

MAR 03 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU PROHIBIT
ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, ELECTRIC BICYCLES, AND ELECTRIC TRIKES
ON SIDEWALKS.

1 WHEREAS, electric scooters, electric bicycles, and three-
2 wheeled electric trikes have become widely available for
3 personal transportation and very popular with commercial tour
4 operators and are often ridden on Oahu's sidewalks where they
5 mix with pedestrians and motorists; and

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7 WHEREAS, while electric scooters, electric bicycles, and
8 electric trikes are convenient, affordable, and more
9 environmentally-friendly than automobiles, they are a safety
10 hazard when ridden on sidewalks; and

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12 WHEREAS, electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric
13 trikes can weigh more than forty pounds and can be upgraded with
14 additional motors that allow the devices to reach speeds of
15 eighteen miles per hour, which is nearly six times faster than
16 the average walking speed of a person; and

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18 WHEREAS, electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric
19 trikes can seriously injure or kill pedestrians in a collision
20 and operators of these devices are at risk from motorists who do
21 not expect a small, quiet, and fast-moving motorized device to
22 appear in pedestrian rights-of-way; and

23
24 WHEREAS, in 2003, the Legislature passed Act 180, which
25 defines an "electric personal assistive mobility device" as a
26 self-balancing, two-wheeled, non-tandem-wheeled device, designed
27 to transport only one person, using an electric propulsion
28 system that limits the maximum speed of the device to twelve and
29 one-half miles per hour or less; and

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31 WHEREAS, Act 180 states that unless otherwise prohibited or
32 regulated by a county ordinance, electric personal assistive
33 mobility devices may be operated on sidewalks at a speed no
34 greater than eight miles per hour and on bicycle paths in the
35 State; and



1
2 WHEREAS, many electric scooters and electric bicycles are
3 allowed on sidewalks and bike paths as electric personal
4 assistive mobility devices in the absence of county regulations
5 and, although three-wheeled electric trikes do not necessarily
6 fall within this definition, they are frequently used by
7 individuals and tour operators on pedestrian paths; and
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9 WHEREAS, within the past several years, pedestrians and
10 motorists have expressed safety concerns to policymakers about
11 the increasing number of individuals and tour operators riding
12 electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric trikes on
13 sidewalks and bike paths; and
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15 WHEREAS, because of safety risks to pedestrians, motorists,
16 and operators of electric scooters, electric bicycles, and
17 electric trikes, these devices should be prohibited on sidewalks
18 and bike paths; and
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20 WHEREAS, electric scooters, electric bicycles, and electric
21 trikes should be categorized as "mopeds" under the Hawaii
22 Revised Statutes and "motorized devices" under the Revised
23 Ordinances of Honolulu, as both definitions prohibit operation
24 of these devices on sidewalks; and
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26 WHEREAS, policymakers must balance the advantages of
27 useful, emerging mobility device technology with public safety,
28 particularly in crowded transportation environments such as
29 Oahu's business districts and urban core; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
32 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the City
33 and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Police Department, Honolulu
34 Department of Transportation Services, and state Department of
35 Transportation are requested to work with the Honolulu City
36 Council to prohibit the operation of electric scooters, electric
37 bicycles, and electric trikes on sidewalks through county-level
38 ordinances; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the stakeholders and
41 policymakers are encouraged to include electric scooters,
42 electric bicycles, and electric trikes under the existing



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1 definition of "motorized devices" pursuant to the Revised
 2 Ordinances of Honolulu and to prohibit operation of these
 3 devices on sidewalks and bike paths; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honolulu Department of
 6 Transportation Services is requested to submit a report of
 7 findings and recommendations for regulation of electric
 8 scooters, electric bicycles, and electric trikes, including any
 9 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
 10 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 13 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,
 14 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chair of the Honolulu
 15 City Council, Chief of the Honolulu Police Department, and
 16 Director of Transportation Services.
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OFFERED BY: 














