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TESTIMONY BY:

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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February 26, 2019
2:05 PM.
State Capitol, Room 325

HB 812, H.D.1
RELATING TO LOW SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES.

House Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation **supports** H.B.812, H.D.1.

This bill defines low speed electric bicycles, requires the operator of the low-speed electric bicycle to be at least fifteen years of age and requires low-speed bicycles to be registered with a fee.

Allowing these vehicles to be registered and legally used will add an economical mode of transportation that will be useful for many people.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-812-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:07:45 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Steinmetz	County of Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The County of Kauai supports HB 812, relating to low speed electric bicycles. The Bill brings the State of Hawaii in conformance with the Federal definition of a bicycle to include a "low speed electric bicycle" with a defined maximum power and speed. This will provide clarity for regulation and enforcement of low speed electric bicycles consistent with Federal law.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lee Steinmetz

Transportation Planning Officer, County of Kauai

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Testimony Supporting HB812

Aloha Transportation Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and esteemed members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Hawaii Bicycling League **supports HB812**, which would define electric bicycles as classified by the federal government at “low-speed electric bicycles” as bicycles in the state of Hawaii.

HB812 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 many 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 Daniel Alexander (808-275-6717, Daniel@hbl.org) or Chad Taniguchi (808-735-5756, chad@hbl.org).

Ride and Drive Aloha,

Daniel Alexander
Co-Executive Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

Chad Taniguchi
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