
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 can present a
10 safety 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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31 WHEREAS, Act 180 states that unless otherwise prohibited or
32 regulated by a county ordinance, electric personal assistive



1 mobility devices may be operated on sidewalks at a speed no
2 greater than eight miles per hour and on bicycle paths in the
3 State; and
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5 WHEREAS, many electric scooters and electric bicycles are
6 allowed on sidewalks and bike paths as electric personal
7 assistive mobility devices in the absence of county regulations
8 and, although three-wheeled electric trikes do not necessarily
9 fall within this definition, they are frequently used by
10 individuals and tour operators on pedestrian paths; and
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12 WHEREAS, within the past several years, pedestrians and
13 motorists have expressed safety concerns to policymakers about
14 the increasing number of individuals and tour operators riding
15 electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric trikes on
16 sidewalks and bike paths; and
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18 WHEREAS, because of safety risks to pedestrians, motorists,
19 and operators of electric scooters, electric bicycles, and
20 electric trikes, these devices should be prohibited on sidewalks
21 and bike paths; and
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23 WHEREAS, however, any prohibition on riding electric
24 scooters, electric bicycles, and electric trikes on sidewalks
25 must exempt senior and disabled individuals because those
26 mobility devices may be their only convenient and safe means of
27 transportation or may be a necessity to engage in activities of
28 daily living; and
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30 WHEREAS, electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric
31 trikes should be categorized as "mopeds" under the Hawaii
32 Revised Statutes and "motorized devices" under the Revised
33 Ordinances of Honolulu, as both definitions prohibit operation
34 of these devices on sidewalks; and
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36 WHEREAS, policymakers must balance the advantages of
37 useful, emerging mobility device technology with public safety,
38 particularly in crowded transportation environments such as
39 Oahu's business districts and urban core; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
 3 2020, that the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Police
 4 Department, Honolulu Department of Transportation Services, and
 5 state Department of Transportation are requested to work with
 6 the Honolulu City Council to prohibit riding electric scooters,
 7 electric bicycles, and electric trikes on sidewalks, with an
 8 exemption provided for senior and disabled individuals, through
 9 county-level regulations; and

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 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the stakeholders and
 12 policymakers are encouraged to include electric scooters,
 13 electric bicycles, and electric trikes under the existing
 14 definition of "motorized devices" pursuant to the Revised
 15 Ordinances of Honolulu and prohibit operation of these devices
 16 on sidewalks and bike paths; and

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 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honolulu Department of
 19 Transportation Services is requested to submit a report of
 20 findings and recommendations for regulation of electric
 21 scooters, electric bicycles, and electric trikes, including any
 22 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
 23 days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

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 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 26 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,
 27 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the
 28 Honolulu City Council, Chief of the Honolulu Police Department,
 29 and Director of Transportation Services.

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