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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1       SECTION 1. Electric bicycles have become widely available  
2 for personal transportation and are popular among all ages.  
3 Hawaii's law defines electric bicycles as a "low-speed bicycle"  
4 with an assisted maximum speed of less than twenty miles per  
5 hour. Despite this, riders often make modifications to electric  
6 bicycles with an aftermarket delimiter allowing them to reach  
7 speeds of over thirty miles per hour, which is nearly ten times  
8 faster than the average walking speed of a person. While  
9 electric bicycles are more convenient and affordable than  
10 automobiles, they can pose a serious safety hazard when ridden  
11 on sidewalks and public roadways, especially by youth.

12       Currently, persons under the age of fifteen cannot operate  
13 an electric bicycle by law; yet most e-bikes are ridden by  
14 adolescents between the ages of twelve and seventeen. From 2022  
15 to 2023, the volume of children arriving at Kapiolani Medical  
16 Center for Women and Children with injuries from e-bikes  
17 doubled, while in the second quarter of 2024, e-bikes were the



1 most common cause of injury among children treated at their  
2 trauma center.

3 The legislature finds in the wake of a recent surge in  
4 ridership accidents and the increasing use, among youth, it is  
5 critical to address this issue with stricter enforcement.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

7 (1) Categorize electric bicycles into three classes based  
8 on speed and operation;

9 (2) Establish more stringent regulations for electric  
10 bicycles;

11 (3) Require electric bicycle manufacturers and  
12 distributors to apply a label to each electric bicycle  
13 specifying the classification number, top assisted  
14 speed, and motor wattage of the electric bicycle;

15 (4) Require Class 3 electric bicycle operators to comply  
16 with licensure and insurance requirements similar to  
17 that of moped and motorcycle drivers.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 291C-143.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 "[+]§291C-143.5[+] ~~[Low-speed electric]~~ Electric  
21 bicycles ~~[; operator age]~~. (a) This section shall apply



1 whenever an electric bicycle is operated upon any highway,  
2 street, roadway, or other designated public area set aside for  
3 the use of electric bicycles.

4 (b) No person under the age of fifteen shall operate [a  
5 low-speed] an electric bicycle [as defined under title 15 United  
6 States Code section 2085.] on a highway, street, roadway, or any  
7 other public property in the State.

8 (c) No person shall operate an electric bicycle that is  
9 carrying any other person, nor shall any person other than the  
10 operator ride upon an electric bicycle.

11 (d) No person operating an electric bicycle shall carry  
12 any package, bundle, or article which prevents the use of both  
13 hands in the control and operation of the bicycle. A person  
14 operating an electric bicycle shall keep at least one hand on  
15 the handlebars at all times.

16 (e) No person shall operate an electric bicycle at a speed  
17 other than is reasonable and prudent and having regard to the  
18 actual and potential hazards and conditions then existing;  
19 provided that no person shall operate an electric bicycle at a  
20 speed greater than twenty-eight miles per hour.



1        (f) Any person who operates an electric bicycle recklessly  
2 in disregard of the safety of persons or property shall be  
3 assessed penalties as set forth in section 291C-161(b).

4        (g) Any electric bicycle shall meet the specifications of  
5 and requirements for lamps and other equipment on bicycles as  
6 set out in section 291C-147; provided that in lieu of the  
7 requirement of section 291C-147(b), every electric bicycle shall  
8 be equipped with a lighted lamp that is visible from the rear.

9        (h) No person shall operate an electric bicycle unless the  
10 person wears a safety helmet securely fastened with a chin  
11 strap. The safety helmet shall meet the specifications of and  
12 requirements for a bicycle helmet as set out in section 291C-  
13 150.

14        (i) No electric bicycle shall be operated on a sidewalk,  
15 sidewalk area, pedestrian overpass, or pedestrian underpass,  
16 except as may be authorized by ordinances or rules adopted by  
17 the county.

18        (j) No person shall tamper with or modify an electric  
19 bicycle so as to change the motor-powered speed capability or  
20 engagement of an electric bicycle, or the label indicating the  
21 classification number.



1        (k) No person shall operate an electric bicycle after  
2        January 1, 2029 unless the electric bicycle has affixed thereto  
3        in a prominent location, a manufacturer's label providing the  
4        classification number, top assisted speed, and motor wattage of  
5        the electric bicycle.

6        (l) The counties by ordinance may impose restrictions and  
7        conditions for the regulation and safe operation of electric  
8        bicycles with regard to, but not limited to, the following:

9            (1) Operations in or upon roadways, bikeways, bicycle  
10           paths, and sidewalks;

11           (2) Restrictions on maximum speed;

12           (3) Safety considerations; and

13           (4) Hours of operation.

14        SECTION 3. Chapter 293, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15        amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
16        and to read as follows:

17        **"§293-        Electric bicycle manufacturers and distributors;**  
18        **label required.**    On and after January 1, 2027, manufacturers and  
19        distributors of electric bicycles shall apply a label that is  
20        permanently affixed, in a prominent location, to each electric  
21        bicycle. The label shall contain the classification number, top



1 assisted speed, and motor wattage of the electric bicycle. The  
2 label must be printed in Arial font of at least nine-point type.  
3 By January 1, 2027, manufacturer and distributors shall  
4 establish a process by which an owner of an electric bicycle may  
5 request and obtain a manufacturer's label applicable to the  
6 electric bicycle purchased prior to January 1, 2027."

7 SECTION 4. Section 291C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 1. By amending the definition of "bicycle" to read:

10 ""Bicycle" means:

11 (1) A vehicle propelled solely by human power upon which  
12 any person may ride, having two tandem wheels, and  
13 including any vehicle generally recognized as a  
14 bicycle though equipped with two front or two rear  
15 wheels except a toy bicycle; or

16 (2) ~~[A low-speed] An electric bicycle[, as defined under~~  
17 ~~title 15 United States Code section 2085]."~~

18 2. By amending the definition of "moped" to read:

19 ""Moped" means a device upon which a person may ride that  
20 has:

21 (1) Two or three wheels in contact with the ground;



1           (2) A motor having a maximum power output capability  
2           measured at the motor output shaft, in accordance with  
3           SAE International standards, of two horsepower (one  
4           thousand four hundred ninety-two watts) or less and,  
5           if it is a combustion engine, a maximum piston or  
6           rotor displacement of 3.05 cubic inches (fifty cubic  
7           centimeters) and that will propel the device,  
8           unassisted, on a level surface at a maximum speed no  
9           greater than thirty miles per hour; and

10          (3) A direct or automatic power drive system that requires  
11          no clutch or gear shift operation by the moped driver  
12          after the drive system is engaged with the power unit.

13 "Moped" does not include an electric foot scooter or electric  
14 bicycle."

15          3. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
16 and to read:

17          "Electric bicycle" means a bicycle equipped with fully  
18 operable pedals, a saddle or seat for the rider, and an electric  
19 motor of seven hundred fifty watts or less that meets the  
20 requirements of one of the following three classes:



1        (1) Class one electric bicycle, which is an electric  
2        bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance  
3        only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to  
4        provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed  
5        of twenty miles per hour;

6        (2) Class two electric bicycle, which is an electric  
7        bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used  
8        exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not  
9        capable of providing assistance when the bicycle  
10       reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour; or

11       (3) Class three electric bicycle, which is an electric  
12       bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance  
13       only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to  
14       provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed  
15       of twenty-eight miles per hour."

16       SECTION 5. Section 249-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended as follows:

18       1. By amending the definition of "bicycle" to read:

19       ""Bicycle" means:

20       (1) A vehicle propelled solely by human power upon which  
21       any person may ride, having two tandem wheels, and





1 including any vehicle generally recognized as a  
2 bicycle though equipped with two front or two rear  
3 wheels except a toy bicycle; or

4 (2) [~~A low-speed~~] An electric bicycle[, ~~as defined under~~  
5 ~~title 15 United States Code section 2085~~]."

6 2. By amending the definition of "moped" to read:

7 "'Moped" means a device upon which a person may ride that  
8 has:

9 (1) Two or three wheels in contact with the ground;

10 (2) A motor having a maximum power output capability  
11 measured at the motor output shaft, in accordance with  
12 SAE International standards, of two horsepower (one  
13 thousand four hundred ninety-two watts) or less and,  
14 if it is a combustion engine, a maximum piston or  
15 rotor displacement of 3.05 cubic inches (fifty cubic  
16 centimeters) and that will propel the device,  
17 unassisted, on a level surface at a maximum speed no  
18 greater than thirty miles per hour; and

19 (3) A direct or automatic power drive system that requires  
20 no clutch or gear shift operation by the moped driver  
21 after the drive system is engaged with the power unit.



1 "Moped" does not include an electric foot scooter or electric  
2 bicycle."

3 3. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
4 and to read:

5 "Electric bicycle" means a bicycle equipped with fully  
6 operable pedals, a saddle or seat for the rider, and an electric  
7 motor of seven hundred fifty watts or less that meets the  
8 requirements of one of the following three classes:

9 (1) Class one electric bicycle, which is an electric  
10 bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance  
11 only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to  
12 provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed  
13 of twenty miles per hour;

14 (2) Class two electric bicycle, which is an electric  
15 bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used  
16 exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not  
17 capable of providing assistance when the bicycle  
18 reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour; or

19 (3) Class three electric bicycle, which is an electric  
20 bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance  
21 only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to



1           provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed  
 2           of twenty-eight miles per hour."

3           SECTION 6. Section 249-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 4 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

5           "(b) [~~A low-speed~~] An electric bicycle~~[, as defined under~~  
 6 ~~title 15 United States Code section 2085,~~] shall be required to  
 7 be registered, and shall be subject to a permanent registration  
 8 fee of \$30, to be paid by the owners thereof to the director of  
 9 finance."

10          SECTION 7. Section 286-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 11 amended as follows:

12          1. By amending the definition of "bicycle" to read:

13          ""Bicycle" means:

14          (1) A vehicle propelled solely by human power upon which  
 15               any person may ride, having two tandem wheels, and  
 16               including any vehicle generally recognized as a  
 17               bicycle though equipped with two front or two rear  
 18               wheels except a toy bicycle; or

19          (2) [~~A low-speed~~] An electric bicycle~~[, as defined under~~  
 20 ~~title 15 United States Code section 2085]."~~

21          2. By amending the definition of "moped" to read:



1        ""Moped" means a device upon which a person may ride that  
2 has:

- 3        (1) Two or three wheels in contact with the ground;
- 4        (2) A motor having a maximum power output capability  
5            measured at the motor output shaft, in accordance with  
6            SAE International standards, of two horsepower (one  
7            thousand four hundred ninety-two watts) or less and,  
8            if it is a combustion engine, a maximum piston or  
9            rotor displacement of 3.05 cubic inches (fifty cubic  
10           centimeters) and that will propel the moped,  
11           unassisted, on a level surface at a maximum speed no  
12           greater than thirty miles per hour; and
- 13        (3) A direct or automatic power drive system that requires  
14           no clutch or gear shift operation by the moped driver  
15           after the drive system is engaged with the power unit.

16 "Moped" does not include an electric foot scooter or electric  
17 bicycle."

18        3. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
19 and to read:

20        ""Electric bicycle" means a bicycle equipped with fully  
21 operable pedals, a saddle or seat for the rider, and an electric



1 motor of seven hundred fifty watts or less that meets the  
2 requirements of one of the following three classes:

3     (1) Class one electric bicycle, which is an electric  
4     bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance  
5     only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to  
6     provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed  
7     of twenty miles per hour;

8     (2) Class two electric bicycle, which is an electric  
9     bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used  
10    exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not  
11    capable of providing assistance when the bicycle  
12    reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour; or

13    (3) Class three electric bicycle, which is an electric  
14    bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance  
15    only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to  
16    provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed  
17    of twenty-eight miles per hour."

18       SECTION 8. Section 707-700, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by amending the definition of "vulnerable user" to read  
20 as follows:

21       ""Vulnerable user" means:



- 1 (1) A pedestrian legally within a street or public  
2 highway;
- 3 (2) A roadway worker actually engaged in work upon a  
4 street or public highway or in work upon utility  
5 facilities along a street or public highway, or  
6 engaged in the provision of emergency services within  
7 a street or public highway, including but not limited  
8 to:
- 9 (a) Construction and maintenance workers; and  
10 (b) Police, fire, and other emergency responders; or
- 11 (3) A person legally operating any of the following within  
12 the street or public highway:
- 13 (a) A bicycle;  
14 (b) A moped;  
15 (c) An electric foot scooter;  
16 (d) An electric personal assistive mobility device;  
17 or  
18 (e) A wheelchair conveyance or other personal  
19 mobility device[+]; or  
20 (f) An electric bicycle."



1       SECTION 9. Section 286-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       "**§286-102 Licensing.** (a) No person, except one:

- 4       (1) Exempted under section 286-105;
- 5       (2) Who holds an instruction permit under section 286-110;
- 6       (3) Who holds a limited purpose driver's license, limited  
7       purpose provisional driver's license, or limited  
8       purpose instruction permit under section 286-104.5;
- 9       (4) Who holds a provisional license under section  
10       286-102.6;
- 11       (5) Who holds a commercial driver's license issued under  
12       section 286-239; or
- 13       (6) Who holds a commercial driver's license instruction  
14       permit issued under section 286-236,

15 shall operate any category of motor vehicles listed in this  
16 section without first being appropriately examined and duly  
17 licensed as a qualified driver of that category of motor  
18 vehicles.

19       (b) A person operating the following category or  
20 combination of categories of motor vehicles shall be examined as



1 provided in section 286-108 and duly licensed by the examiner of  
2 drivers:

3 (1) Mopeds;

4 (2) Motorcycles, except for autocycles as described in  
5 paragraph (2) of the definition of "motorcycle" in  
6 section 286-2, and motor scooters;

7 (3) Class three electric bicycles;

8 [~~4~~] (4) Passenger cars of any gross vehicle weight  
9 rating, buses designed to transport fifteen or fewer  
10 occupants, trucks and vans having a gross vehicle  
11 weight rating of eighteen thousand pounds or less, and  
12 autocycles as described in paragraph (2) of the  
13 definition of "motorcycle" in section 286-2; and

14 [~~4~~] (5) All of the motor vehicles in category (3) and any  
15 vehicle that is not a commercial motor vehicle.

16 A school bus or van operator shall be properly licensed to  
17 operate the category of vehicles that the operator operates as a  
18 school bus or van and shall comply with the standards of the  
19 department of transportation as provided by rules adopted  
20 pursuant to section 286-181.





1           (c) No person shall receive a driver's license without  
2     surrendering to the examiner of drivers all valid driver's  
3     licenses and all valid identification cards in the person's  
4     possession. All licenses and identification cards so  
5     surrendered shall be shredded; provided that with the exception  
6     of driver's licenses issued by any Canadian province, a foreign  
7     driver's license may be returned to the owner after being  
8     invalidated pursuant to issuance of a Hawaii license; provided  
9     further that the examiner of drivers shall notify the authority  
10    that issued the foreign license that the license has been  
11    invalidated and returned because the owner is now licensed in  
12    this State; and provided further that all commercial driver's  
13    licenses that are surrendered shall be shredded. No person  
14    shall be permitted to hold more than one valid driver's license  
15    at any time.

16          (d) Before issuing a driver's license, the examiner of  
17    drivers shall complete a check of the applicant's driving record  
18    to determine whether the applicant is subject to any  
19    disqualification under section 286-240, or any license  
20    suspension, revocation, or cancellation, and whether the  
21    applicant has a driver's license from more than one state or



1 jurisdiction. The record check shall include but is not limited  
2 to the following:

3 (1) A check of the applicant's driving record as  
4 maintained by the applicant's state or jurisdiction of  
5 licensure;

6 (2) A check with the commercial driver license information  
7 system;

8 (3) A check with the National Driver Register; and

9 (4) If the driver is renewing a commercial driver's  
10 license for the first time after September 30, 2002, a  
11 request for the applicant's complete driving record  
12 from all states where the applicant was previously  
13 licensed to drive any motor vehicle over the last ten  
14 years; provided that a notation is made on the driving  
15 record confirming the check has been made and the date  
16 it was done.

17 (e) Notwithstanding sections 291E-61.6 and [291E-44.5], in  
18 addition to other qualifications and conditions by or pursuant  
19 to this part, the right of an individual to hold a motor vehicle  
20 operator's license or permit issued by the county is subject to  
21 the requirements of section 576D-13.



1       Upon receipt of certification from the child support  
2 enforcement agency pursuant to section 576D-13 that an obligor  
3 or individual who owns or operates a motor vehicle is not in  
4 compliance with an order of support as defined in section 576D-1  
5 or has failed to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to a  
6 paternity or child support proceeding, the examiner of drivers  
7 shall suspend the license and right to operate motor vehicles  
8 and confiscate the license of the obligor. The examiner of  
9 drivers shall not reinstate an obligor's or individual's license  
10 until the child support enforcement agency, the office of child  
11 support hearings, or the family court issues an authorization  
12 that states the obligor or individual is in compliance with an  
13 order of support or has complied with a subpoena or warrant  
14 relating to a paternity or child support hearing.

15       The licensing authority may adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
16 91 to implement and enforce the requirements of this section. "

17       SECTION 10. Section 286-108, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19       "**§286-108 Examination of applicants.** (a) Except as  
20 provided in section 286-107.5(a), the examiner of drivers shall  
21 examine every applicant for a driver's license, except as



1 otherwise provided in this part. The examination shall include  
2 a test of:

- 3 (1) The applicant's eyesight and any further physical  
4 examination that the examiner of drivers finds  
5 necessary to determine the applicant's fitness to  
6 operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways;
- 7 (2) The applicant's ability to understand highway signs  
8 regulating, warning, and directing traffic;
- 9 (3) The applicant's knowledge of the rules of the road  
10 based on the traffic laws of the State and the traffic  
11 ordinances of the county where the applicant resides  
12 or intends to operate a motor vehicle; provided that  
13 the examination shall specifically test the  
14 applicant's knowledge of the provisions of section  
15 291C-121.5 and section 291C-137; and
- 16 (4) The actual demonstration of ability to exercise  
17 ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a  
18 motor vehicle.

19 The examinations shall be appropriate to the operation of the  
20 category of motor vehicle for which the applicant seeks to be  
21 licensed and shall be conducted as required by the director.



1       The examiner of drivers shall require every applicant to  
2       comply with section 286-102.5.

3       The examiner of drivers may waive the actual demonstration  
4       of ability to operate a motorcycle, ~~[or]~~ motor scooter, or class  
5       three electric bicycle for any person who furnishes evidence, to  
6       the satisfaction of the examiner of drivers, that the person has  
7       completed the motorcycle education course approved by the  
8       director in accordance with section 431:10G-104.

9       For the purposes of this section, the term "applicant" does  
10      not include any person reactivating a license under section 286-  
11      107.5(a).

12      (b) The examiner of drivers shall require proof from every  
13      applicant under the age of eighteen that the applicant has  
14      completed a driver education program and a behind-the-wheel  
15      driver training course certified by the director of  
16      transportation. The examiner of drivers shall not examine any  
17      applicant for a provisional license who is sixteen through  
18      seventeen years of age unless the applicant holds and has held a  
19      valid instruction permit under section 286-110, for a period of  
20      no fewer than one hundred eighty days. If the applicant's  
21      instruction permit has expired and a new instruction permit was



1 issued within thirty days of its expiration, the examiner of  
2 drivers may examine the applicant without requiring an  
3 additional one hundred eighty day period.

4 (c) The examiner of drivers may waive the written or oral  
5 examination required under subsection (a) (2) and (3) and the  
6 actual demonstration of ability to operate a motor vehicle for  
7 any person who:

8 (1) Is at least eighteen years of age and who possesses a  
9 valid driver's license issued to the applicant in any  
10 other state of the United States, the District of  
11 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American  
12 Samoa, Guam, a province of the Dominion of Canada, or  
13 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for  
14 the operation of vehicles in categories 1 through 3 of  
15 section 286-102;

16 (2) Has completed the same requirements as set forth in  
17 section 286-102.6(f) in another state and possesses a  
18 valid provisional license from that state; or

19 (3) Is at least eighteen years of age and who possesses a  
20 valid driver's license issued to the applicant in any  
21 jurisdiction for which the director has granted



1 reciprocal licensing privileges in accordance with  
2 section 286-101.5 for the operation of vehicles in  
3 category (3) of section 286-102(b).

4 (d) As part of the examination required by this section,  
5 the applicant for a driver's license shall produce and display a  
6 valid motor vehicle or liability insurance identification card  
7 for the motor vehicle required by sections 431:10C-107 and  
8 431:10G-106, when the applicant demonstrates the ability to  
9 operate a motor vehicle to the satisfaction of the examiner of  
10 drivers. If no valid motor vehicle or liability insurance  
11 identification card is displayed, the examiner of drivers shall  
12 not issue a driver's license to the applicant."

13 SECTION 11. The department of transportation shall develop  
14 statewide safety and training programs to educate the public  
15 about general electric bicycle riding safety, rules of the road,  
16 and laws pertaining to electric bicycles, no later than twenty  
17 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2026. The  
18 safety and training programs shall be developed in collaboration  
19 with relevant stakeholders.



# H.B. NO. 515

1       SECTION 12. This Act does not affect rights and duties  
2 that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that  
3 were begun before its effective date.

4       SECTION 13. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6       SECTION 14. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025;  
7 provided that:

8       (1) Section 2(k) shall take effect on January 1, 2029; and

9       (2) Section 3 shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 17 2025





# H.B. NO. 515

**Report Title:**

Electric Bicycles; Classification; Regulations; Labeling

**Description:**

Categorizes electric bicycles into three classes based on speed and operation. Establishes regulations for electric bicycles. Requires electric bicycle manufacturers and distributors to apply a label to each electric bicycle specifying the classification number, top assisted speed, and motor wattage of the electric bicycle. Imposes licensure and insurance requirements for class three electric bicycles.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

