



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

February 13, 2012

**HB 2616
RELATING TO MOPEDS.**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation strongly supports this Administration bill. 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 as in an automobile. The age of the passenger was not discussed. As a result, there are instances where people carry passengers less than seven years old in these vehicles that are nowhere near being as safe as a passenger car. Like motorcycles, three-wheeled mopeds are not crash tested for safety. 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. The seating arrangement and use of a steering wheel rather than handlebars make the vehicle appear to be similar to a car, but with only three wheels, it is far more susceptible to turning over than a car. In addition, the light weight and relative flimsy construction greatly enhance the vulnerability of the moped occupants in the event of a crash. Since the Legislature saw fit to restrict very young passengers on motorcycles by section 291-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, it seems prudent to include an even greater restriction on three-wheeled mopeds.

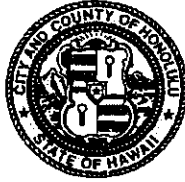
Section 291-11(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, is not addressed in this bill, because it was developed to address three-wheeled electric motorcycles that have a full body covering of the occupants similar to cars.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • INTERNET: www.honoluluupd.org



PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. MCCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE KK-LC

February 13, 2012

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Souki and Members:

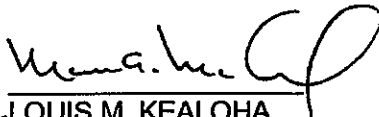
Subject: House Bill No. 2616, Relating to Mopeds

I am Kurt Kendro, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

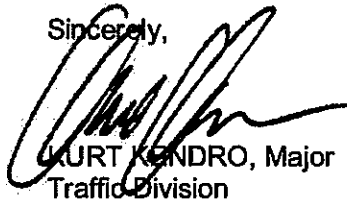
The HPD supports the passage of House Bill No. 2616, Relating to Mopeds. Passage of this bill would amend section 291c-195, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to prohibit a driver of a three wheel moped from carrying a passenger under the age of sixteen years. The HPD believes that this law will further protect the youth in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:


LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

Sincerely,


KURT KENDRO, Major
Traffic Division