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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 12, 2025
2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 325

**H.B. 958 HD 1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports with comments H.B. 958 HD 1**, relating to transportation.

Data from the Department of Transportation reveals that in Hawaii there have been an average of seven bicyclist fatalities from 2022 through 2024, compared to an average of four fatalities involving bicyclists from 2019 through 2021 (22 vs.12). That is nearly two times the amount of bicycle related fatalities over the past three years compared to the three years prior. Hawaii Department of Transportation also recognizes that e-bike related fatalities started showing up among our fatal crashes in 2015, Hawaii started seeing approximately one e-bike related fatality each year. This includes one fatality in 2023 involving a 13-year-old boy.ⁱ This alarming trend demonstrates the need for improved policy to address some of our more vulnerable road users, as well as lay the foundation for safe e-mobility use.

Hawaii Department of Transportation supports H.B. 958 HD 1 as it provides additional clarity to our existing statute, which will be reinforced with statewide education efforts and the e-bike rebate program to promote safe and responsible e-mobility use.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

ⁱ <https://www.khon2.com/traffic/boy-13-in-critical-condition-after-waipahu-accident/>

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TESTIMONY OF J. ROGER MORTON
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 2:00 PM
Conference RM 325 and Via Videoconference

- TO: Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair, Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
- RE: SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 958, HD1, RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION, WITH COMMENTS

The Department of Transportation Services (DTS), City and County of Honolulu (City), supports House Bill 958, HD1, relating to transportation and provides the following comments.

DTS strongly supports the amendments and changes reflected in the HD1 version of the bill. DTS fully appreciates the bill's intent to clarify and regulate the behavior of electric bicycle users; prohibit riding in an unsafe manner on any public street, alley, or other public right of way; clarify the definition of an electric bicycle in recognition of the industry established class descriptions; establish a new definition for an "electric micro mobility device"; allow riding an electric bicycle on any sidewalk at a speed not exceeding ten miles per hour; prohibit a person under the age of fifteen from operating a class 3 electric bicycle and prohibit their use on any sidewalk; and require the use a helmet by anyone under the age of 18 years of age who operates a bicycle upon a street, bikeway, or any public property. The City Council has recently adopted similar legislation for the City's Traffic Code that is aligned with the bill's intent to regulate safe use of electric bicycles on public streets, and the bill will further provide the City the flexibility to tailor its ordinances to address developing technologies.

DTS appreciates the bill's attentiveness to new devices that are propagating in the mobility sphere quicker than we can define them in legislation, and notes that the establishment of the classes in electric bikes will allow the counties to update and make specific ordinances in line with the state traffic code framework.

DTS supports the definition of "electric micro mobility devices" and the proposal to use 75 pounds for electric micro mobility devices, and the deletion of the unspecified appropriation to conduct a coordinated education campaign on electric mobility devices.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support with comments.

TO: Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

HEARING: 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 12, 2025

SUBJECT: HB958, HD1, Transportation - **COMMENTS**

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB958, HD1, which would add certain requirements related to e-bikes and other mobility devices, adds certain definitions and makes other changes to state law with respect to bicyclists and other mobility devices.

Safe Riding Behavior, E-Bicycles (page 1)

This section of the bill would prohibit certain behaviors, such as doing wheelies, while riding e-bicycles on public streets. This is reckless behavior, and we already have laws prohibiting it. (See HRS Sec. 291-2.) Let's enforce the laws we have.

Electric Bicycle Regulations, Signage, Public Information (page 3)

I understand the reasoning behind including a pamphlet with each electronic bike, but I think few people will actually read it.

Section 6 (page 7)

This section would amend the law to allow electric micro mobility devices (one-wheels, electric skateboards) to ride in bike lanes and bike paths. Unlike bicycles and other vehicles, drivers of one-wheels and skateboards are not seated. Frankly, they scare me when I see them in the roadway, especially when they are in front of me in a bike lane or going downhill. **I do not think allowing them to ride in the roadway is a good idea.**

Page 11, lines 7 and 8

Electric micro mobility devices would be prohibited from going more than 15 mph. **Do electric skateboards, which are defined as micro mobility devices, have speedometers?** The ones I've seen do not. It would not be fair to assess penalties against someone speeding on a device on which they have no idea how fast they are going.

Page 12, line 6 - Error

Since scooters is plural, "device" should also be plural.

Page 12, lines 18 - 21

Class 1 and class 2 electric bicycles would be allowed on sidewalks as long as they are not going more than 10 mph. I **support** this, as it allows senior citizens and others who do not feel comfortable riding in the roadway to use the sidewalk.

HRS Sec. 291C-197, pages 13 and 14

This proposed amendment would disallow moped drivers from using bike lanes. I **strongly support this**. Moped riders often go 30 mph or more and should be riding with regular traffic.

HB-958-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:34:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose.

Overreach

HB-958-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:20:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and **I am writing in strong support of HB958**, a bill that establishes clear and necessary regulations for e-bikes to ensure public safety and accountability in Hawai‘i. As a Kanaka Maoli, a resident of Mō‘ili‘ili, a board member of the Hawai‘i Workers Center, and a member of the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i’s Executive Commission, I am deeply committed to the well-being of our communities and the responsible stewardship of our shared spaces.

E-bikes have become an increasingly popular mode of transportation in Hawai‘i, offering a more sustainable alternative to cars while increasing mobility access for many residents. However, the lack of clear regulations has led to safety concerns, particularly regarding high-powered e-bikes that can exceed safe speeds on public roads and sidewalks. HB958 takes a proactive approach by:

- Setting safety standards that prohibit e-bikes over 750W or those exceeding 28 mph on public roads and sidewalks.
- Requiring manufacturers to label e-bikes appropriately, ensuring transparency and compliance.
- Mandating helmet use for riders under 18 to protect our keiki.
- Establishing three e-bike classifications to create clear distinctions for regulation and enforcement.
- Allowing counties to oversee and regulate micro-mobility devices to better address the unique needs of each community.

By implementing these measures, HB958 promotes a balanced approach to e-bike integration—one that encourages sustainable transportation while prioritizing public safety and local governance. This bill ensures that Hawai‘i moves forward with responsible e-bike policies that protect riders, pedestrians, and drivers alike.

I urge the Committee to pass HB958 and take this critical step toward safer, more sustainable mobility in our islands.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Commission Member

Board Member, Hawai'i Workers Center
Kanaka Maoli / Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom