



**TESTIMONY BY:**

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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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March 15, 2019  
10:45 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225

**H.B. 812, H.D. 2**  
**RELATING TO LOW SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES.**

Senate Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B. 812, H.D. 2 with an amendment.

This bill, in part, defines low speed electric bicycles and requires low speed bicycles to be registered with a fee.

DOT recommends amending the minimum age at which a person may operate a low speed electric bicycle from eighteen to fifteen years of age.

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-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 1:10:15 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2019 10:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lee Steinmetz	Testifying for County of Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the Committee:

The County of Kauai supports HB 812 HD2, 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.

Given that this Bill will define low speed electric bicycles as bicycles, and there is currently no minimum age to ride a bicycle, the County does not recommend that a minimum age be set for riding a low speed electric bicycle. The County therefore recommends that the minimum age of 18 be deleted from this Bill.

Should a minimum age be set, 18 seems excessive, given that one can drive a car with a permit at the age of 15. Should a minimum age be set, the County would recommend the minimum age of 15, as set in SB 1078, or 14, as set in SB 665.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lee Steinmetz

Transportation Planning Officer, County of Kauai

**HB-812-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 12:32:52 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2019 10:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Smart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in SUPPORT of HB812 HD2 with amendment.

Current law appears to include "low-speed electric bicycles" within the definition of "Moped", but the requirements for mopeds are not (and should not) be imposed on these vehicles. If enacted this bill would clarify and rationalize the status of these e-bikes.

The bill has been amended to increase the registration fee for low-speed electric bicycles to \$30. I don't see the rationale for this 100% increase over bicycles. I recommend the bill be amended to set the fee for both to the current \$15.

In previous testimony, the C&C of Honolulu suggested changing the location for the registration tag/sticker to be rear-facing. This is impractical for any bicycle I am familiar with. First, the position assumes that a bicycle is using conventional (often referred to as "diamond") frame design. Other designs exist (most common is the so-called "recumbent") and the location of the tag/sticker isn't clear. For the "diamond" frame bicycle, the only practical location of the tag/sticker is forward facing on the component known as the "seat tube". The rear of the seat tube faces the rear wheel/tire and as such locating a sticker there would make it illegible without removing the rear wheel, and in addition would be subject to impact by water/debris thrown by the rear wheel during use and would quickly become damaged or lost.

Scott Smart

Mililani HI

**HB-812-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 9:18:15 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/15/2019 10:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Rogers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: