
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that skateboard accidents
2 on roadways and streets can result in serious injury to the
3 skateboard user, including head trauma. According to an article
4 published in the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*,
5 "Injuries to the Head and Face from Skateboarding: A 10-Year
6 Analysis From National Electronic Injury Surveillance System
7 Hospitals", from 2009 to 2018, there were an estimated 100,201
8 emergency room visits nationwide related to trauma to the head
9 and face while skateboarding. The article concluded that "[a]
10 substantial number of [emergency department] visits were a
11 result of skateboarding-related facial trauma. Given the
12 neurologic outcomes of head trauma and functional consequences
13 of facial fractures, especially among adolescents, our findings
14 suggest that injury prevention programs and more aggressive
15 helmet use may be necessary to reduce morbidity and
16 hospitalization".



1 The legislature further finds that existing laws in the
2 State protect bicyclists under the age of sixteen by requiring
3 operators to wear a helmet. Additionally, the legislature notes
4 that other states require helmets for minors, including
5 California, New York, and Oregon. Extension of similar safety
6 provisions for bicyclists to skateboard riders will provide
7 additional protection for all roadway users.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the use
9 of a safety helmet by anyone under the age of eighteen while
10 riding a skateboard on public property.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 291C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to part XII to be appropriately
13 designated and to read as follows:

14 "§291C- Skateboards; helmet required. (a) No person
15 under eighteen years of age shall operate a skateboard upon a
16 street, roadway, or bikeway, or any other public property,
17 unless the person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened
18 helmet that:

19 (1) Is designed to fit the user;

20 (2) Is designed to protect against head trauma; and



1 (3) Has been tested by a nationally recognized agency,
2 such as the National Highway Traffic Safety
3 Administration, National Safety Council, or Children's
4 Safety Network.

5 (b) This section shall not be construed to legalize the
6 use of skateboards in violation of any county ordinance.

7 (c) For the purposes of this section, "skateboard" means a
8 short board that is on wheels that a person stands on to move
9 along a surface or to perform tricks."

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Skateboards; Helmet Requirement; Minors

Description:

Requires all skateboard users under the age of eighteen to wear a helmet while operating a skateboard on public property. (CD1)

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