

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

RE: HB958 HD2 SD1

IN SUPPORT

Aloha kākou,

My name is Ashley Kehaulani and I am writing in strong support of HB958 HD2 SD1. This bill prohibits individuals under 15 years of age from riding a class 3 electric bicycle; amends the age requirement for helmet use from 16 to 18 years of age; allows use of electric bicycles on public sidewalks, subject to certain conditions; establishes rules for electric bicycle operation; prohibits the use of mopeds and electric motorcycles on any path or road designated for bicycle use; prohibits individuals under 18 years of age from operating an electric motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, among other things.

I support this bill's passing for the following reasons:

1. Protecting the safety of our keiki

This bill will help to improve safety for our keiki by mandating a helmet be used for those 18 and under and prohibiting minors under 15 from riding a class 3 electric bike. My son's best friend suffered a traumatic injury from riding an electric bike just on their home street. They were not wearing a helmet, and the bike tripped on something on the roadway that caused the back wheel to flip over the front, ejecting the child onto the roadway and causing severe injury. She was hospitalized for months and had to get skin grafted to fix the injury to her face and scalp. So, I am in strong support of stricter rules when it comes to these electric bicycles to ensure our keiki can operate them safely.

2. Safety for pedestrians, bicycle riders and vehicle drivers

This bill will also improve safety for pedestrians, bicycle riders and vehicle drivers alike by having clearer and enforced guidelines. Prohibiting the use of mopeds and electric bikes in designated bike lanes ensures the safety of bicycle riders who are unable to move at the same speed as the electric options. This also ensures the safety of kupuna and other pedestrians by mandating that e-bike usage on sidewalks be kept at under 10 miles per hour. The requirement that all bikes with motors must maintain all wheels on the ground at all times will reduce reckless driving that leads to accidents amongst vehicle traffic. Accidents related to e-bikes have increased significantly; just 3 days ago an e-bike rider suffered serious injuries from a

collision on Kapiolani Blvd, and last month a 7 yr old tragically lost her life after a fatal accident in Ewa.

3. An affordable and efficient option

Having safer, affordable alternate modes of transportation in Hawai'i where costs are substantially higher is vital. Switching to an e-bike for commuting can save Hawai'i households between \$5-\$10k annually due to reduced gas, maintenance and parking expenses. By regulating the safety and operation of e-bikes, this will become a more appealing option to people looking for a more affordable method of transportation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Ashley Kehaulani Green

HB-958-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 3:30:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.