

HB101, HD2

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 19, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 101, HD 2
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Department of Transportation supports HB101, HD 2.

We suggest considering two small amendments. At the end of section 1 the limits on wheel base may be clearer if the word "wide" was deleted, because the 42 inches is describing the longitudinal length of the bicycle. Also, the word "long" can be deleted from the limit on wheel diameter.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS
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DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
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March 15, 2012

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Transportation and
International Affairs
The Senate
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 205
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair English and Committee Members:

Subject: H.B. No. 101 HD2, Relating to Transportation

The City and County of Honolulu agrees with the intent of H.B. No. 101 HD2, but recommends clarifying amendments.

For consistency and for the purpose of registering electric powered bicycles in accordance with Section 249-14, HRS, we recommend that the Bill be further amended by providing the same bicycle definition in Section 249-1, HRS:

""Bicycle" means [every]:

- (1) ~~[device propelled solely by human power]~~ A vehicle upon which any person may ride that is propelled solely by human power, having two tandem wheels sixteen inches in diameter or greater, and including any [device] vehicle generally recognized as a bicycle though equipped with two front or two rear wheels except a toy bicycle; or
- (2) A vehicle upon which any person may ride that has two tandem wheels, including any vehicle generally recognized as a bicycle even if equipped with two front or two rear wheels and an electric motor that shall produce less than seven hundred fifty watts (1 h.p.) and is capable of propelling the vehicle at a maximum speed of less than twenty miles per hour on a paved level surface."

The City and County of Honolulu recommends your favorable action on H.B. No. 101 HD2, as amended.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dennis A. Kamimura in black ink.

Dennis A. Kamimura
Licensing Administrator

Maui Bicycle Alliance

Keeping Maui on the Right Path!

DATE: March 16, 2012

TO: Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair
Senate Transportation and International Affairs Committee Members

FROM: Walter Enomoto, President, Maui Bicycle Alliance

SUBJECT: COMMENTS for HB101 HD2, RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

Aloha Chair English, Vice Chair Espero and TIA Committee members,

On behalf of the bicycling community in Maui County, we respectfully ask that you consider our comments on House Bill 101 HD2 - RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

The growing use of electric assist bicycles in Maui County has us concerned on a number of issues.

The current language in HB101 HD 2 limits the power of the motor and speed of the bicycle vehicle. Who would verify this to be the case? How would it be enforced?

The bill as written does not state that the electric assist bicycle MUST be manufactured as an electric assist bicycle. There are now a number of firms advertising and selling add-on electric motor kits that have *higher horsepower outputs* than what this bill would allow. These kits can be installed on "regular" bicycles. Because regular bicycles are not designed to deal with the electric assist components and loads, is this wise and more importantly safe to allow this type of add-on kits?

Bicycle manufacturers would never allow this modification and this would likely void any warranty. The additional speed may not be best suited to the bike these add on kits are installed on possibly sacrificing handling, braking and driver control. Manufactured electric assist bicycles are designed for and built to function with electric powered assistance.

The bill also states:

(2) A vehicle generally recognized as a bicycle that is equipped with an electric motor that:

We feel the "generally recognized" wording is too vague and could allow for an ALL electric vehicle that resembles a "bicycle". A much clearer version would state:

(2) A vehicle generally recognized as a bicycle that is equipped with an electric motor that assists a human propulsion system that:

This will help to make sure the electric motor only assists the rider and is not the sole power source propelling the vehicle. An all electric powered bicycle without any human propulsion component should be considered more in line with a moped.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure and thank the Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members for hearing our concerns on this bill.