



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/17/2026

**Time:** 09:30 AM

**Location:** 430 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** TRN

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB2179, HD1, RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires, rather than authorizes, the Department of Education to develop and administer a Traffic Safety Program. Requires the Department of Education's Traffic Safety Education program to include electric bicycles. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) recognizes the intent of HB2179 HD1 and appreciates the Legislature's focus on the safety of our students and community members as electric bicycle (e-bike) usage continues to rise across the islands.

The Department respectfully offers the following comments regarding existing resources and the Department's potential role in e-bike safety education.

Ensuring student safety does not require "reinventing the wheel." There are currently robust, specialized resources available through established community partners:

- The Hawaii Bicycling League (HBL): HBL has developed comprehensive educational materials, including printed guides and a six-part video series, specifically tailored to low-speed electric bicycles.
- Neighbor Island Outreach: These resources are already being distributed statewide through partnerships with Kauai Path and the Maui Bicycling League.
- Ready-to-Deliver Presentations: HBL maintains an e-bike safety presentation suitable for all ages. They have successfully coordinated these presentations at schools in conjunction with the Honolulu Police Department (HPD).

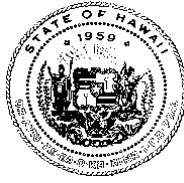
The Department is well-positioned to act as a bridge between safety experts and our student population. Rather than developing a separate curriculum, the Department can join the ongoing efforts of the HBL and HPD by:

1. Disseminating Resources: Utilizing our statewide network to distribute HBL's printed and digital safety materials to schools.

2. Facilitating Presentations: Encouraging schools to host HPD and HBL for on-campus safety demonstrations and briefings.
3. Increasing Awareness: Ensuring that students and parents are aware of the specific rules and safety protocols unique to electric bicycles compared to traditional cycles.

The Department remains committed to the safety of our students during their commutes. By utilizing the expert resources already provided by the Hawaii Bicycling League and law enforcement, we can efficiently enhance e-bike safety literacy across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on (HB2179)**  
**RELATING TO TO TRANSPORTATION**

REPRESENTATIVE DARIUS K. KILA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 9:30AM | Room Number: 430

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") respectfully offers the  
3 following comments.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention Systems Branch  
5 (EMSIPSB) provides this testimony on behalf of the Department offering comments.

6 E-bike related injuries represent a growing and preventable public safety concern in  
7 Hawaii. Between January 1, 2022 and February 3, 2026, Hawaii's 911 Emergency Medical  
8 Services (EMS) have responded to 765 e-bike related injuries statewide. Of these incidents, 234  
9 involved children and adolescents between the ages of 4 and 18, underscoring a significant and  
10 increasing risk to our youth.

11 The number of e-bike related injuries has risen steadily each year:

- 12 - 106 injuries in 2022
- 13 - 165 injuries in 2023
- 14 - 227 injuries in 2024
- 15 - 244 injuries in 2025

- 23 injuries in 2026 as of February 3, 2026

Overall, this reflects a 130.2% increase in e-bike related injuries since 2022. These sustained increases are particularly concerning given the number of incidents involving school-aged riders.

In addition to overall injury trends, the severity of these incidents is notable. Between January 1, 2022 and February 3, 2026, 911 Emergency Medical Services transported nearly 300 patients with traumatic brain injuries, many of which are preventable through early education, helmet use, and safer riding practices.

Age-appropriate e-bike safety education can play an important role in promoting safe riding practices among youth. Instruction that includes safe operation, helmet use, understanding traffic laws, and shared roadway awareness reflects widely recognized injury prevention strategies. Research consistently shows that early education and skill-building contribute to reducing preventable injuries and improving overall community safety.

Providing access to this type of program would help ensure that students, regardless of school location or available community resources, have consistent opportunities to learn essential safety skills. A coordinated approach supports established best practices in injury prevention and promotes the health and safety of Hawaii's keiki.

**Offered Amendments:** None

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

Tuesday - February 17, 2026 - 9:30am

**Hawai'i Bicycling League Strongly Supports HB 2179, HD 1, relating to Transportation, with remarks**

Aloha Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake and members of the Committee,

My name is Eduardo Hernandez and I am the Advocacy Director of the Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL). We are a non-profit organization founded in 1975 with the mission of enabling more people to ride bicycles for health, recreation, and transportation. We strive to create communities across our islands that have safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for people to bike, walk, and roll.

HBL strongly supports HB 2179, HD1, to require the DOE to develop and administer an expanded Traffic Safety Education Program to include electric bicycles. For 36 years, HBL has partnered with the Department of Transportation Services in the City and County of Honolulu to bring in-school on-bike education to 4th graders across O'ahu in a week-long series. We also have been partnering with HDOT to provide e-bike education workshops for adults and older youth, as well as developed a series of e-bike informational videos available on-line.

HBL has long advocated that beyond legislation and device regulations, people, especially youth, need more exposure to hands-on learning and skills building opportunities to develop safe riding skills and an understanding of rules of the road. Our trained instructors have visited every county and provided on-bike instruction to diverse audiences from keiki to kūpuna, for law enforcement, for amateurs and people of all skill levels and abilities.

Given that 2025 was one of the deadliest years in decades on Hawai'i roads, it is imperative to take bold action to influence public behavior change and raise awareness about road safety for all road users. This is increasingly important for emerging technologies that can help individuals and families choose safer and more affordable transportation options, like e-bikes.

Currently, the DOE does not have curricula as proposed in this bill, nor the staff or resources to provide this expanded instruction. We recommend addressing this gap with a new subsection (c)

**Suggested Addition to insert:**

–SECTION 2, subsection (c), Page 3, Line 5 -7:

The department may consult with an expert bicycle education provider, such as the Hawai'i Bicycling League and reasonable consulting expenses may be paid out of fees allocated to the director of commerce and consumer affairs from the special drivers education fund account pursuant to section 431:10C-115.

On a related note, HBL has submitted a grant-in-aid request to the 2026 Hawai'i legislature to provide expanded education services for youth and adults to address the epidemic of traffic violence. This committee has championed a wide range of regulatory measures to address road safety. However, beyond infrastructure and legislation, we see that there needs to be more public education like this bill offers and what is proposed in our GIA request.

We hope you will consider both measures favorably to help realize safer streets for all.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

S/Eduardo Hernandez  
Advocacy Director, Hawaii Bicycling League

**HB-2179-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 2:11:14 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Baker	Hawaii Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As the president of the Hawaii Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and as a practicing emergency medicine doctor, and as a seasoned road cyclist, I strongly support education related to use of electric bikes. Doctors can fix a lot of injuries, cuts, wounds, broken bones. But if there is a significant head injury it does not take much for brain cells to die. Our Keiki deserve to be empowered with education to prevent injury.

Mahalo,

Mark Baker, MD, FACEP, FAMIA



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a registered 501 (C) 3 non-profit

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

Tuesday - February 17, 2026 - 9:30am

### **Strong Support for HB 2179, HD 1, relating to Transportation**

Aloha Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake and members of the Committee,

Kauai Path, Inc. is a non-profit educational organization founded in 2008 with the vision of Kauai residents working together to preserve, protect, and extend access island-wide through the design, implementation, and stewardship of non-motorized multi-use paths.

Kauai Path strongly supports HB 2179, HD1, to require the DOE to develop and administer an expanded Traffic Safety Education Program to include electric bicycles. Since 2010, Kauai Path has partnered with the Hawai'i State Department of Transportation to bring in-school on-bike education to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders across Kaua'i in six hour trainings. We also have been partnering with HDOT and the Hawai'i State Department of Health to provide bicycling education workshops for adults and older youth.

Along with the Hawai'i Bicycling League, we have long advocated that beyond legislation and device regulations, people, especially youth, need more exposure to hands-on learning and skills building opportunities to develop safe riding skills and an understanding of rules of the road.

Given that 2025 was one of the deadliest years in decades on Hawai'i roads, it is imperative to take bold action to influence public behavior change and raise awareness about road safety for all road users. This is increasingly important for emerging technologies that can help individuals and families choose safer and more affordable transportation options, like e-bikes.

We hope you will advance HB 2179 to help realize safer streets for all.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Tommy Noyes  
Executive Director  
Kauai Path, Inc.

Kauai residents working together to preserve, protect, and extend access island-wide through the design, implementation, and stewardship of non-motorized multi-use paths.

**HB-2179-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:50:43 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, STRONGLY OPPOSE

for the followings reasons:

1. DOE Budget 2B
2. DOE schools has lost music, arts, Hawaiiana programs...
3. Pull students out from instructional periods
4. DOE is dealing with CELL PHONE ISSUES
5. Student achievements DOES NOT MEET THE PROFICIENCE LEVELS IN READING, MATH...

THE RIGHTFUL DEPARTMENT FOR E-BIKE SAFETY TRAINING IS THE HDOT training at Leeward Community College STUDENT AND PARENT ON A WEEKEND COURSE. OR WITH THE CITY MOTO VEHICLE DEPARTMENT - DRIVERS LICENSE DIVISION!

AND NOT, NOT UNDER THE DOE!!

2179 HB RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

**HB-2179-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 1:36:29 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Duffy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I **strongly support** HB2179 HD1. With the rapid increase in electric bicycle usage among Hawaii's youth, it is both timely and necessary to require the Department of Education to implement a comprehensive traffic safety education program that includes specific instruction on electric bicycle safety. E-bikes are not toys; they are motor-assisted vehicles capable of higher speeds that require knowledge of road laws, situational awareness, and responsible operation. By making traffic safety education mandatory rather than optional, this bill ensures that all public school students receive consistent and structured instruction that can prevent injuries and save lives. Proactive education is far more effective and cost-efficient than responding to accidents after they occur. HB2179 HD1 promotes safety, responsibility, and accountability for Hawaii's next generation of riders. I respectfully urge your **support**.

**HB-2179-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 2:50:48 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-2179-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 3:52:26 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johanna Tokunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Students deserve traffic safety education curriculum that is inclusive of bicycles, including e-bikes
- E-bikes and e-mobility are increasingly popular and traffic safety education must keep up with technology so students can know how to share the road responsibly

**HB-2179-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 4:02:22 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JONATHAN LOTT	Individual	Support	In Person

## Comments:

Education on safe/legal operation of e-bikes and electric motorcycles is absolutely needed, for all drivers and especially for young people who may not even have had any driver education about the rules of the road or haven't yet gotten driver's licenses.

These devices can go really fast and are often operated recklessly. Some of that is due to ignorance of the law and rules of the road, and some is due to lack of enforcement. I support this bill wholeheartedly!

Car-free (by choice) cyclist and pedestrian,

Jon Lott, Waikiki

**HB-2179-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 5:08:19 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lanette Bourg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB2179

**HB-2179-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 11:25:57 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Kila and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr retired Navy Veteran, who took a solemn oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic, and that oath didn't expire when I retired. I live in Ewa Beach.

I SUPPORT BILL HD-2179 HD1.

HD-2179 takes a practical, commonsense step to protect Hawaii's keiki and families by requiring, rather than merely authorizing, the Department of Education to provide traffic safety education for students in grades K–12, including specific instruction on electric bicycle safety. With e-bikes becoming more popular among young riders and with recent increases in serious traffic accidents, it is responsible to ensure that students understand the rules of the road, proper use of safety equipment, and how to share streets safely with cars, pedestrians, and other cyclists.

HB-2179 promotes personal responsibility and safer behavior instead of relying solely on enforcement after tragedies occur. It uses an existing funding mechanism for a traffic safety education specialist, avoiding the creation of a large new bureaucracy or new tax burden, while still ensuring that schools have expertise to deliver effective instruction.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass HB 2179 HD1.

Respectfully,

Brett Kulbis

**HB-2179-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 9:44:03 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Rogers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Kila, Vice Chair Representative Miyake and committee members,

I support HB2179 HD1 which would require the DOE to develop and administer a traffic safety program which would include electric bicycles. As a League Cycling instructor certified by the League of American Bicyclist and an Ewa NB #23 member, I have long advocated for continuing education of traffic safety, rules of the road and safe bicycle riding techniques beyond the bike education program provided by the Hawaii Bicycling League at the fourth-grade level. This is a no brainer. With the increase in the volume of traffic in our state, we should ensure that our public education system provides the knowledge need to be a safe operator on our streets.

Best Regards,

John Rogers

Ewa NB #23 Transportation Committee Co-chair

**HB-2179-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:31:35 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Huynh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

The public deserves a traffic safety education curriculum that is inclusive of bicycles, including e-bikes. This is especially important given that e-bikes and e-mobility are increasingly popular and traffic safety education must keep up with technology so the public can know how to share the road responsibly. I support this bill because it requires HDOT to administer a safety education program, which furthers roadway safety for all users.

**HB-2179-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:54:41 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daphne L. Manago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Daphne Manago, and I am a member of the Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL). I strongly support HB2179 HD1, relating to the DOE, E-Bike Educational Safety Program.

With the growing popularity of e-bikes among the youth, we have seen far too many crashes. It is critical that our keiki understand traffic safety, the rules of the road, and the laws specific to electric bicycles. Providing a traffic safety curriculum through the DOE that focuses on e-bikes would ensure that students across the state receive consistent and accurate safety education.

By equipping young riders with the knowledge they need, we can help prevent injuries and create safer roadways for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Daphne Manago

**HB-2179-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 8:39:34 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Tipton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit my support for this bill. Our keiki are more likely to move about our islands on bikes than they are behind the wheel of a car. They should be taught how to safely use their bikes.