



**Testimony of  
Thomas Smyth, Vice Chair**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Before the  
House Committee on Transportation  
Wednesday February 11, 2011  
9:00 am Room 309  
On  
HB 65 Relating to Sidewalks**

**Chair Souki, Vice Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:**

**The Downtown Neighborhood Board strongly supports HB 43 that restricts certain types of vehicles, bicycles, skateboards, roller skates and other devices from being used on sidewalks in an area of Oahu defined in the bill as the downtown business district.**

**The Downtown and Chinatown areas usually have many more pedestrians than other neighborhoods, walking or trying to walk, on often very narrow sidewalks. Our neighborhood has many elderly residents and shoppers who came to our area to make traditional purchases. We also see more and more tourists from cruise ships or Waikiki coming to the Aloha Tower Marketplace or Chinatown to enjoy a different visitor experience. All of them face these relatively dense walking conditions as they go through the area to reach bus stops or their residences.**

**This measure would help solve the problem by specifically listing the types of devices and equipment that is restricted. This should make it far easier for HPD to enforce the law. We will certainly need proper signage, similar to that in Waikiki, to inform residents and visitors of the restriction. At many locations these signs can be placed on existing poles so the cost of signage should not be excessive.**

**One concern is whether other similar vehicles, not listed in the bill should be included. We understand that "electric personal assistive mobility devices" is another name for a particular stand-up two-wheeled vehicle with a trademark name. There are other devices that would seem to pose the same degree of danger. These include the "YOscooter" and so-called "power chairs" and "mobility scooters." Consideration should be given to adding them to the restricted list. If some of these devices provide assistive mobility to elderly or handicapped individuals, they could be required to have a handicap permit and personal ID similar to those used for parking stall access.**

**We understand that this type of legislation is more a function of the City & County of Honolulu and we will also pursue legislation in the City Council.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.**

