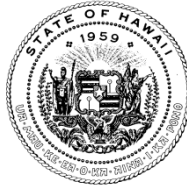


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 6, 2019
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225



S. B. 361
RELATING TO SAFETY HELMETS

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation **supports** S.B. 361.

This bill requires operators of mopeds to wear safety helmets, regardless of age.

According to the State fatality crash data for calendar years 2016 – 2018, there were 19 fatalities involving a moped. Of those 19 moped fatalities, only one (1) moped operator was wearing a helmet.

A helmet law that requires moped operators to use helmets will reduce the amount of head injuries and save lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Subject: Support SB361

Dear Senator Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation,

My name is Kari Benes and I am the chair of the Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) asking for your **support of SB361**, which requires all drivers of a moped to wear a helmet. This measure is one of the SHSP traffic safety priorities for 2019.

According to 2017 University of Hawaii Observational Studies, helmet use among moped riders has increased from 10% in 2002 to 31% in 2017. However, most moped riders are unhelmeted. Unhelmeted moped riders are more likely to receive a skull fracture or head injury in the event of a crash. This accounts for longer hospitalizations, disability and increased cost. Hospital charges are often 50% higher than for helmeted riders. Unfortunately, in Hawaii unhelmeted moped riders are 3 times as likely to require an income qualifying payer for their health insurance.¹ Nationwide, state governments absorb nearly \$5 billion in hospitalization for unhelmeted riders without medical insurance.²

The Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan's vision is that all of Hawaii's road users arrive safely at their destinations. You can help us achieve our goal of reducing yearly fatalities, by supporting this measure.

To view the Strategic Highway Safety Plan, go to www.hawaiiishsp.com

Strategic Highway Safety Plan Mission

Save lives and reduce injuries on Hawaii's roadways through strategic partnerships and implementation of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

¹ Galanis, D PhD., Castel, N., Wong, L., Steinemann, S MD. Impact of Helmet Use on Injury and Financial Burden of Motorcycle and Moped Crashes in Hawaii; Analysis of Linked Statewide Database. Hawaii J Trauma Med, Dec 2016; Vol 75.

² McSwain NE Jr., and Belles A. Motorcycle Helmets- Medical Costs and the Law. J Trauma. 1990;30(10):1197-9



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB361 Related to Moped Safety

To: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair; Committee on Transportation

Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC) **SUPPORTS** SB361 Relating to Safety Helmets.

My name is Lisa Dau, RN, Injury Prevention Coordinator and I represent Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC). KIPC **SUPPORTS** the passage of **SB361 RELATING TO SAFETY HELMETS** that requires all drivers to wear safety helmets when driving a moped. This bill is a **NO BRAINER**.

When a helmet is properly worn it prevents deaths (decreased by 42%) and brain injuries (decreased by 69%), this data comes from Hawai'i State Department of Health, 2012. Other statistics from Hawai'i DOH from 2005-2009 shows that 96% of fatally injured moped riders were not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash, and 86% of moped riders were not wearing a helmet in non-fatal crashes.

Helmets can reduce traumatic brain injuries and reduce health care costs. This is a public health issue that needs to be address by passing this bill. Please consider passing SB361

Mahalo,

Lisa Dau, RN
Injury Prevention Coordinator
Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 1:59:26 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ray Pagan	Testifying for Street Bikers United	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 4:29:38 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jasmine Paige	Testifying for Street Bikers United Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:00:18 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Travis	Testifying for SBU	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:00:37 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jon	Testifying for SBU HAWAII	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 2:48:12 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raymond King	Testifying for Pacific Knights MC	Oppose	No

Comments:

The steady erosion of personal rights should stop. It is the rider's responsibility to take any and all safety precautions when riding. There are times when helmets hinder the rider's ability to avoid accidents.

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 2:52:56 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaac Kaopua	Testifying for Street Bikers United	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 2:49:33 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Lau	Testifying for HSBU	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB361.

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:15:07 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Willie larry jr	Testifying for Indian Motorcycle Rider's Group	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 2:34:41 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Vincent Jr	Testifying for SNUHI.ORG	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it takes away our freedom off choice our freedom to choose to wear or not wear a helmet. Mopeds is the first they'll attack then motorcycles and then the door is open to make more changes and take more of our freedom of choice away.

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 2:31:26 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Mase	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the requirement of mandatory helmet usage.

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 2:37:06 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom DeMello	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Helmet laws are an infringement of our rights to make our own decisions. There are way too many laws taking away our rights.

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 6:58:23 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Suares	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I've worked as an emergency medicine physician at The Queen's Medical Center over the past 10 years and can personally attest to the physical and emotional devastation that could have easily been prevented by the simple act of wearing a helmet. All too often I have seen patients with life altering head/face injuries that could have been avoided had a helmet been required. Indeed, a helmet can sometimes make the difference between life and death.

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:08:34 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James R Sowa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 3:35:56 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Michaels	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 6:47:25 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Waldmann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I know this is a choice and i love the fact that i have the right to make that choice. this bill should not be allowed to pass due to the fact of it removes my choice to not wear a safety helmet and i am an educated individual that understands the risk to myself in not wearing one, but if desire to wear one i can also. do not push someone else's want onto me leave me my choice.

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 6:56:15 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
roylanda balinbin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

It is my belief that motorcyclists are the most safest individuals on the roads. We ride in the best interest of ourselves and others. We are constantly aware of our surroundings and look at the most possible outcomes when we ride. It is our right to choose what we wear and when. We ride to have a sense of living not captivity.

Sincerely,

Roylanda (live to ride, ride to live) (PKMC)

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:47:15 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Celeste Rogers	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:52:40 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry Fitzpatrick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:29:31 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ikuko Watkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:14:54 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Leibfreid	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill and any helmet law for motorized transportation.

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:48:52 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Bojanowski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Re. Hearing at 1:15 pm 2/6/19

Dear Sen. Inouye, Sen. Harimoto, and other Members of the Committee on Transportation,

I am writing in VERY STRONG SUPPORT of SB361 relating to safety helmets for moped riders.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Bojanowski
Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:18:16 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Adult riders should have the right to choose. Aso riding conditions often make wearing a helmet more hazardous. Limits visibility, intense overheating, fogged visors, neck cramps, and wind resistance (especially winds hitting from the sides) are just some of the hazards included with helmets. Adults should maintain the right to choose.

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 6:47:10 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Norman Batino Jr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe i can hear my surroundings better with no helmet, example: screeching cars tires, horn's people yelling, my peripheral vision is better, I can turn my head faster, when looking at my surroundings etc

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:59:40 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tadashi Mitsuoka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable Senators:

I am a Hawaii resident and have 10 years bicycle riding experience and 13 years motorcycle riding experience with 50,000+ miles touring the Mainland (43,000+ miles on-island.) I never used a helmet while riding a bicycle; however, I did wear full-face Snell certified helmets on motorcycles (750cc & 1800cc). The decision to wear a helmet was a matter of personal choice; and I spent over \$1,500 on helmets.

I am opposed to SB361 as a measure to require the wearing of helmets by moped operators based on age. This measure is vague and almost certainly impossible to enforce as it would necessitate profiling of operators of mopeds on the adjudicated matter.

SB 361 lacks definition for a moped safety helmet; is there a safety criteria for such moped helmets; is there a safety inspection required for such moped helmets. If a Snell helmet is dropped; it's considered dead. As a matter of practicality who is going to throw away a \$50 moped helmet if they happen to drop it? How will the state enforce this?

SB 361 lacks any specificity on moped helmets; and more importantly fails to recognize what purpose the safety helmet serves. Once the measure addresses what purpose is being served; it becomes more apparent just how vague, unenforceable, and how SB 361 totally misses the mark as a measure to improve public safety or prevent injuries or fatalities.

If you want to improve safety, separate moped traffic from all other forms of traffic. Even Biki bikes collide with pedestrians; and they don't require helmets to rent.

Thank you for your consideration and I ask you please do not support SB 361.

Tadashi Mitsuoka

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:28:51 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terrill Watkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:05:37 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Rod	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

SB-361

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:13:47 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelvin N Asahina, DDS	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB361.