

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:48:30 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Chamberlain	Maui Bicycle League	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing you to show my strong **support** for House Bill 715 HD-1 relating to “Low Speed Electric Bicycles.”

HB715 SD-1 identifies the definition change of a “Bicycle” under Hawaii Revised Statute awaii Section 249-1, 286-2, 291c-1, 293-1, 293-2 to include the “Low Speed Electric Bicycle” as defined under 15USC section 2085 which states:

For the purpose of this section, the term “low speed electric bicycle” means a two- or three wheeled vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 h.p.), whose maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a motor while ridden by an operator who weighs 170 pounds, is less than 20 mph.

Preemption

This section shall supersede any State law or requirement with respect to low-speed electric bicycles to the extent that such State law or requirement is more stringent than the Federal law or requirements referred to in subsection (a) of this section.

Electric Bikes provide the conveniences of a car with the advantages of a Bicycle

What are Electric Bikes?

Electric Bicycles are becoming more and more popular across nation and throughout the world.

“Electric Bikes consist of a modified or custom bicycle frame with pedals but include an electric motor, usually in the form of a hub motor, mid-drive motor or belt drive connected to the rear wheel. They allow a rider to either pedal the bike or leverage the power of a battery and motor drive system.”

The **benefits** of electric bikes “E-Bikes” are many and often go unrealized by car and scooter owners.

- With an electric bike you have the ability to **get around quickly** with little to **no sweat** if you choose. This can be handy for being able to wear your normal work clothes to work, or run errands around town without being drenched in sweat.
- E-bikes have helped people with disabilities, poor physical fitness, and/or concerns with keeping up with family/friends in order to enjoy riding a bicycle again.
 - Electric bikes make it much easier to **haul heavier loads** like kids (in a [trailer or kids seat](#)), groceries, the stuff that you take to work, your beach towel and some refreshments, etc.
 - An electric bike can really make hills and head winds a non-issue.
 - E-Bikes are lighter, cleaner and more reliable than gas powered vehicles.
 - Less expensive than gas powered vehicles, especially over the long term when using electricity vs. gasoline or other fuel source
 - Environmentally friendly, no exhaust created on site for the user to inhale. Easily use locally produced solar or wind power to charge
 - Efficient and affordable parking options, fits on any normal bike rack or to a pole/railing
 - Easy to use with public transportation like busses, trains and light rail systems
 - Provides an opportunity to exercise and practice balance
 - Social opportunity to get in touch with your community and become more social
 - Relaxing and focusing because you cannot use your cell phone or eat at the same time as you would while driving an automobile.

Hawaii needs to bring the E-Bike into conformity with Federal Statutes as E-Bikes serve a purpose as an alternative form of transportation.

Please accept my comments and accept the intelligent changes proposed under this bill.

Mahalo;

Lee Chamberlain

ADDRESS

3442 Waialae Ave., Suite 1
Honolulu, HI 96816

PHONE

808-735-5756



FAX

808-735-7989

EMAIL

bicycle@hbl.org

Testimony Supporting HB2499

Aloha Transportation Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Quinlan, and esteemed members of the Committee on Transportation:

Hawaii Bicycling League **strongly supports HB2499**, which would define electric bicycles as classified by the federal government at “low-speed electric bicycles” as bicycles in the state of Hawaii.

HB2499 is a sound approach to defining and regulating low-speed electric bicycles. Currently electric bicycles are in a regulatory limbo in Hawaii; given the growth in electric bikes in recent years this regulatory limbo is a problematic situation. Using the federal definition of “low speed electric bicycles” will bring Hawaii in line with 21 other states. It’s also important to note that the federal definition has shaped electric bicycle manufacturing and the electric bicycles currently available for sale in Hawaii. Furthermore, using the federal definition of “low speed electric bicycles” will ensure that we do not treat all electric bicycles equal – those that can go higher speeds than 20mph as specified in the federal definition (in some cases, much higher speeds) shouldn’t be afforded the same treatment as bicycles.

Thank you very much for considering the comments of Hawaii Bicycling League. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Chad Taniguchi (808-735-5756, chad@hbl.org) or Daniel Alexander (808-275-6717, Daniel@hbl.org).

Ride and Drive Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Taniguchi".

Chad Taniguchi
Executive Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Alexander".

Daniel Alexander
Advocacy & Planning Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:22:55 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Maui Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 3:02:19 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Chamberlain	Maui Bicycle League	Support	No

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Hawaii needs to bring the E-Bike into conformity with Federal Statutes as E-Bikes serve a purpose as an alternative form of transportation.

Please accept my comments and accept the intelligent changes proposed under this bill.

Mahalo;

Lee Chamberlain

RideSmart Maui

Office: (808) 633-8553 ext 101

Cell: 925-917-1994

www.ridesmartmaui.com

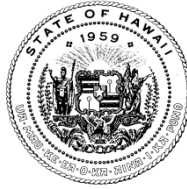
Join the Quiet Revolution

Re-Discover Your Bicycle, Ride an E-Bike

Clean, Quiet Fun, for Everyone!

p.s. We are offering more Ebike brands to meet our Maui community needs.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Testimony by:
JADE T. BUTAY
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROY CATALANI
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LATE

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

February 9, 2018
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

HB 2499
RELATING TO LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation offers the following **comment** on H.B. 2499 relating to Low-Speed Electric Bicycles.

There is a possible State Constitution violation by allowing a federal law or rule to define a term in the Hawaii State Statutes, because it relinquishes the State's sovereignty. Inserting a statement such as "as it existed on December 4, 2002" would eliminate this potential problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 6:41:26 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RONALD SHEPARD	Drybar	Support	No

Comments:

My eBike doesn't go any faster than a non-assisted bicycle. The only difference is I do not tire going up hill or in sever headwinds. I have been passed many times by race bikes!

Ronald Shepard

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 6:18:20 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Lee		Support	No

Comments:

I currently work at Camp Smith & I regularly ride my electric bicycle to & from work. Anything to make electric bicycles easier to ride in Hawaii would be appreciated.

LATE

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 6:34:26 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Stratford		Support	No

Comments:

I am a 65 year old woman who lives in Lanikai (part-time). I am too old to ride a mechanical bike to town when it's hot, so I use my eBike to go to Kaillua town for groceries and shopping. I like to use it, because many times there are traffic jams getting to town - it can take over 30 min to travel 2-1/2 miles! I don't like sit in traffic and create more traffic, much less pollution, for that short trip. I ride my bike at a reasonable speed - probably not much faster than younger people on mechanical bikes! I support HB2499. Thank you.

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 6:45:30 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renee Lai		Support	No

Comments:

I support adding slow-speed electric bicycle under bicycle laws.

I use slow-speed electric bicycle several times a week to commute to work and to get much-needed exercise to stay fit and to reduce traffic in Honolulu.

the electric bicycle is too slow to be in the same as vehicles or mopeds. For the safety of the rider and vehicles on the road, it is extremely important that we treat electric bicycles as bicycles.

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 6:59:00 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
S. Schroeder		Oppose	No

Comments:

Low speed, electric bicycles are not respected by motorists, and are not as fast as motor vehicles, and where there is not a bike path or separated bike lane, and where traffic is too busy to make it safe to ride a low-speed, electric bicycle they should be allowed to ride on sidewalks following the same rules as human-powered bicycles. At this time the cycling pathway infrastructure in Honolulu is not advanced nor extensive enough to create a ruling prohibiting bicycles and low-speed, electric bicycles from riding on sidewalks. Forcing these vehicles onto a roadway when there is not a bike path is simply unsafe.

LATE

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 7:14:22 PM
Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Ellis		Oppose	No

Comments:

This is not a "low speed" bicycle! I consider it a powered vehicle because its use is dangerous to other pedal powered cyclists, especially on bike paths and approved bike lanes. I have had multiple "near misses" because of its unsafe movements on bike paths and bike lanes. They zip by at unusually higher speeds than regular pedal power bicycles. The ability to "stop on a dime" or during emergency is not possible, I have witness them weave in the path of other cyclist to avoid running down another cyclist. These are dangerous and creates unsafe movement of a regular bicycle. They belong on roadways and should be in the same class as mopeds. These "low speed" electric powered bicycles should be prohibited on approved designated Bike Paths and Bike Lanes.

LATE

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 7:18:19 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Smart		Support	No

Comments:

Chairman Aquino, Vice-Chairman Quinlan:

I am testifying in SUPPORT of HB2499. I have used a bicycle in Hawaii for about 30 years. In recent years there has been increased interest in so-called pedal-assist bicycles (aka e-bicycles) as an alternative to the traditional bike. These bicycles typically look and operate very similar to traditional bikes and the rental bikes used in the Biki Bike program. Under current law, since these bicycles have a motor, they are classed with "mopeds". However, to my knowledge, no user/owner of these bicycles complies with the law on registration or operation of mopeds. If enacted, this bill will clarify that pedal-assist/e-bikes will in general follow the registration and operation rules for bicycles which is appropriate. The prohibition on sidewalk riding may not be mandatory, but is reasonable in most cases. There may be locations however, where riders feel they must use sidewalks for their safety (for example, Kam Hwy between the end of the Pearl Harbor Bike Path and the Ford Island Causeway where no bike lane/shoulder exists and alongside JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam where HART's rail contractor has removed the bike lane in favor of providing an additional vehicle lane).

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 7:21:53 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Holton		Support	Yes

Comments:

I urge you to pass HB2499 in order to clarify that electric bicycles (“e-bikes”) should be considered as bicycles, not model or motor-driven cycles. The availability of small electric motors has revolutionized bicycling as a means of transport for ordinary people. With electric assist an e-bike can be pedaled with less effort, meaning that commuters can arrive looking ready for work rather than looking like they just finished a sweaty workout. An e-bike travels at speeds similar to a regular bike, but with much less effort required of the user. Whether peddling up a steep hill or right into a stiff trade wind, an e-bike brings cycling within the realm of the possible.

This bill clarifies language using national standards in order to ensure that e-bikes are not mistakenly interpreted as motorcycles or mopeds. Note that such a designation might prevent the use of e-bikes in bike lanes and other designated bicycle-only zones. This would have the perverse effect of making cycling more dangerous. This bill will prevent such a misinterpretation of current law.

Please support HB2499 in order to support safe bicycle commuting in our community.

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 7:29:24 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Couillard		Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 9:08:11 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Blasdel		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a senior citizen who relies on a low speed electric bike to get around Honolulu for shopping and work. I rode a regular bike for years, but riding uphill and pedaling longer distances is just too much for me anymore. I try to use bike lanes as much as possible, but Honolulu has so very few bike lanes, so I must either use the roadway or the sidewalk. I use the roadway when I can, but many streets are too crowded and frankly unsafe to navigate. The only way I can ride safely is by using the sidewalk from time to time.

HB2499 would prohibit riding on the sidewalk for all low speed electric bikes. Perhaps if Honolulu had sufficient alternative bike lanes for all major streets this would make sense, but as it is this bill will significantly limit the places I can safely ride. Please reconsider this part of the bill. I can understand prohibiting bicycle riding on sidewalks in Waikiki and Downtown, but for many parts of Honolulu, riding on the sidewalks is the only way to insure a safe and stress-free ride, either for a regular bike or a low speed electric bike.

Thank you for taking into consideration my comments.

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 9:08:20 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Belfort		Support	No

Comments:

In support. Low speed electric bicycles are exactly that, bicycles.

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 9:41:35 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Cho		Support	No

Comments:

Why can't we ride bicycles more often for commuting, exercise, and exploring our surroundings, especially under the best weather in the world all year round. How can we replace our overpopulated, clunky polluting vehicles with something more practical? Here I believe that the electric bicycle is the next big leap in human transportation. Ebikes promote a healthier way to travel for both the individual and environment. They are highly efficient, space saving, and cost almost nothing to operate. Having HB2499 pass will help Hawaii to have a transparent law that everyone understand.

Mahalo!

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 10:38:39 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy Fauth		Support	No

Comments:

My life changed when I purchased my first electric bike. Living in Waikiki and working as a dental hygienist in Kaimuki, driving to work and then returning to Waikiki in the evenings and not being able to find parking was a stressful nightmare I never have to go through again thanks to my reliable Blix Vika+ ebike. On days that I didn't want to give up my precious parking sta in Waikiki, I tried riding my old non-electric beach cruiser to work. The commute up the steep hills of Herbert Ave and Kilauea Ave was killer and I'd show up to work exhausted and sweaty. Riding my low speed electric bike has allowed me to get to work much more efficiently and I was able to sell my car and now I commute pretty much everywhere via Ebike.

I think it's important to legally give electric bikes a classification so that we can report thefts and have a better chance of getting our Ebike back and if there's a paper trail. My electric bike isn't just a toy or a gimmick. It has become my main source of transportation and I'd like to to be classified as a bicycle. Electric bikes are safe, easy to control, and the 20mph limit on my bike allows me to glide with traffic and I'm still able to safely navigate the roads and bike lanes.

Electric bikes are an awesome form of alternative transportation that allows people to get healthier, doesn't hurt the environment, and may hopefully get less cars off the roads limiting the amount of traffic and parking congestions. Legally classifying low speed electric bikes will help to contribute to more organized, eco-friendly & happier Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Christy Fauth

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 11:53:48 PM
Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Triolo	Concerned Citizen	Support	No

Comments:

Riding an electric bicycle or any bicycle is exhilarating. An electric bike has been my exclusive means of getting to work for the last year and intermittently before that, a non electric one.

At age 62, my electric bike has been amazing as getting up hills in Honolulu was getting more challenging and deterred me from riding my regular bike. I don't have to worry about parking, traffic, and I get great exercise (it doesn't have to be an easy ride all the time)! I am helping reduce car traffic on our busy roads and am reducing emissions that I believe contribute to climate change and local air pollution.

I see more bicycles on our streets especially due to Biki Bikes but even in spite of BB. Electric bikes are a viable measure to reduce traffic in the state and keep us one of the healthiest states.

I do agree some bike riders are inconsiderate but I would have to say people in cars and trucks far exceed the threshold of rude. I heard on the news 60 minutes ago, on February 8, we have had our 6th car/pedestrian accident for 2018.

Electric bicycles are an important addition to our modes of transportation and as they grow in popularity, will contribute to the easing of gridlock. Support of anything that eases traffic should be welcomed, celebrated and encouraged.

Thank you for listening. I implore you not to take the privilege of riding my electric bicycle away. I am as considerate as I can be when riding and sharing the road with drivers and pedestrians alike.

Kathleen Triolo, Kaimuki, Honolulu, Hawaii

8 mile commute in addition to use for transportation for other reasons. Loving every minute of it, even if I am faced with unpleasant drivers.

Thank you.

LATE

HB-2499

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 7:38:33 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Jeffryes		Support	No

Comments:

Electric vehicles are everywhere in all shapes and sizes. Unicycles, skateboards, hoverboards, Segues. Due to the increase in stability and availability of lithium ion batteries, these inventions keep coming and there is no foreseeable slowdown in their popularity. Moreover, electric bicycles have been in Hawaii for over 10 years now. And yet, when you go to register an electric bicycle with the city and County, they tell you "no". No? No, I'm not allowed to legally inform the city that I own a bicycle? No, I am not afforded the possible protection that a license would afford me? No, I can't buy bicycle insurance because I don't have a license? It makes no sense whatsoever. Electric bicycles offer clean energy. They allow people who could not otherwise bicycle a chance to reduce the carbon footprint in Hawaii, reduce traffic congestion, reduce parking problems and promote a healthier populace. It is vitally important that electric bicycles be recognized as legitimate vehicles in Honolulu and that Honolulu traffic laws take into account their existence.