

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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TESTIMONY TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION (TRS) & PUBLIC SAFETY,  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS (PSM)

MARCH 25, 2021  
3:15 PM

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 76 &  
SENATE RESOLUTION 56**

Chair Lee, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) provides comments on these measures.

Micromobility vehicles, including electric bicycles and electric foot scooters, are more frequently becoming part of multimodal transportation systems here in Honolulu and in other cities across the country. Our department is implementing Complete Streets solutions, updating our Oahu Bike Plan, and developing an Oahu Pedestrian Plan to ensure our infrastructure can accommodate all modes of transportation.

While we work on the physical infrastructure, the legal and policy infrastructure must set the parameters for micromobility vehicles. Under existing state traffic code, electric foot scooters are classified as mopeds, and are generally prohibited from being operated, regardless of location. These are different from electric personal assistive mobility devices, which include Segways. If electric foot scooters and other similar vehicles are not permitted by state law, the counties do not have authority to further regulate such vehicles. The City supports House Bill 72, H.D. 2 as it provides a path forward to building the necessary policy framework for the City and County of Honolulu to effectively regulate these vehicles.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

**SCR-76**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 7:02:53 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/25/2021 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please accept this as testimony in strong support of the measure. These electric contraptions go too fast and endanger pedestrians, handicapped, and others and do not belong on sidewalks.

**SCR-76**

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 3:49:46 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/25/2021 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr Brigette Kuhn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I understand the possible threat electric scooter can have too individuals. In Waikiki and in Hawaii we have more problems with people looking at their cell phones and walking and not aware of their surroundings. I think that's more of a deterrent to anything than a scooter is. I do understand that two wheel scooters can go quite fast. However I've seen many incidents of an elderly person using a mobility scooter and someone riding along with them on a two-wheel scooter going only the speed limit of the mobility- four the six miles an hour. That's the pace of an average Walker. The bigger issue is people walking on the sidewalks taking up the whole sidewalk going one way and not allowing the scooter or the mobility scooter to pass. I am only addressing in this situation two wheel scooters going the speed of an average Walker. I work with many handicapped individuals who use mobility scooters and their companion has a two-wheel scooter. It is unconscionable to have the mobility scooter on the sidewalk weaving in and out of uncontrolled Walkers and have the two-wheel scooter at that same pace in the roadway. You can imagine that would possibly cause that 2 wheel scooter to get hit by a car or cause unmentionable issues. There should be a caveat that if a two-wheel scooter is on the sidewalk a limited speed such as 4 to 6 miles an hour which is the walking pace of individuals should be upheld. Anything faster than that maybe an issue. If you are going to limit two wheel scooters on sidewalk think about limiting the speed instead of the scooter Keurig it's not the scooter causing the issue that you're concerned about it's the speed of the scooter. I and my friends leaving Waikiki and we've never seen an incident involving a scooter and a pedestrian. I asked you to B someone in a mobility scooter with a companion on a two-wheel scooter not being able accompanying you and help you at your Mobility Scooter pace. So what you would dinner saying companions to mobility scooters for use a two-wheel scooter are banned. Thus further condemning anyone with a disability to limit the help that they need. Would you Outlaw the long cane of a person with eyesight disabilities because it might trip somebody on the sidewalk?

**SCR-76**

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 4:05:15 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/25/2021 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marlene Morris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a 72 year old disabled women who uses a scooter daily indoors and outdoors. By not allowing me to ride my scooter on the sidewalk would pose a great danger for me to ride it in oncoming traffic. Please make an exception for disability scooters. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

sincerely,

Marlene Morris

**SCR-76**

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 4:06:25 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/25/2021 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SCR76.

As someone who is almost a senior citizen and who has many friends in their 60s, 70s, and 80s who often walk around Waikiki and Kaka'ako, I understand the fear of falling; and especially of being knocked to the ground.

Many of these smaller modes of electric transportation can cause great bodily harm to people with older, more fragile bones.

They are so quiet that, even for kupuna with hearing aids, it is almost impossible to know that riders are trying to whiz around us on narrow sidewalks from behind. And it is quite easy to unknowingly walk in front of them – even if the riders are trying to avoid us.

**There is a place for everything, but the sidewalks should be used for just that: to walk.**

Thank you for your kind consideration.

**SCR-76**

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 4:31:35 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/25/2021 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Louise Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the proposal to prohibit electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric trikes on Honolulu sidewalks. I live in Waikiki, in part because it is so easy to walk to restaurants, businesses, parks, and beaches. I have seen people on electric scooters move very fast on sidewalks. I do not trust them to safely navigate around pedestrians and am concerned I could easily be injured by someone who is not paying attention. Many users are tourists who are easily distracted by the new sights around them. Motorized vehicles belong on the roadways, not among pedestrians.

**SCR-76**

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 4:59:39 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/25/2021 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a good start. We need to ban regular bikes also.

**SCR-76**

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 5:04:24 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/25/2021 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John & Rita Shockley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

Our pedestrians are already in peril from reckless drivers running people down in cross-walks. Scooters under power can do a lot of damage to pedestrians especially kupuna and keikes. Let's keep scooters off the sidewalks for everyone's safety.

Mahalo for your time.



**SCR-76**

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 5:24:13 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/25/2021 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Garsva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly urge you to pass this bill and keep all electric vehicles off sidewalks and pathways round the parks. They're dangerous.

**SCR-76**

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 10:57:25 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/25/2021 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joann Sutton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Since I walk a great deal in the Waikiki area I am accustomed to watching out for the various vehicles on the sidewalks. Therefore I am pleased to see this issue up for discussion. It seems to me that common sense practices dictate that for safety reasons sidewalks should be reserved for pedestrians only. In addition, signage should make this clear especially in places where there are Biki rentals. For instance, the Ala Wai Canal from Kalakaua to the fire house on Kapahulu is a popular route for all types of vehicles and pedestrian traffic with only has 3 signs covering a 2 mile expanse and the signs are old and faded with no signage at the Biki rental at Seaside. With all of the various types of vehicles on the sidewalks and roadways right now I would rather not have the E-Scooter rentals back, but if they are relicensed, there should be laws restricting their usage on sidewalks to protect pedestrians. Further, if there is a new law passed it's important that people are informed and that the law is enforced.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann sutton

**LATE**

**SCR-76**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 1:02:14 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/25/2021 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marlene Kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a 30-year resident of Waikiki. I take my dog out for short walks around the block a few times a day, but for the main, longer walk of the day, we drive to a more pedestrian-friendly neighborhood.

This is so unfortunate, and it didn't use to be like this. We used to walk all over Waikiki, but now I just don't feel safe. It's bad enough to always be on the lookout for uneven sidewalks with cracked cement and missing flagstone. And the skateboards. Then add the bicycles that illegally ride on the sidewalk when there's a perfectly fine bike lane right next to them.

And now these new electric bicycles and motorized scooters are a nightmare.

I'm afraid of getting knocked down, and even more afraid of what will happen to my dog if I get knocked over and she decides to protect me. If I see them coming, I will - begrudgingly - move aside and instruct my dog to "wait," and she does. But if they zoom up behind me, as has happened too often, I don't have enough time to prepare and I'm seriously concerned that a very bad outcome is more than likely. I don't want the rider to get hurt, I don't want my dog to hurt someone or be hurt, and I really don't want to fall and break a hip or something.

I am in favor of keeping sidewalks only for walking, and for implementing regulations on how and where these vehicles may be ridden (not on the sidewalk!).