

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 21, 2024
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, RM 312

H.C.R. 59
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

House Committee on Transportation

The Hawaii Department of Transportation **supports H.C.R. 59**, urging partnership between law enforcement and department of transportation services to address challenges associated with electric bicycles and motorized dirt bicycles.

As mentioned in the resolution, illegal modifications or removing the speed limiting device and replacing with an aftermarket delimiter could result in bike reaching between 30 and 37 miles per hour.ⁱ Modifying an e-bike to go faster than designed will put the operator at greater risk of injury, voiding their manufactures warranty, and compromising the integrity of a lithium-ion battery, which can increase fire risk.

When 2 or 3 wheeled electronic vehicles no longer have pedals, and or exceed 28 miles per hour, they should be treated under similar requirements as either mopeds, motor scooters, or motorcycles.

Passing this resolution would encourage traffic safety partners to work together to addressing enforcement, policy, and education concerns presented among this new trending mode of transportation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

ⁱ <https://bikefinest.com/electric-bike-speed-limiter-removal/>

HCR-59

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 8:52:59 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Detwiler	Hawaii Federation of Republican Women	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 20, 2024

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

I am in strong support of HCR 59 urging the City and County of Honolulu to work with the Honolulu Department of Transportation Services and the Honolulu Police Department to increase enforcement efforts against illegal electric bicycles and dirt bike motorcycles to make sidewalks and public roadways safer.

I live in Mililani Mauka and I utilize the Mililani Mauka Ravine Park for my morning walking routine as do many other residents in the area. It is a beautiful wide paved walking path where I have encountered e-bike riders on the walkways. This presents a danger to the residents who frequently use the ravine park walking pathway.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR 59.

Respectfully,

Jamie Detwiler, President, Hawaii Federation of Republican Women

HCR-59

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 3:46:38 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Francisco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Resolution HCR59 urging the C&C of Honolulu to work with the Department of Transportation and the Honolulu Police Department to increase efforts against the operation of electric bicycles and dirt bike motorcycles on public roadways and/or sidewalks.

As a former DOE and Private Driver Education Instructor of almost 16 years, I have taught our young and inexperienced drivers the rules of the road and the importance of using our roadways in a responsible and safe manner. With the introduction of the newest fad in eBikes, there is an increasing problem of underaged and inexperienced users of the roadway.

The eBikes that are presently being operated on city and county roads in Mililani appear to reach speeds in excess of 30 mph which could classify these “vehicles” as Class B Mopeds. Through brief research, it appears that Class A Mopeds do not require a motorcycle license to operate, BUT riders must be at least 15 years old to operate them and need a valid driver’s license. Ironically, the earliest you can acquire a driver’s license in the State of Hawai‘i is 16 years of age. Operation of Class B Mopeds require that individuals must have a valid Class 2 motorcycle license or higher and riders must be at least 18 years of age.

What is the current classification of these eBikes? Would they be classified similarly to mopeds? If so, eBike riders should be subject to the same requirements as moped riders and also subject to the same traffic laws as other motor vehicles. This means that eBike riders must obey all traffic signals, signs, etc.

Some of the behaviors that I have witnessed within our Mililani community on our roads are as follows:

1. Underage riders operating eBikes. This includes those that are Middle School aged to High School aged (all under the age of 18).

2. Underage riders not following the rules of the road. Examples of this include making a left turn on a red light without use of any hand signals; Doing wheelies on the road; Using the crosswalk to ride through the intersection to avoid the red light.
3. Of age riders that use up the far right lane in “packs” that create uncomfortable situations on Meheula Parkway. Examples of this are wheelies, swerving within the lane, creating a slow lane of riders.
4. Dirt Bike riders (underaged and of age) that rev up and down residential streets and within cul de sacs

These are just some of the examples that have been increasing within our community. There are videos that you can find on social media that show this type of dangerous and unsafe behavior. One of the videos that stood out to me was a planned event on Kapolei Pkwy connecting Kapolei and Ewa. The video showed a large number of adults and underage riders using the roadway.

The popularity of eBikes and dirt bikes among our youth, combined with the inexperience and ignorance of the rules of the road, will lead to significant traffic safety issues, and ultimately possible loss of loved ones. The passing of Resolution HCR59 will definitely be the start of trying to address the health and safety issues of using our roadways.

HCR-59

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 5:34:42 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claudia Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I reside in Mililani Mauka, our house backing up to one of the greenbelt/watershed areas with tall Eucalyptus trees. That area is off limits to other than official landscape/workforce in their duties to maintain that area, cut down tall grass near the private houses, etc. and the signs at either end indicate that It is not a public walkway/path or transitway.

In the past year, we have noticed the presence of e-bikes and dirt bikes riding in the greenbelt/watershed area. You can hear them racing back and forth, day and night.

Our concerns are: 1) potential criminal activities (breaking into houses from the rear) because the miscreants now have easy, quick access/egress to/from our backyard areas not otherwise detectable from the front/street-side of the houses; 2) potential liability for Mililani Town Association (and thus increase in our insurance/HOA fees) resulting from someone on an e-bike/dirt bike having an accident involving injury or death while riding through the greenbelt/watershed areas.

Also, we have noticed more and more frequently in the Mililani Mauka area (i) e-bikes and dirtbikes driven by what appear to be kids less than 15 years of age driving at high speeds on sidewalks; (ii) e-bikes driven by what appear to be kids less than 15 years of age on the roadway, in the middle of the road; (iii) e-bikes driven by similarly youthful riders in our Ravine Park, driving recklessly on the park path and up and down the slopes, tearing up the slope landscaping.

People out for a nice walk with their little children or walking their dogs are potential victims of careening e-bikes and dirt bikes who simply should not be on the walkways. This is especially dangerous since none of the riders we see are wearing helmets and many are wearing dark/black clothing, riding in the evening when visibility is limited. These are accidents just waiting to happen and not only will the riders be injured, but otherwise innocent auto drivers --who are not expecting to see kids riding e-bikes at night on the roadway --being sued for the injuries of the miscreant riders.

We understand there is not much that Mililani Town Association can do on its own to stop this practice because even to detain a miscreant rider until the police arrive could be considered kidnapping. However, greater visibility of police presence would help, with the police not being shy about citing the minor riders and their parents (with sufficiently large fines to make the practice too expensive to continue for those parents as well as adult riders), as would installing

chain link fencing (with a locked gate for maintenance purposes) that would block off the greenbelt/watershed areas to these e-bike and dirt bike riders, installed low enough from the street grade so that the fencing would not be visible from the street.

Perhaps elementary and intermediate schools should not allow e-bikes to be present on school property to discourage parents for figuring they have easy transportation for their kids to and from school, despite the kids being too young to legally drive e-bikes.

Other than greater police presence at the Ravine Park, it would be impossible to fence that area off so we ask you to brainstorm on other methods to prevent this misuse and destruction of our park assets.

HCR-59

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 7:30:56 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HCR-59

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 11:00:48 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vika Lainaholo	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Yes. There is a sharp increase in the amount of illegal dirt and e bikes here in Hawaii. Many young children, some as young as elementary schoolers, have their own e bike or dirtbike but do not have the proper training in how to ride it safely (for themselves or others) and it poses a serious hazard.

HCR-59

Submitted on: 3/21/2024 6:12:25 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mario Soriano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree.