
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 citizens of
3 all ages. In March 2023, there were five thousand three hundred
4 registered electric bicycles. This figure is potentially higher
5 considering that many owners do not register their bikes,
6 especially if they are purchased online.

7 Preliminary data from Hawaii's Department of Transportation
8 showed that from the start of 2025 till early September, there
9 had been ninety-three traffic deaths statewide. This is a stark
10 difference compared to the sixty-six traffic fatalities that
11 occurred at the same time last year. Approximately ninety-one
12 per cent of the deaths involved risky or negligent behavior such
13 as speeding, failure to yield, improper pedestrian actions, and
14 failing to use safety equipment such as seat belts and helmets.
15 Safety of Hawaii's roadways continues to be a persistent matter
16 of public concern. The legislature finds, in the wake of a



1 recent surge in ridership accidents, it is critical to address
2 the unsafe operation of electric bicycles.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Require the Department of Education develop and
5 administer a traffic safety education program; and
6 (2) Amend the Department of Education's traffic safety
7 education program to include electric bicycles.

8 SECTION 2. Section 302A-417, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 " [+] **S302A-417 [+] Traffic safety education.** (a) The
11 department [may] shall establish and administer a traffic safety
12 education program to be conducted at each public school for
13 students from grades kindergarten through twelve. The program
14 shall include, but not be limited to, general electric bicycle
15 riding safety, rules of the road, and laws pertaining to
16 electric bicycles.

17 (b) The department may establish the requirements for the
18 position of traffic safety education specialist and may employ
19 at least one traffic safety education specialist for the
20 purposes of this section. The traffic safety education
21 specialist may be paid out of fees allocated to the director of

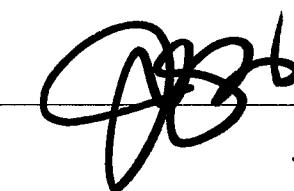


1 commerce and consumer affairs from the special drivers education
2 fund account pursuant to section 431:10C-115."

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

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

6

INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 26 2026



H.B. NO. 2179

Report Title:

E-Bikes; DOE; Educational Safety Program

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to develop and administer a Traffic Safety Program. Expands the Department of Education's Traffic Safety Education program to include electric bicycles.

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