



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

February 2, 2011

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1095

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation supports H.B. 1095.

When section 291C-195, Hawaii Revised Statutes was amended by Act 197 of Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, the focus of attention was on allowing a passenger to ride in a three-wheeled moped designed to carry two people seated side-by-side similar to a car. The age of the passenger was not discussed. As a result, it is currently legal to carry passengers less than seven years old in these vehicles. Motorcycles and three-wheeled mopeds are not crash tested for occupant safety, and their design makes them inherently less safe than cars. A three-wheeled moped that is set up to carry a passenger seated beside the driver is an effort at making available to the public an inexpensive vehicle that is relatively fuel efficient. However, the light weight and relatively flimsy construction of three-wheeled mopeds greatly enhance the vulnerability of moped occupants in the event of a crash. Section 291-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes does not allow passengers less than seven years of age on motorcycles. Since a moped is a small version of a motorcycle, it seems prudent to disallow passengers under age seven on three-wheeled mopeds.