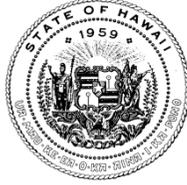


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**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 28, 2025  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 325

**S.B. 344, S.D. 1, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY**

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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The Department of Transportation **supports S.B. 344, S.D. 1, H.D. 1**, which requires persons under the age of 16 to wear a helmet while riding a skateboard. Clarifies that the Act does not infringe on county ordinances prohibiting skateboards on streets and roadways.

According to the Hawaii Department of Health, from 2019 through 2023, there were 11 serious skateboard injuries on our roadways, 2 of which were under the age of 17 and neither of them were wearing helmets.

According to the National Library of Medicine, wearing a helmet while skateboarding reduces the risk of head injuries by up to 88 percent.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO HO'OPI'I  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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**THE HONORABLE DAVID A. TARNAS, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawai'i**

March 28, 2025

**RE: S.B. 344, S.D. 1, H.D. 1; RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.**

Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in **support** of S.B. 344, S.D. 1, H.D.1.

The purpose of this bill is to create a new section that prohibits a child under the age of eighteen years from operating a skateboard unless that child is wearing a properly fitted helmet to protect that child from head trauma in the event of a fall.

For the same reasons that the Department supported S.B.30, H.D.1, the Department also supports this change as it will provide increased safety for our children and young adults. According to the National Institute on Mental Health, the pre-frontal cortex of a person's brain is one of the last parts to fully mature. This is a critical area of the brain and is responsible for "...skills like planning, prioritizing, and making good decisions."<sup>1</sup> It is not fully develop until a person is in their mid-to-late 20s. Therefore, requiring a person to wear a helmet while driving a moped as well as delaying the age in which one can drive a moped will protect the still developing and maturing brains of our children.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu **supports** the passage of S.B.344, S.D. 1, H.D.1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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<sup>1</sup>NIH Publication No. 23-MH-8078; <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/the-teen-brain-7-things-to-know>

**SB-344-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 3:46:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Click-it or ticket should apply to helmets as well as seatbelts.

Pass this bill