
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU PROTECT
PEDESTRIANS ON SIDEWALKS BY CREATING SEPARATE FACILITIES
FOR ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, ELECTRIC BICYCLES, AND ELECTRIC
TRIKES.

1 WHEREAS, electric scooters, electric bicycles, and three-
2 wheeled electric trikes have become widely available for
3 personal transportation, are 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 are a safety
10 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 modified to
14 allow the devices to reach speeds of eighteen miles per hour,
15 which is nearly six times faster than the average walking speed
16 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, the Legislature passed Act 180, Session Laws of
25 Hawaii 2003 (Act 180), which defines an "electric personal
26 assistive mobility device" as a self-balancing, two-wheeled,
27 non-tandem-wheeled device, designed to transport only one
28 person, using an electric propulsion system that limits the
29 maximum speed of the device to twelve and one-half miles per
30 hour or less; and
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1 WHEREAS, Act 180 states that unless otherwise prohibited or
2 regulated by a county ordinance, electric personal assistive
3 mobility devices may be operated on sidewalks at a speed no
4 greater than eight miles per hour and on bicycle paths in the
5 State; and
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7 WHEREAS, in the absence of county regulations, many
8 electric scooters and electric bicycles are allowed on sidewalks
9 and bike paths as electric personal assistive mobility devices
10 and, although three-wheeled electric trikes do not necessarily
11 fall within this definition, they are frequently used by
12 individuals and tour operators on pedestrian paths; and
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14 WHEREAS, within the past several years, pedestrians and
15 motorists have expressed safety concerns to policymakers about
16 the increasing number of individuals and tour operators riding
17 electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric trikes on
18 sidewalks; and
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20 WHEREAS, policymakers must balance the advantages of
21 useful, emerging mobility device technology with public safety,
22 particularly in crowded transportation environments such as
23 Oahu's business districts and urban core; now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
27 that the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Police
28 Department, Honolulu Department of Transportation Services, and
29 Department of Transportation are requested to work with the
30 Honolulu City Council to protect pedestrians on the sidewalks by
31 providing separate protected facilities for the operation of
32 electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric trikes; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honolulu Department of
35 Transportation Services is requested to submit a report of its
36 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
37 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
38 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,
42 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the



1 Honolulu City Council, Chief of the Honolulu Police Department,
2 and Director of Transportation Services of the City and County
3 of Honolulu.

