

HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Thursday, March 18, 2021
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In SUPPORT of
HB 72, HD2
RELATING TO FOOT SCOOTERS.

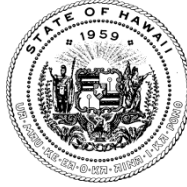
Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 72, HD2, which would establish a framework for the regulation of electric foot scooters by the State and counties.

HSEO supports the establishment of a regulatory framework for electric foot scooters to increase safety, clean transportation, and more micro-mobility options. The HSEO defers to the Department of Transportation and the Counties on issues pertaining to safety, enforcement, and regulation.

HSEO's comments are guided by our mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resiliency, and clean transportation to help achieve a decarbonized economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

March 18, 2021
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

H.B. 72, H.D. 2
RELATING TO ELECTRIC FOOT SCOOTERS

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation **supports** H.B. 72, H.D. 2, which establishes a framework for the regulation of electric foot scooters by the State and counties. Amends definitions of "moped" to exclude electric foot scooters.

As the use of micro-mobility devices grows, the State of Hawaii will continue to work with the four counties as they evaluate and prioritize this new and alternative form of transportation to ensure safe and equitable usage on our roadways.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. MCCARTHY
AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **WO-BL**

March 18, 2021

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Transportation
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 72, H.D. 2, Relating to Electric Foot Scooters

I am Walter Ozeki, Major of District 7 (East Honolulu) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports passage of House Bill No. 72, H.D. 2, Relating to Electric Foot Scooters.

The HPD recognizes that the use of electric foot scooters has become more commonplace on or along our roadways. Electric foot scooters are able to reach considerable speeds and the scooters themselves are of a considerable mass. Currently, there are almost no regulations that specifically govern the operation or safety equipment required to operate these devices in a safe manner.

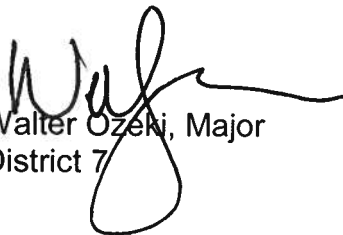
It has been observed that now more than ever we see pedestrians and all types of smaller and larger vehicles intermingled on our roadways. It is the HPD's belief that as we see the number of electric scooters on our roadways increase, it is inevitable that we will also see the number of collisions involving these devices increase proportionately. It is imperative that regulations governing both the operation of electric foot scooters as well as required safety equipment be regulated. This is essential to minimize the risk to everyone utilizing our roadways.

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
March 18, 2021
Page 2

The HPD supports passage of House Bill No. 72, H.D. 2, Relating to Electric Foot Scooters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Walter Ozeki, Major
District 7

APPROVED:



Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



J. ROGER MORTON
DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

JON Y. NOUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (TRS)

MARCH 18, 2021
3:00 PM

**IN SUPPORT OF
HB 72, HD2 – RELATING TO ELECTRIC FOOT SCOOTERS**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Transportation Services is in strong support of this measure that introduces electric foot scooters into the Statewide Traffic Code and other applicable sections of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Electric foot scooters and other micromobility options have enormous potential to be a solution to reducing transportation costs, vehicle congestion on our roads, dependence on fossil fuels, and pollutants and harmful emissions. These vehicles are also a good option for first-mile/last-mile connections for many who use public transit as a primary mode of transportation. We are seeing electric foot scooters on our roads more frequently now, and it is time to adopt the necessary statutes to appropriately regulate these vehicles. Without this bill, this viable transportation solution will remain illegal.

In addition to allowing for the use of these new vehicle types in Hawaii and establishing minimum standards, we appreciate that this bill affords each county the ability to further regulate scooters within the statewide framework in a manner that suits the respective counties. As our agency is responsible for providing a multimodal transportation system for the City and County of Honolulu, this measure will enable us to incorporate shared fleets into our system.

Thank you for consideration of this measure and for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



/AIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BLVD. SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

The Waikiki Neighborhood Board supports the concept of the following bill: SB183

At the February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board the Board voted in favor of the concept of this bill.

By defining Electric Scooters as a separate vehicle and implementing rules for use this bill will provide a safer Waikiki sidewalk environment for residents and visitors.

Robert J. Finley

Robert J. Finley

Chair

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

KA'ĀINA HULL, DIRECTOR

JODI A. HIGUCHI SAYEGUSA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of Lee Steinmetz

Transportation Planning Officer, Planning Department

Before the

Senate Committee on Transportation

March 18, 2021 at 3:00 PM

Conference Room 224

In consideration of

HOUSE BILL 72 HD2

Relating to Electric Foot Scooters

To the Honorable Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i **supports** HB 72 HD2. As electric foot scooters have been sold in Hawai'i for several years, we should move to reasonably regulate this new technology instead of ignoring it. The County appreciates the structure of HB 72 HD2 which allows the flexibility for each county to regulate the operation of electric foot scooters as it deems best, with minimums established in this Bill. The use of electric foot scooters is an important part of Kaua'i's micromobility strategy to reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions while supporting affordable transportation choices and economic development. It is also important to the County and our entire State that electric foot scooters be regulated with safety in mind.

The language of HB 72 HD2 was developed with the involvement of representatives from counties, Hawai'i Department of Transportation, the Hawai'i Bicycle League, and Bikeshare Hawaii. In addition, input was received from the e-scooter industry.

The County of Kaua'i greatly appreciates your consideration of this Bill.



March 18, 2021

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Transportation, Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

Testimony in Support of HB 72 HD 2 Relating to Electric Foot Scooters

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, esteemed Members of the Senate Transportation Committee, and staff:

My name is Breanna Bledsoe, Senior Public Policy Manager for Spin, and we support HB 72 HD 2 relating to electric foot scooters. Spin is a shared micromobility company based in California, operating in about 70 markets across the United States and Europe. Our partnership-first approach is unique in the industry, because we work with local governments and receive permission before operating. We thank you for your diligent efforts in moving necessary regulations for the budding but fast-growing shared micromobility industry, which will help reduce the number of car trips on the islands.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony, and we look forward to working with you and your Committee to pass this legislation. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Breanna Bledsoe, Spin
Senior Public Policy Manager
breanna.bledsoe@spin.pm

HB-72-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:12:58 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Hopkins	Testifying for Lime	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you Chairperson and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify in support of HB72.

The need for micromobility in Hawaii is great, for congestion reduction as well as economic development. The legislature's approval of this bill would open up counties to have free congestion reduction tools that are good for business. The North American Bikeshare Association found that 41% of scooter trips replace a car trip, leaving precious road space open to trips in which use of a car is essential. Given the share of short trips for which cars are used in Hawaii, the traffic data company [INRIX identified Honolulu as the #1 city](#) in the entire country that could benefit from scooters. With nearly 60% of car trips less than three miles—the highest in the nation—there is great opportunity to improve mobility by shifting some of those trips to all-electric scooters. This opportunity improves further with the opening of light rail. Scooters are tailor-made as a first/last mile solution. Ten percent of Lime scooter trips are connections to public transit, and about half of all riders are frequent users of scooters to get to transit.

A recent Emory University [study](#) showed that **each scooter deployed contributes to \$921 in additional economic activity**—primarily in the hard-hit food and beverage sector—every 6 months. Meanwhile, Lime data from multiple cities shows approximately **80% of riders say they visit local businesses MORE when scooters are present**. This is likely because scooters save time on travel giving people more time to shop, because scooters help people discover great local establishments, and visitors are less tired when they arrive. A full 97% of riders say they've used a scooter to visit a business, and about half of scooter trips start or end in a business district, bringing more customers to make purchases from businesses struggling from COVID. Scooters can be part of the State's COVID tourism recovery at no cost to the State or counties. This is largely why scooters are operational in around 200 cities across the globe, includes cities like Tel Aviv, Rio, Miami and Santa Monica. Likewise here, the industry looks forward to being part of the COVID recovery solution across Hawaii—from Hilo to Honolulu.

Lime, along with the rest of the micromobility industry, is strongly supportive of this bill. This bill has been up for consideration before the legislature since the 2019 session, and we believe it would have passed last session if the session had not been shortened by COVID-19. The language has been thoroughly reviewed and vetted by all interested

parties. Aside from the state vehicle registration fee, the bill is consistent with standard practice language used by states across the country. We strongly recommend passage.

Thank you for your support of this effort.

RE: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES H.B. NO. 72. THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021

Helbiz is supportive of HB72 as written and looks forward to participating in a shared scooter program in Hawaii in the near future.

We started Helbiz to do two things: be the most trusted partner to cities, and operate the safest fleet of light electric vehicles. We'll let our record speak for what we hope to bring to Hawaii.

We created the first scooter permits in Italy, and recently acquired the operations of Skip who built the first permit for scooters in the United States in Washington DC. Helbiz has never launched without permission. In each city where we operate, we've collaborated with local partners and regulators to tailor our program, rather than use a one-size fits all approach.

We have never launched without a permit in place, and are proud of our record with cities. Barring extreme weather, or state of emergency declarations, we have never been asked to cease operations or to pull out of any city. We maintained 100% service levels during covid-19 and have the highest percentage of equity access trips of any operator. We have never failed to disclose information on a permit application. We have not yet had a single fatality or life-threatening injury after 3 years and millions of successful trips. We have never been named in class action lawsuits or judgements for systemic safety issues.

Our fleet is and has only ever been run by 100% employees. We swap batteries and repair scooters using e-bikes and e-scooters, not vans that create more traffic. Our operating system and vehicles are proven in snow, salted roads, hurricanes, summer-time heat, and large public events. We automatically detect tip-overs, dispatch our team to fix them, and make our response times public. We have tested our vehicles to a safe and reliable 2,000 mile lifetime, and all of them are well on track after year 1.

We believe Hawaii would benefit from transparency and responsiveness from partners and safety and reliability from their fleet of scooters.

HB-72-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:39:09 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support the establishment of a regulatory framework for electric foot scooters to increase safety and clean transportation. I live in the Ala Moana/Kaka'ako area and see increased electric foot scooters being used.