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

March 14, 2023
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, and Teleconference

S.B. 385, S.D. 1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of S.B. 385, S.D. 1, which establishes registration requirements and driver's licensing requirements for operation of electric rickshaw and defines electric rickshaw.

The DOT support electric vehicles as part of our clean energy initiatives. However, as safety is our top priority, the DOT will need more time to ensure that these vehicles meet all federal motor vehicle safety standards and can operate safely on our roadways.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

TESTIMONY
Bill SB385

To: Senator Chris Lee;
Chairman of the Transportation
Committee, State of Hawaii

To: Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki;
Senator, District 12
State of Hawaii

From: Benjamin Richards, CEO;
Las Vegas Tuk Tuk, LLC

Re: Testimony: SB385

Date: March 10, 2023

Dear Senator Chris Lee and
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki,

I am a constituent of Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki ~ my daughter attended Ala Wai Elementary in her district. The office of Senator Lee along with Senator Moriwaki and several sponsors have submitted SB385 legislation regarding the operation of Electric Rickshaws. The objective of this legislation is to certify Electric Rickshaws, which would include our US DOT certified "green" electric e-Tuk vehicles, for operation as tourism shuttles in the State of Hawaii.

We were advised by Hawaii DOT officials to seek a legislative solution as our most viable path forward in order to license and operate the e-Tuk "Honolulu Experience" tourist service here in Hawaii. We are launching a similar service this year in Las Vegas, and in Singapore, with policy support from the Singapore Tourism Board. It is our belief that Honolulu tourists would benefit from this service and it would improve an already vibrant tourism landscape.

The e-Tuk vehicle is certified by the US DOT and currently operates in 32 US States and several EU nations. When e-Tuks were introduced in the US, its distributor e-Tuk USA made several modifications to meet DOT certification requirements, and they also operate a fleet of tourism vehicles in Denver. Tourists love the e-Tuk because it provides a breezy, visceral experience of the natural environment, which makes it especially suitable for a "green city" like Honolulu.

Here in Honolulu we suggest there are several reasons the e-Tuk Honolulu Experience is good for Hawaii. These are electric "green" vehicles which helps promote Honolulu as a "green city", this service is an attractive transportation option for Honolulu visitors, the e-Tuk Honolulu Experience is beneficial to the city's tourism economy. Asian Tourists especially that come to Honolulu will be familiar with this vehicle and be charmed to see it here.

The Hawaii officials I have spoken with have been helpful and folks in the tourism industry I have spoken with are quite supportive of the prospect of adding the e-Tuk Honolulu Experience to the tourism landscape of Honolulu. Indeed, this service has already improved the tourism landscape in cities like Paris, where they operate along the Champs-Élysées, to Denver where they operate in the city's trendy Rino District and also unique city tours.

While it is logical that motorcycles are operated as private transport only, it is our contention that this 7-passenger electric e-Tuk vehicle which is certified by the US DOT and used for the public transport of passengers in several US States including California, should find a home here in Hawaii as well with the enactment of SB385 currently being considered. Sometimes a fresh look as laws on the books empowers new innovations that improve our communities.

We submit that the e-Tuk Honolulu Experience is a *green transport service* in line with Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative 2045 objectives. Please see this Weblink for the e-Tuk Singapore Experience generated for the Land Transport Authority in Singapore which is another world city *Going Green*. I respectfully submit this testimony for consideration and am grateful to Senator Lee for sponsoring SB385 to facilitate licensing of these green vehicles here in Hawaii.

Thanks for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Benjamin Richards, CEO
Las Vegas Tuk Tuk, LLC

702.752.3234

Safety Record & DOT Certification:

- e-Tuk USA made several vehicle modifications, reference these attachments, to obtain US DOT certification of the vehicle here.
- States generally defer to the federal US DOT certification of the e-Tuk, with respect to vehicle safety and locally facilitate Vehicle Registration.
- These e-Tuks are low speed vehicles with a top speed of 35mph, operating only on surface streets with seat belts for all passengers.
- In Hawaii; other exotic transport is licensed like open-top buses, helicopter tours and catamarans on the open sea ~ to service the tourism industry.
- Operated by licensed drivers at low-speeds, e-Tuk vehicles have a perfect safety record, providing tourists sensational journeys along the way.

DROPBOX LINK: LTA FILES **e-Tuk "Singapore Experience"**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a4xrok6dssiinp2/AACGGExoxYRliXq4VNnG8ObTa?dl=0>