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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 11, 2019
1:15 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 225

S.B. 1078
RELATING TO LOW SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation **supports** S.B. 1078 with amendments.

This bill will define low speed electric bicycles.

The low speed electric bicycle, by definition, in title United States Code section 2085(b) has a “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.”

Presuming electric bicycles can go 20 mph without much human effort, it is recommended that an age limit of 15 years of age be established for operators.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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Testimony Supporting SB1078

Aloha Transportation Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto, and esteemed members of the Committee on Transportation:

Hawaii Bicycling League **supports SB1078**, which would define electric bicycles as classified by the federal government at “low-speed electric bicycles” as bicycles in the state of Hawaii.

SB1078 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,

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

Daniel Alexander
Co-Executive Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

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

Chad Taniguchi
Director Emeritus
Hawaii Bicycling League