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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

January 30, 2025  
3:00 P.M.  
State Capitol, Room 224 & Videoconference

**S.B. 30**  
**RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY**

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Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports S.B. 30**, which requires all moped drivers to wear a safety helmet when driving a moped, regardless of age.

According to DOT data, there were 15 moped-related serious injury crashes in 2023. Of the 15, 11 of those were not wearing helmets. Among the unhelmeted riders, 7 of the 11 sustained head and face injuries.

According to the Hurt Study the use of the safety helmet is the single critical factor in the prevention or reduction of head injury. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) has estimated that motorcycle helmets reduce fatalities by 37 percent using data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (NHTSA, 2013).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**JON N. IKENAGA**  
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January 28, 2025

Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts  
Sen. Chris Lee, Chair  
Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
415 South Beretania Street, Conf. Rm. 224  
State Capital  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Opposition of S.B. 30  
Hearing: January 30, 2025, 3:00 PM

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

This letter is written in opposition to S.B. 30 which would enforce moped drivers to wear a safety helmet when driving a moped, regardless of age.

Please consider who will be most affected by this bill. Mopeds are primarily purchased by low-income individuals, students, and workers who cannot afford the high costs of owning a car. Requiring a helmet adds yet another expense for people who are already struggling with Hawaii's high cost of living.

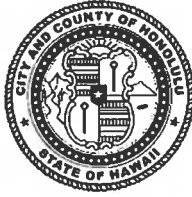
While safety matters, the literal costs of this mandate outweigh the benefits. Mopeds operate at lower speeds than motorcycles, and existing laws already require safety measures. Riders should have the personal freedom to make their own safety decisions, rather than being forced into additional expenses that many simply cannot afford.

This bill disproportionately impacts those who rely on mopeds out of necessity rather than choice. I urge you to reconsider the financial burden this place on residents and reject S.B. 30.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Cindy Huynh  
Deputy Public Defender

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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OUR REFERENCE **ST-JK**

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Transportation and  
Culture and the Arts  
State Senate  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 30, Relating to Mopeds


I am Major Stason Tanaka of District 7 (East Honolulu), Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 30, Relating to Mopeds, as it contributes to the safety of all moped riders. Safety helmets worn by moped riders help to reduce the severity of injuries in the event of a crash. It has also be shown that they prevent serious brain injury and death.


The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 30, Relating to Mopeds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

  
Stason Tanaka, Major  
District 7

APPROVED:

  
Arthur J. Logan  
Chief of Police

**SB-30**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:16:55 PM

Testimony for TCA on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manabo Sato	Testifying for Moped Doctors Inc	Oppose	In Person

## Comments:

Aloha all. My name is Manabo Sato. I am co founder and VP of Moped Doctors a Moped repair/sales company since 2010. We at Moped Doctors strongly oppose SB 30 requiring mandatory helmets for all moped riders regardless of age. Perhaps certain age ranges in Hawaii should be held to that standard like minors under the age of 18 but all others have enjoyed the freedom of wearing or not wearing helmets for years. Moped laws get more and more restrictive every year. We propose that an alternative means is allow moped riders to choose to buy helmets as a option and they are rewarded for it with such things as a tax break or other means. Frankly of ALL the motor /motorized vehicle classes in Hawaii gas powered mopeds have the LOWEST statistical average fatalaties , including cars, motorcycles, etc. Usually it is as low as one or two a year . This has been proven over the last few years.

Helmets can help but they should be allowed as an option for moped drivers in Hawaii, not a mandatory encumberment



## **Testimony in Support of SB30 Relating to Mopeds**

January 29, 2025

Lisa Dau, RN, Injury Prevention Coordinator  
Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC)

Senator Chris Lee, Chair, Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition, we support legislation requiring all moped drivers to wear helmets. Helmets significantly reduce the risk of head injuries and fatalities, making this a crucial safety measure.

Mopeds may be smaller than motorcycles, but they still pose risks in crashes. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), helmet use reduces head injury risk by 69% and death risk by 37%. Age should not determine safety—everyone benefits from helmet use.

Universal helmet laws also ease the financial burden on healthcare systems by preventing severe injuries. States with such laws report fewer head trauma cases and fatalities, proving their effectiveness.

We urge you to pass this life-saving legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dau, RN

KIPC, Injury Prevention Coordinator

The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition's (KIPC) mission is to prevent and reduce injuries to children in Hawaii. <https://kipchawaii.org/>

**SB-30**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:28:47 AM

Testimony for TCA on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's heartbreaking that so many mopeds, motorcycles, and bicycle deaths happened last year because they are so avoidable. Much like seatbelts, anyone driving one of the previously stated vehicles should wear a helmet, regardless of age. This could protect so many people from reckless and unnecessary harm and loss of life. I support this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-30**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 12:50:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Heltsley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chris Lee & Lorraine R. Inouye!

My name is Olivia Heltsley, and I am in strong support of Senate Bill 30. This legislative bill should be passed for the overall benefit and safety of moped drivers within our state. With the passing of this bill, there would be a decrease in moped fatalities, reduced medical expenses of moped drivers due to less head injuries, and shortens the burden on emergency responders to arrive at brutal moped accidents.

According to the Recovery Law Center, the Hawaii State Department of Transportation reports 13 deaths of motorcycles, motor scooters, or moped riders on the roads in 2023. With a helmet required to be worn, there will be fewer deaths within all ages of moped drivers since the head will be protected, preventing brain injury.

Stated by the Brain Association of Missouri, it costs around 150,000 dollars in the United States for the care of a patient with a Traumatic Brain Injury. Wearing a helmet would decrease the chances of a head/brain injury and allow people to live stability in Hawaii with the money they have, rather than having to take some out of their savings for the medical bill.

The Medical News Bulletin declares that the average time for the arrival of EMS personnel must be seven minutes. This leaves extremely little time for them to make their way to the scene and tend to the injuries, putting so much pressure on the personnel. If a helmet was worn, these workers would have less of a burden and extreme rush to the scene to take care of an immediate brain injury.

Therefore with all the information present, I hereby state that the Senate Bill 30 should be thoroughly considered and passed for the well being of moped drivers. Mahalo!