

TESTIMONY OF
LARRY S VERAY

TO THE
CITY COUNCIL
CITY & COUNTY HONOLULU

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF BILL 52

RELATED TO INFRASTRUCTURE USE BY ELECTRIC BICYCLES

September 3, 2024

Aloha, Chairman Tommy Waters and all City Council members. I am Larry Veray, Chairman for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21. I am submitting this testimony as an individual. I am also President of Waiiau Gardens Kai-B AOA and electric bicycles have been a major public safety issue for Pearl City and my homeowner's association. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Bill 52 with requested amendments. I believe hundreds of users of electric bicycles are helping the city reduce the number of cars and trucks on our city streets as a great cost-effective option to transit to work and play.

I totally agree with the content in this bill but I do have concerns that buyers of electric bicycles will not follow through with compliance to this law, register and license their electric bicycles in a timely manner after purchase from a dealer or from individual sellers. I recommend you establish a process where sellers of electric bicycles submit online registration information with buyer commitment that they have read and understand the rules of the road when operating an electric bicycle, prior to completion of purchase. Importantly, make parents understand that they are accountable for the electric bicycle they purchase for individuals or family members and the electric bicycle may not be operated by any person under 15 years of age as I see many instances of young children operating these electric bicycles wildly through the streets, sidewalks, park grounds and on private property in Pearl City. Furthermore, I have observed in many cases adults riding with very young children straddling the front frame of the electric bicycle, a very dangerous situation. I recommend you amend this bill to read that if multiple individuals will be riding a single electric bicycle that an individual seat will be required for each rider.

For the thousands of users of electric bicycles transiting our city streets who have not registered or licensed their electric bicycles, how is this bill going to be enforced to make sure all electric bicycle users are registered and licensed with the city? We can't expect our police officers to take on this mundane task. I do recommend electronic barcode technology be added to license plate to make it easy to scan with an electronic reader as the city develops an engagement and enforcement plan.

I most strongly urge you to pass Bill 52 with the suggested amendments I recommended to improve safety and accountability for uses of electric bicycles. The residents in Pearl City need this bill approved to reduce the amount of electric bicycle accidents and fatalities. Mahalo!

Larry S. Veray