

SB 2802

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS
ADMINISTRATION
P.O. BOX 30300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



GAIL Y. HARAGUCHI
DIRECTOR

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

January 31, 2010

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Transportation, International
and Intergovernmental Affairs
The Senate
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 205
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair English and Committee Members:

Subject: S.B. No. 2802, Relating to Hybrid Bicycles

The City and County of Honolulu agree with the intent but have concerns with
S.B. No. 2702.

In order to distinguish electric bicycles from mopeds and motor scooters, we
recommend that the definition of an electric bicycle contained in Section 3 and Section 4
of the bill meet the federal definition as contained in Public Law 107-319, section 1, 116
Stat. 2776 (2002):

"The term "low-speed electric bicycle" means a two- or three-wheeled vehicle with fully
operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1h.p.), whose maximum
speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a motor while ridden by
an operator who weighs 170 pounds, is less than 20 mph."

The City and County of Honolulu recommends your favorable action on S.B. No. 2802,
as amended.

Sincerely,

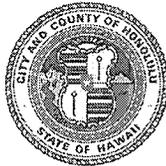

for  Gail Y. Haraguchi
Director

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



WAYNE Y. YOSHIOKA
DIRECTOR

SHARON ANN THOM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 2, 2010

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation,
International, and Intergovernmental Affairs
State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair English and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2802 – Relating to Hybrid Bicycles

The Department of Transportation Services opposes Senate Bill No. 2802, which would change the definition of a bicycle to include a bicycle-like vehicle with an electric motor. The types of vehicles that would fall under this proposed definition change are widely varied, from vehicles that look like bicycles to ones that are essentially electric mopeds.

The speed of these vehicles also poses a safety concern. Currently, bicycles are allowed on sidewalks in many areas and on multi-use paths where there are pedestrians and other non-motorized users. This change would allow these faster moving vehicles, traveling up to twenty-five miles per hour, to ride on sidewalks and paths which would create a potentially dangerous situation.

We feel that it would be better to create a new category of vehicles, such as "electric bicycle," rather than change the definition of a bicycle. "Electric bicycles" should not be allowed on sidewalks or multi-use paths.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Y. Yoshioka", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Wayne Y. Yoshioka
Director

Roy Yanagihara
45-139 Mahalani Circle
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

February 1, 2010

Sen. J. Kalani English, Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Senator Will Espero
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Senator Sam Slom
Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 2802

Aloha TIA Committee Members,

I would like to request your support for the passage of SB2802 that would help to clarify current law regarding hybrid electric bicycles.

As stated in this measure, hybrid bicycles are becoming increasingly popular throughout the rest of the world. Soon they will become commonplace in Hawaii as they are in other parts of the world.

The use of hybrid bicycles should be encouraged in Hawaii in order to complement our existing modes of transportation. Commuters who may now drive their personal automobiles to work daily may opt to use the bus if they could use a hybrid bicycle to get to a bus stop that is just a little too far to walk if it could be accepted onto the bike racks now provided on City buses. Riding a hybrid bicycle is also energy efficient and provides at least some exercise for those who ride them.

The purpose of this measure is to encourage the popularity of hybrid bicycles by amending current statutes in order to ensure the classification of hybrid bicycles that meet the criteria specified in this measure as "bicycles" as opposed to mopeds or motorcycles.

Thank you for your support.

Roy Yanagihara

