

Bill 52 (2024) Testimony



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Honolulu City Council
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Hawai'i Bicycling League Supports Bill 52 (2024), CD1, Relating to Bicycles and E-Bicycles

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 Bill 52 (2024), CD1, because it helps to strengthen the environment for safer, more sustainable, and more affordable transportation in the City & County of Honolulu. It sends a strong message to state lawmakers, transportation stakeholders and the public that we are continuing to examine statutes and regulations, and make updates to reflect emerging technologies that are increasingly popular with consumers.

One of the major issues this bill addresses is express definition and operating exclusions for out-of-class electric devices, those with a motor exceeding 750 watts. These devices had been poorly defined in statute, yet contributing significantly to death and serious injury. This bill expressly prohibits a bicycle with a motor exceeding 750 watts from being operated on any public street, highway, alley, path, or trail, including a bikeway as defined by § 15-2.5.

Moreover, this bill addresses other unsafe behavior and raises the standard for keiki and young people to wear a helmet when riding a bike. We look forward to continuing working with councilmembers to make additional updates following ongoing proposed legislation currently being considered at the State Capitol, which may impact regulations across the counties.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. Please advance this bill and let's work together to create safer, more affordable, and more sustainable transportation alternatives.

Ride Aloha,

Eduardo Hernandez
Advocacy Director