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IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
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LATE

**S.B. 1258
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill that establishes licensing and registration requirements for and definition of autocycles. The DOT offers the following comments.

Three-wheeled motor vehicles with non-straddle seating that are steered by something other than handlebars are considered motorcycles. DOT supports defining this type of vehicle as an autocycle.

The DOT understands that autocycles, as defined in the proposed bill, has handling/operating characteristics more in line with a motor vehicle rather than a motorcycle. Therefore, DOT recommends that persons with valid type 3 licenses be allowed to operate a duly registered autocycle in Hawaii.

The DOT further understands that most autocycles do not meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for passenger motor vehicles. For instance, the vehicles may not include air bags, manufacturer certified rollover protection, etc. Therefore, it is suggested that all dealers, sellers, leasers, or rental agencies be required to disclose the following if it is true for the subject autocycle:

- Autocycle does not meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) of passenger vehicles/light trucks.
- Autocycle is not equipped with air bags.
- Autocycle rollover protection has not been certified to protect the occupant from injury in the event of a rollover. Recommend the use of a "DOT" certified safety helmet when operating an autocycle.

Autocycles that are not equipped with a front windshield should require the occupants to use eye protection. Seat belts must be worn by all occupants within the autocycle.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.