BILL041(26)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 320

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Aug 12, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jonathan Huynh	jhweather123@yahoo.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 7, 2026 @ 06:33 AM

Testimony:

Aloha,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I urge the council to support this bill. Honolulu's current vehicle code contains terminology that no longer matches how residents actually move: "motor scooters," "bicycles equipped with motors," and similar phrases describe devices that state law has since recategorized. This bill fixes that mismatch. It adopts statutory definitions for Class 1 through 3 e-bikes, electric micro-mobility devices, and high-speed electric devices.

Conflicting definitions between layers of government confuse enforcement and endanger vulnerable users. Cyclists, e-scooter operators, and HPD officers deserve one common vocabulary. This bill fixes the mismatch.

There are several substantive provisions that warrant highlighting:

First, permitting Classes 1-3 e-bikes on sidewalks outside business districts at speeds capped at 10 mph, with mandatory pedestrian yield and audible-pass signaling, provides sensible interim access while Honolulu's protected bikeway network remains fragmented. This recognizes sidewalk access as a temporary accommodation, not a permanent substitute for building proper protected bikeways.

Second, excluding mopeds and electric motorcycles from bikeways draws a bright line between legitimate micro-mobility and faster motorized traffic. A 28-mile-per-hour machine sharing a lane with a child on a pedal bike is incompatible with Vision Zero thinking.

Third, the tampering and modification prohibitions, such as capping assisted speed at classification thresholds and limiting motor output to 750 watts, protect consumers from aftermarket kits that transform e-bikes into dangerous devices.

Fourth, UL battery certification tackles documented fire risks associated with uncertified lithium-ion systems.

Fifth, prohibiting mopeds from commandeering bicycle racks protects scarce cycling parking infrastructure for its intended users.

Sixth, repealing the blanket prohibition on "bicycles equipped with a motor" and replacing rigid sidewalk bans with targeted rules acknowledges reality: a Class 1 pedal-assist ridden cautiously past a stroller differs substantially from a throttled bike weaving through sidewalks. Nuanced frameworks serve better than outright exclusions.

I flag several items that this bill doesn't resolve but deserve follow-up. Revenue from citations targeting illegal modifications or unsafe operation should feed directly back into expanding the infrastructure that reduces dangerous mixing in the first place (i.e., bike lanes, sidewalks, and Complete Streets). E-scooter regulations continue to lag behind e-bike frameworks. Outdated signage along routes like the Pearl Harbor Bike Path still warns against "motorized vehicles," creating uncertainty about whether law-abiding e-bike riders belong. None of these concerns justify holding back Bill 41. They represent logical next steps for separate companion measures.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Bill 41. I urge the Council to vote yes.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Johnnie-Mae Perry	waianaenb569@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 9, 2026 @ 03:14 AM

Testimony:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support BILL041(26)

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Eduardo Hernandez	eduardo@hbl.org	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawai‘i Bicycling League	Support	Aug 10, 2026 @ 04:25 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Malia Boksanski	malia@hiappleseed.org	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 10:46 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Trevor Nagamine	tnagamine.nb25@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 12, 2026 @ 06:22 AM

HAWAIʻI BICYCLING LEAGUE
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Honolulu City Council
Wednesday, August 12, 2026 – 10:00am

Hawaiʻi Bicycling <u>Supports</u> Bill 41, CD1(2026) - 7-15-26 ITT
Relating To Transportation

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eduardo Hernandez and I am the Advocacy Director for the Hawaiʻi 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, roll, and use public transit.

Bill 41 proposes to conform ROH provisions to Act 259, Relating to Transportation which was signed into law by Governor Green on July 15, 2026. This statewide legislation aims to create a stronger foundation for traffic and pedestrian safety, and in so doing, helps individuals and families choose affordable transportation solutions that will work for them. By conforming ROH provisions, the City can help local families to realize the benefit of bicycles and multimodal transportation options.

Safer pedestrian and traffic environments reduce risk of injury, particularly for children, seniors, and individuals using mobility aids, helping to advance our community's overall safety goals. With fewer vehicles, streets may experience reduced noise, lower air-pollution exposure, and calmer public space. These are powerful benefits that improve quality of life for individuals, the surrounding community and support sustainability goals established at the state and county levels.

HBL looks forward to continuing to work with Council Members, our constituents and the public to provide opportunities to learn how to ride safely, improve cycling skills, and get linked to resources and information about the benefits of cycling as well as active transportation.

Please advance this bill toward enactment.

Eduardo Hernandez
Advocacy Director
Hawaiʻi Bicycling League

HAWAIʻI APPLESEED
CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony for Hawaiʻi Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Support for Bill 41
Honolulu City Council
Wednesday, August 12th at 10AM

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Council Members,
Mahalo for the opportunity to express **SUPPORT for Bill 41**. This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the Hawaiʻi Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice. Our organization works to build a Hawaiʻi where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. Affordable, accessible, and safe transportation is crucial for fostering economic equality as it enables individuals of all backgrounds to access employment opportunities, education, and essential services.

Bill 41 would bring the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu into alignment with Act 259, the transportation measure Governor Green signed into law on July 15, 2026. This state law lays important groundwork for safer streets and gives residents more viable ways to get around without needing to own or operate a car. Updating the City's ordinances to match keeps our local rules consistent with the state framework and helps make sure families who can't afford a vehicle, or aren't able to drive one, aren't left without safe, workable options for getting where they need to go.

The safety gains matter most for the people who are already most exposed on our streets: kids walking to school, older adults, and anyone using a wheelchair or other mobility device. A transportation system that's easier to navigate outside of a car also has ripple effects beyond safety, quieter streets, cleaner air, and more welcoming public spaces, all of which contribute to the kind of community quality of life that the state and City have already committed to through their sustainability goals.

Hawaiʻi Appleseed looks forward to continuing to work with Council Members and the public to advance policies that expand access to safe and affordable transportation for all of Hawaiʻi's people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

August 12, 2026

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Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Honolulu City Council
530 S. King St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Bill 41 (2026) — RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

My name is Trevor Nagamine, and I am a resident of Mililani. I am also the Chair Pro Tem of Neighborhood Board No. 25 (Mililani/Waipio/Melemanu); however, I am submitting this testimony as an individual, and this testimony does not reflect an official position of Neighborhood Board No. 25. I am writing today to support Bill 41.

Bill 41 builds on the work of the State Legislature from the passage of HB2021, now Act 259 (2026). E-bikes and similar electrically powered devices are useful tools that make it easier to travel around neighborhoods without needing a car, and this bill is necessary to keep up with this advancing technology.

I respectfully ask that the City Council pass Bill 41. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Mahalo,

Trevor Nagamine