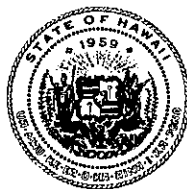


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 2, 2011

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1096

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation supports H.B. 1096.

This bill must be passed to make it legal for a moped operator with a permit to practice riding prior to taking the practical test for licensure. The current law allows a permit holder to operate a motor scooter or motorcycle without being accompanied by a person who is 21 years old or older but no similar exemption exists for permit holders who operate a moped. The reason an exception is necessary is that carrying a passenger on a two-wheeled vehicle is more challenging and therefore more dangerous than riding alone. Carrying a passenger on a moped would be even more challenging, because a moped is lighter and less powerful than a motorcycle. Also, current law prohibits passengers on two-wheeled mopeds.