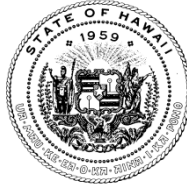


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

February 4, 2025
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

LATE

S.B. 1481
RELATING TO MOTORCYCLE INSTRUCTION PERMITS

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports S.B. 1481** which requires that all applicants for a motorcycle instruction permit to successfully complete a basic motorcycle rider course approved by the Department of Transportation before becoming eligible for the permit.

The DOT respectfully requests the following change to this measure:

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 286-110 (d) be revised to - "A person who is not licensed to operate the category of motor vehicles to which the driving training course applies shall not operate a motor vehicle in connection with the driving training course without a valid temporary instruction permit unless it is a motorcycle, motor scooter or moped as defined in Hawaii Revised Statute 286-2 that is being used for training purposes on an enclosed State certified training range as defined in HAR 19-123-255."

This will allow for the potential rider to use a motorcycle, motor scooter or moped while completing the required practical rider skills portion of the training course.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KUPA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

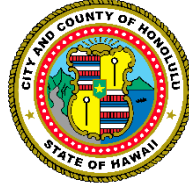
ADMINISTRATION

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
PHONE: (808) 768-3392 • FAX: (808) 768-3750 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

KIMBERLY HASHIRO
DIRECTOR
PO'O

MEGAN JOHNSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O



February 3, 2025

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation
and Culture and the Arts
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 1481 - Relating To Motorcycle Instruction Permits
HEARING: Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD),
Division of Motor Vehicle Registration (DMV), respectfully offers comments to
S.B. No. 1481, relating to motorcycle instruction permits for your committee's
consideration.

Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of
Honolulu, CSD DMV administers the motor vehicle driver licensing program for the
island of O'ahu.

S.B. No. 1481 requires, starting on July 1, 2026, all applicants for a motorcycle
instruction permit to successfully complete a basic motorcycle rider course approved by
the Hawaii Department of Transportation before becoming eligible for a motorcycle
instruction permit.

CSD DMV appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation to improve traffic
safety for motorcycle riders and all other roadway users by requiring a basic motorcycle
rider course approved by the Hawaii Department of Transportation prior to receiving a
motorcycle instruction permit.

While CSD DMV supports efforts to enhance road safety, we appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns regarding potential impacts on our operations, including:

- **Implementation Timeline:** CSD DMV will require a reasonable and adequate amount of time to initiate communications and coordinate efforts with the Hawaii Department of Transportation; the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Information Technology; and the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, regarding implementation of the proposed legislation. Given the number of stakeholders involved and the necessary coordination of efforts among these stakeholders to properly implement the proposed legislation, we have significant concerns regarding the feasibility of the stated July 1, 2026 implementation date.
- **Verification Process:** If the Hawaii Department of Transportation approves and certifies new required basic motorcycle rider course(s), the counties will require access to information and updated lists of approved course(s) to confirm that an applicant has successfully completed the required course(s).
- **Administrative and Technical Adjustments:** CSD DMV will be required to update its administrative procedures and pertinent information technology systems to verify basic motorcycle rider course completion, which could increase motorcycle instruction permit processing times.

CSD DMV requires additional time to research and assess implementation requirements. CSD DMV will be required to work with the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Information Technology, to implement all necessary information technology requirements. CSD DMV and the Department of Information Technology will also be required to work the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui to coordinate the implementation of all necessary administrative procedures and updates to the counties' information technology systems. CSD DMV has significant concerns regarding the feasibility of completing the required planning and implementation of the necessary administrative and technical adjustments by the stated July 1, 2026 implementation date.

- **Customer Service Considerations:** Additional inquiries and longer wait times may result as motorcycle instruction permit applicants navigate new motorcycle instruction permit processes and requirements.

CSD DMV requires additional time to assess the need for additional staffing, information technology and other resources to provide customers with the proposed additional services in a timely and acceptable manner.

Testimony for S.B. No. 1481
February 3, 2025
Page 3

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 1481.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director Designate



Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

02/04/25 3:00 PM

CR 224 & Videoconference

SB 1481

RELATING TO MOTORCYCLE INSTRUCTION PERMITS

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports SB1481**, which requires all applicants for a motorcycle instruction permit to successfully complete a basic motorcycle rider course approved by the Department of Transportation before becoming eligible for the permit.

This bill will help us achieve the goal of reducing traffic related deaths and serious injuries to zero by 2045. Traffic fatalities increased ten percent between 2023 and 2024 in Hawaii. While there was a decrease in the proportion of motorcycle fatalities from 2023 to 2024, there has been an increase in fatalities since 2020. The [Motorcycle Safety Foundation](#) acknowledges that motorcycle rider courses assist riders in learning about the controls and operation of the motorcycle in addition to how to become a safer and more responsible rider. Many of these courses require classroom as well hands-on skill evaluations which help develop safe riding techniques.

The OahuMPO is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on the island of Oahu responsible for carrying out a multimodal transportation planning process, including the development of a long-range (25-year horizon) metropolitan transportation plan, referred to as the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP), which encourages and promotes a safe, efficient, and resilient transportation system that serves the mobility needs of all people and freight (including walkways, bicycles, and transit), fosters economic growth and development, while minimizing fuel consumption and air pollution ([23 CFR 450.300](#)).

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.