

BILL052(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 458

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Oct 9, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Darius Kila	Email: repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 7, 2024 @ 03:59 PM
Name: Micah Munekata	Email: mmunekata@ulupono.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Ulupono Initiative	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 8, 2024 @ 02:55 PM



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

October 7, 2024

Meeting: October 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

City and County of Honolulu Council
Kapolei Hale

RE: Testimony Relating to BILL 52 (2024)
A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATIANG TO ELECTRIC BICYCLES

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

I am Darius Kila, and I am the current Representative for House District 44, which encompasses Honokai Hale, Nānākuli and Ma'ili. I am also the current Vice Chair for the House Committee on Transportation.

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of BILL 52 (2024), which seeks to modify the Revised Ordinance of Honolulu (ROH) **Section 15-2.33, Bicycle and related terms**.

With the growing popularity of electric bicycles, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City and County of Honolulu to have ordinances regulating the ownership and use of electric bicycles on the streets. We have been seeing a rise in motor vehicle incidents (MVI) involving electric bicycles, automobiles and pedestrians, including deaths of electric bicycle operators. Many of these MVIs may have been prevented had there been regulations in place.

I strongly support this Bill and urge that the Honolulu council pass this measure to further protect the citizens and facilitate the safe operation of electric bicycles.

Very truly yours,

Darius K. Kila
Representative, House District 44



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 9, 2024 — 10:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports Bill 52 (2024), Relating to Electric Bicycles.

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 Bill 52 (2024), which establishes definitions and regulations for electric bicycles.

Given the State's and City and County's existing commitments in cleaner forms of transportation choices to meet climate change, active-living, and Vision Zero goals, it is imperative that the City take action to enable and encourage e-bikes as part of that strategy, while also ensuring that all road users can travel safely and efficiently. With almost 19,000 registered legal e-bike users in Honolulu¹, this newer technology is clearly meeting the mobility needs of many across our communities. Places that have instituted e-bike subsidy programs have also documented large changes in resident's traveling behavior. For example, the City of Denver's program analyzed the transportation changes of over 4,700 new e-bike riders:

- On average, e-bike users ride 26 miles a week with 22 of those miles replacing car trips.
- On average, income-qualified residents ride their e-bikes more than other riders— 32 miles weekly vs. 22 miles weekly.
- 71% of survey respondents said they are using gas-powered vehicles less often.
- E-bikes in the analysis are replacing on average over 100,000 vehicle miles weekly.

¹ <https://www.khon2.com/traffic/e-bikes-are-taking-the-world-by-storm-even-in-hawaii/>
<https://www.khon2.com/local-news/you-might-see-more-e-bikes-in-lanes-riding-next-to-vehicles-in-hawaii/and-emails-from-Hawaii-Bicycling-League.Note-the-5300-e-bikes-referenced-in-the-resolution-appear-to-be-those-for-some-part-of-2023.>



The use of electric bicycles continues to grow and we support the implementation of suitable definitions and regulations in Honolulu. 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