

RES24-199
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 401

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Sep 4, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 4

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Micah Munekata	mmunekata@ulupono.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Ulupono Initiative	Support	Sep 3, 2024 @ 09:43 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Charmaine Doran	chardoranhawaii@gmail.com	96782
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Sep 3, 2024 @ 01:50 PM
Testimony: Mahalo to Councilmember Okimoto for introducing this measure. I offer my support of this initial step in clarifying the definitions and regulations of e-bikes in Hawaii. In my community e-bikes are common. While they can provide a useful way to commute, they can also pose a danger to riders, motorists, other bicyclist and pedestrians, without proper regulation under the law. Should the state legislature fail to act on this matter, the City would be within its rights to ban specific e-bikes on its streets. We hope this council is already looking ahead. Mahalo		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Eduardo Hernandez	eduardo@hbl.org	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawai'i Bicycling League	Support	Sep 3, 2024 @ 03:17 PM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jon Watase	wonjatase@gmail.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Sep 3, 2024 @ 08:51 PM
Testimony: Please reform the laws the bikes are so dangerous. I have been hit on a regular bicycle because of drivers not paying attention		



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 4, 2024 — 10:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports Resolution 24-199, Urging the Hawai'i State Legislature to Update and Clarify the Hawai'i Laws Relating to Electric Bicycles and Electric Dirt Bike Motorcycles.

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the Council:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports Resolution 24-199, which urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to update and clarify the Hawai'i laws relating to electric bicycles and electric dirt bike motorcycles.

Given the State's existing commitments in cleaner forms of transportation to meet climate change, active-living, and Vision Zero goals, it is imperative that the State take action to enable and encourage clean transportation options, while also ensuring that all road users can travel safely and efficiently. The use of electric bicycles continues to grow and we support the implementation of suitable definitions and regulations across the State.

As Hawai'i's transportation needs are increasingly complex and challenging, we appreciate the Council's efforts to look at bolstering safety policies for all ground transportation users.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

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HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Testimony in Support of Resolution 199

Urging the Hawaii Legislature

Update and clarify rules relating to electric bicycles and electric dirt bike motorcycles

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Eduardo Hernandez, and I am the Advocacy Director for the Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL). We are a non-profit organization founded in 1975 with the mission of enabling more people to ride bicycles for health, recreation, and transportation. We strive to create communities across our islands that have safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for people to bike, walk, and roll.

Hawai'i Bicycling League supports Resolution 199, which urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to update and clarify laws relating to electric bicycles and electric dirt bike motorcycles. These updates and clarification are needed in Honolulu and across the state.

Electric bicycles serve to reduce the costs of living for Honolulu residents, while also working towards local and statewide climate and sustainability goals. These devices can reduce the need to own a vehicle, often allowing households to eliminate a vehicle and save upwards of \$10,000 per year. They can also reduce the number of vehicles being used for short trips, therefore reducing parking demand and vehicle traffic.

This resolution is based on standards that have been adopted across the nation. As e-bikes continue to expand in popularity, save money for households and deliver cleaner transportation options, it is important that our laws keep up with clear classification designations, definitions of words and best usage practices.

We applaud the introduction of this resolution by Council Member Okimoto and the work of the Council to help create a safer environment and make affordable and reliable transportation options available for a broader audience. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. Please support **Resolution 199**.

Ride Aloha,

Eduardo Hernandez
Advocacy Director