pose a hazard for two-wheel bicycles using the facility, and using them on a bike path could be dangerous to both two-wheel bicycles and pedestrians who use the paths. Wider bicycles could also hinder the flow of traffic by making it more difficult for motor vehicles to get around them.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR



WAYNE Y. YOSHIOKA  
DIRECTOR

SHARON ANN THOM  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 2, 2010

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

Dear Chair Souki and Committee Members:

**Subject: House Bill No. 2679 – Relating to Hybrid Bicycles**

The Department of Transportation Services opposes House Bill No. 2679, which would change the definition of a bicycle to include a bicycle-like vehicle with an electric motor. The types of vehicles that would fall under this proposed definition change are widely varied, from vehicles that look like bicycles to ones that are essentially electric mopeds.

The speed of these vehicles also poses a safety concern. Currently, bicycles are allowed on sidewalks in many areas and on multi-use paths where there are pedestrians and other non-motorized users. This change would allow these faster moving vehicles, traveling up to twenty-five miles per hour, to ride on sidewalks and paths which would create a potentially dangerous situation.

We feel that it would be better to create a new category of vehicles, such as "electric bicycle," rather than change the definition of a bicycle. "Electric bicycles" should not be allowed on sidewalks or multi-use paths.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Y. Yoshioka".

Wayne Y. Yoshioka  
Director

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



GAIL Y. HARAGUCHI  
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A KAMIMURA  
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

February 2, 2010

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. 2679, Relating to Hybrid Bicycles

The City and County of Honolulu agree with the intent but have concerns with H.B. No. 2679.

In order to distinguish electric bicycles from mopeds and motor scooters, we recommend that the definition of an electric bicycle contained in Section 3 and Section 4 of the bill meet the federal definition as contained in Public Law 107-319, section 1, 116 Stat. 2776 (2002):

"The term "low-speed electric bicycle" means a two- or three-wheeled vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1h.p.), whose maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a motor while ridden by an operator who weighs 170 pounds, is less than 20 mph."

The City and County of Honolulu recommends your favorable action on H.B. No. 2679, as amended.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gail Y. Haraguchi".

Handwritten initials, possibly "GJ", written in cursive.

Gail Y. Haraguchi  
Director

Richard J Rakin  
92-1248 Palahia Street Unit S205  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707  
(808) 277-2427  
[rakinrj@yahoo.com](mailto:rakinrj@yahoo.com)

February 2, 2010

**TO: Transportation Committee (Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2010, 9:00 AM in Conference Room 309)**

**Subject: HB2679 Relating to Hybrid Bicycles**

Dear Rep. Joseph M. Souki, Chair, Rep. Karen Leinani Awana, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support of bill HB2679, regarding hybrid bicycles.

I live in Makakilo and commute to my job in Campbell Industrial Park. I love the idea of being able to leave my car parked at home so that I could ride a bike to work. Attaching a small motor or engine to a bicycle would provide enough assistance to overcome the 1200 foot climb from the bike path on Kamokila Blvd to any part of residential Makakilo. Considering the recent construction of the Kapolei mall, Costco, and Target, this would provide an alternative form of transportation to many Makakilo residents, keeping more cars off the road. Being able to ride a hybrid bicycle in Hawaii would flatten this hill and all other hills in the state.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns regarding this hybrid bicycle bill.

Sincerely,

Richard J Rakin

Roy Yanagihara  
45-139 Mahalani Circle  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

February 1, 2010

Representative Joseph M. Souki, Chair  
Member of the Transportation Committee

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 2679

Aloha Transportation Committee Members,

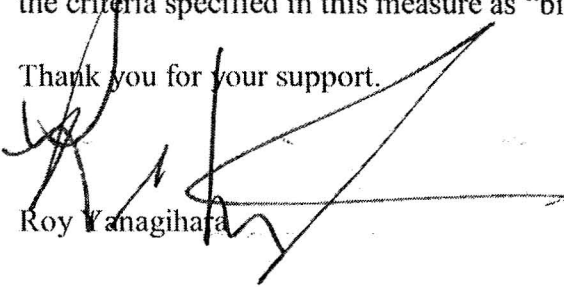
I would like to request your support for the passage of HB2679 that would help to clarify current law regarding hybrid electric bicycles.

As stated in this measure, hybrid bicycles are becoming increasingly popular throughout the rest of the world. Soon they will become commonplace in Hawaii as they are in other parts of the world.

The use of hybrid bicycles should be encouraged in Hawaii in order to complement our existing modes of transportation. In addition to riding their hybrid bicycles to work commuters who drive their personal automobiles daily may opt instead to use the bus if they could use a hybrid bicycle to get to a bus stop that may just be a little too far to walk, provided it could also be accepted onto the bike racks now provided on City buses. Riding a hybrid bicycle is also energy efficient and provides at least some exercise for those who ride them.

The purpose of this measure is to encourage the popularity of hybrid bicycles by amending current statutes in order to ensure the classification of hybrid bicycles that meet the criteria specified in this measure as "bicycles" as opposed to mopeds or motorcycles.

Thank you for your support.

  
Roy Yanagihara