
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that electric bicycles
2 have become widely available for personal transportation and are
3 popular among citizens of all ages. In March 2023, there were
4 five thousand three hundred registered electric bicycles. This
5 figure is potentially higher considering that many owners do not
6 register their bikes, especially if they are purchased online.

7 In December of 2023, the department of transportation
8 reported nine bicyclist fatalities, the highest recorded number
9 of deaths among bicyclists in Hawaii to date. Furthermore,
10 electric bicycles can seriously injure pedestrians in a
11 collision and operators are at risk from motorists who do not
12 expect a small, silent, and motorized device riding near them.
13 The legislature further finds that in the wake of a recent surge
14 in ridership accidents, it is critical to address the unsafe
15 operation of electric bicycles.

16 The purpose of this Act is to:



1 (1) Prohibit the removal of a manufacturer- or factory-
2 installed speed limiting device from an electric
3 bicycle; and

4 (2) Require the department of transportation to develop a
5 traffic safety education program and public awareness
6 campaign to educate the public about general electric
7 bicycle riding safety.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new section to part IV to be appropriately
10 designated and to read as follows:

11 "§286- Speed limiting devices. (a) No person shall:

12 (1) Remove a manufacturer- or factory-installed speed
13 limiting device from an electric bicycle; or

14 (2) Operate an electric bicycle, in which the
15 manufacturer- or factory-installed speed limiting
16 device was removed.

17 (b) For purposes of this section:

18 "Electric bicycle" means a two- or three-wheeled cycle with
19 fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than seven
20 hundred fifty watts that provides propulsion assistance.



1 "Electric bicycle" includes a low-speed electric bicycle, as
2 defined in title 15 United States Code section 2085.

3 "Speed limiting device" means a device or function in an
4 electric bicycle capable of limiting the maximum motive power-
5 controlled speed at which the electric bicycle may operate."

6 SECTION 3. No later than twenty days prior to the
7 convening of the regular session of 2026, the department of
8 transportation shall develop a traffic safety education program
9 and public awareness campaign to educate the public about
10 general electric bicycle riding safety, rules of the road, and
11 laws pertaining to electric bicycles. The department shall
12 inform individuals of the applicable traffic code, safety
13 information, and penalties for violations at the time of
14 registering an electric bicycle.

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
19 year 2026-2027 for implementation and administration of the
20 traffic safety education program and public awareness campaign
21 required pursuant to section 3 of this Act.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of transportation for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun before its effective date.

6 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Electric Bicycles; Roadways; Speed Limiting Devices;
Appropriation

Description:

Prohibits the removal of a manufacturer- or factory-installed speed limiting device from an electric bicycle. Requires the Department of Transportation to develop a traffic safety education program and a public awareness campaign. Appropriate funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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