
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU PROHIBIT
ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, ELECTRIC BICYCLES, AND ELECTRIC TRIKES
ON SIDEWALKS.

1 WHEREAS, electric scooters, electric bicycles, and three-
2 wheeled electric trikes have become widely available for
3 personal transportation and very popular with commercial tour
4 operators and are often ridden on Oahu's sidewalks where they
5 mix with pedestrians and motorists; and
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7 WHEREAS, while electric scooters, electric bicycles, and
8 electric trikes are convenient, affordable, and more
9 environmentally friendly than automobiles, they are a safety
10 hazard when ridden on sidewalks; and
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12 WHEREAS, electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric
13 trikes can weigh more than forty pounds and can be upgraded with
14 additional motors that allow the devices to reach speeds of
15 eighteen miles per hour, which is nearly six times faster than
16 the average walking speed of a person; and
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18 WHEREAS, electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric
19 trikes can seriously injure or kill pedestrians in a collision
20 and operators of these devices are at risk from motorists who do
21 not expect a small, quiet, and fast-moving motorized device to
22 appear in pedestrian rights-of-way; and
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24 WHEREAS, in 2003, the Legislature passed Act 180, which
25 defines an "electric personal assistive mobility device" as a
26 self-balancing, two-wheeled, non-tandem-wheeled device, designed
27 to transport only one person, using an electric propulsion
28 system that limits the maximum speed of the device to twelve and
29 a half miles per hour or less; and



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1 WHEREAS, Act 180 states that unless otherwise prohibited or
2 regulated by a county ordinance, electric personal assistive
3 mobility devices may be operated on sidewalks at a speed no
4 greater than eight miles per hour and on bicycle paths in the
5 State; and

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7 WHEREAS, many electric scooters and electric bicycles are
8 allowed on sidewalks and bike paths as electric personal
9 assistive mobility devices in the absence of county regulations
10 and, although three-wheeled electric trikes do not necessarily
11 fall within this definition, they are frequently used by
12 individuals and tour operators on pedestrian paths; and

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14 WHEREAS, within the past several years, pedestrians and
15 motorists have expressed safety concerns to policymakers about
16 the increasing number of individuals and tour operators riding
17 electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric trikes on
18 sidewalks and bike paths; and

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20 WHEREAS, because of safety risks to pedestrians, motorists,
21 and operators of electric scooters, electric bicycles, and
22 electric trikes, these devices should be prohibited on sidewalks
23 and bike paths; and

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25 WHEREAS, electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric
26 trikes should be categorized as "mopeds" under the Hawaii
27 Revised Statutes and "motorized devices" under the Revised
28 Ordinances of Honolulu, as both definitions prohibit operation
29 of these devices on sidewalks; and

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31 WHEREAS, policymakers must balance the advantages of
32 useful, emerging mobility device technology with public safety,
33 particularly in crowded transportation environments such as
34 Oahu's business districts and urban core; now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
38 2019, that the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Police
39 Department, Honolulu Department of Transportation Services, and
40 state Department of Transportation are requested to work with
41 the Honolulu City Council to prohibit riding electric scooters,



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1 electric bicycles, and electric trikes on sidewalks through
2 county-level regulations; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the stakeholders and
5 policymakers are encouraged to include electric scooters,
6 electric bicycles, and electric trikes under the existing
7 definition of "motorized devices" pursuant to the Revised
8 Ordinances of Honolulu and to prohibit operation of these
9 devices on sidewalks and bike paths; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honolulu Department of
12 Transportation Services is requested to submit a report of
13 findings and recommendations for regulation of electric
14 scooters, electric bicycles, and electric trikes, including any
15 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
16 days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,
20 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chair of the Honolulu
21 City Council, Chief of the Honolulu Police Department, and
22 Director of Transportation Services.

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OFFERED BY:

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