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

February 26, 2025
9:40 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

S.B. 1481 S.D. 1
RELATING TO MOTORCYCLE INSTRUCTION PERMITS

Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports S.B. 1481 S.D. 1**, which requires that all applicants for a motorcycle instruction permit to successfully complete a basic motorcycle rider course approved by the HDOT before becoming eligible for the permit.

According to the HDOT crash data from 2020 through 2024, there were 136 motorcycle related fatalities of those 34 percent or 46 were reported as not having a valid motorcycle endorsement.

Basic rider courses, equip motorcycle operators with the skills and understanding of what factors increase and decrease motorcycle crash risk within a safe and controlled environment. Requiring the completion of a basic rider course will ensure motorcycle riders can properly operate and handle a motorcycle in various conditions, understand common laws and rules of the road, understand basic safety mechanics of their bike, and acquiring practice hours and skills to safely pass a motorcycle skills test for them to receive a motorcycle endorsement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KUPA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

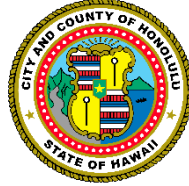
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February 24, 2025

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Conference Room 16
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 1481, S.D. 1 - Relating To Motorcycle Instruction Permits

HEARING: Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 9:40 a.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD), Division of Motor Vehicle Registration (DMV), respectfully offers comments to S.B. No. 1481, S.D. 1, relating to motorcycle instruction permits for your committee's consideration.

Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, CSD DMV administers the motor vehicle driver licensing program for the island of O'ahu.

S.B. No. 1481, S.D. 1 requires, starting on July 1, 2026, all applicants for a motorcycle instruction permit to successfully complete a basic motorcycle rider course approved by the Hawaii Department of Transportation before becoming eligible for a motorcycle instruction permit.

CSD DMV appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation to improve traffic safety for motorcycle riders and all other roadway users by requiring a basic motorcycle rider course approved by the Hawai'i Department of Transportation prior to receiving a motorcycle instruction permit.

While CSD DMV supports efforts to enhance road safety, we appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns regarding potential impacts on our operations, including:

- **Implementation Timeline:** CSD DMV will require a reasonable and adequate amount of time to initiate communications and coordinate efforts with the Hawai'i Department of Transportation; the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Information Technology; and the counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui, regarding implementation of the proposed legislation. Given the number of stakeholders involved and the necessary coordination of efforts among these stakeholders to properly implement the proposed legislation, we have significant concerns regarding the feasibility of the stated July 1, 2026 implementation date in Section 1 of the proposed measure.
- **Verification Process:** If the Hawai'i Department of Transportation approves and certifies new required basic motorcycle rider course(s), the counties will require access to information and updated lists of approved course(s) to confirm that an applicant has successfully completed the required course(s).
- **Administrative and Technical Adjustments:** CSD DMV will be required to update its administrative procedures and pertinent information technology systems to verify basic motorcycle rider course completion, which could increase motorcycle instruction permit processing times.

CSD DMV requires additional time to research and assess implementation requirements. CSD DMV will be required to work with the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Information Technology, to implement all necessary information technology requirements. CSD DMV and the Department of Information Technology will also be required to work the counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui to coordinate the implementation of all necessary administrative procedures and updates to the counties' information technology systems. CSD DMV has significant concerns regarding the feasibility of completing the required planning and implementation of the necessary administrative and technical adjustments by the stated July 1, 2026 implementation date in Section 1 of the proposed measure.

- **Customer Service Considerations:** Additional inquiries and longer wait times may result as motorcycle instruction permit applicants navigate new motorcycle instruction permit processes and requirements.

CSD DMV requires additional time to assess the need for additional staffing, information technology and other resources to provide customers with the proposed additional services in a timely and acceptable manner.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 1481, S.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director Designate



Testimony of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization

Committee on Judiciary

02/26/25 9:40 AM
CR 016 & Videoconference

SB 1481 RELATING TO MOTORCYCLE INSTRUCTION PERMITS

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) **supports SB1481**, which, starting on July 1, 2026, requires all applicants for a motorcycle instruction permit to successfully complete a basic motorcycle rider course approved by the Department of Transportation before becoming eligible for the permit. Designates exemptions for certain drivers on an enclosed training course.

This bill will help us achieve the goal of reducing traffic related deaths and serious injuries to zero by 2045. Traffic fatalities increased ten percent between 2023 and 2024 in Hawaii. While there was a decrease in the proportion of motorcycle fatalities from 2023 to 2024, there has been an increase in fatalities since 2020. The [Motorcycle Safety Foundation](#) acknowledges that motorcycle rider courses assist riders in learning about the controls and operation of the motorcycle in addition to how to become a safer and more responsible rider. Many of these courses require classroom as well hands-on skill evaluations which help develop safe riding techniques.

The OahuMPO is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on the island of Oahu responsible for carrying out a multimodal transportation planning process, including the development of a long-range (25-year horizon) metropolitan transportation plan, referred to as the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP), which encourages and promotes a safe, efficient, and resilient transportation system that serves the mobility needs of all people and freight (including walkways, bicycles, and transit), fosters economic growth and development, while minimizing fuel consumption and air pollution ([23 CFR 450.300](#)).

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

SB-1481-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:35:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What we don't need is more government interference in our daily (legal) choices. In this case, obtaining a Type 2 license. More government regulation means more cost to our people. Hawaii is ALREADY an expensive place to call home.