
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 supplement or to fully drive bicycles, making it possible for
14 riders to cover longer distances. Hybrid bicycles incorporating
15 new technology are very similar in size and weight to
16 traditional bicycles, making hybrid bicycles a viable
17 transportation alternative for many people. The legislature
18 notes that the popularity of hybrid bicycles is rising



1 throughout Asia and increasing on the European continent, and it
2 is anticipated that interest in hybrid bicycles will continue to
3 increase.

4 As part of state 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 increasing bicycle use would
8 help advance the goals of reducing our dependency on petroleum-
9 based fuels and promote 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
19 in public transportation systems may transport bicycles that
20 meet the following specifications only:

- 21 (1) Wheel base no longer than forty-four inches;
22 (2) Tires that are not wider than 2.3 inches in width;



- 1 (3) Wheel diameters of twenty inches or larger; and
2 (4) Total weight of not 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. If powered
11 by an electric motor, the electric motor shall be less than
12 seven hundred fifty watts (1 h.p.) and the maximum speed of the
13 bicycle on a paved level surface shall be less than twenty miles
14 per hour."

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

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

- 19 (1) A vehicle propelled solely by human power upon which
20 any person may ride, having two tandem wheels, and
21 including any vehicle generally recognized as a



1 bicycle though equipped with two front or two rear
2 wheels except a toy bicycle[-]; or
3 (2) A vehicle as described in paragraph (1), with an
4 electric motor to supplement human pedal power or to
5 power the vehicle entirely. If powered by an electric
6 motor, the electric motor shall be less than seven
7 hundred fifty watts (1 h.p.) and the maximum speed of
8 the bicycle on a paved level surface shall be less
9 than twenty miles per hour."

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 Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed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

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



Report Title:

Transportation; Hybrid Bicycles; Vehicular Tax; Traffic Code

Description:

Clarifies the definition of bicycle to include electric motor bicycles for purposes of county vehicular taxes and the statewide traffic code. Establishes maximum power and speed parameters for an electric bicycle. Specifies type of bicycles to be allowed to be transported on public buses. (HB358 HD1)

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