
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO SUBMIT LEGISLATION
FOR A UNIVERSAL HELMET LAW IN HAWAII REQUIRING ALL
OPERATORS AND RIDERS OF MOTORCYCLES, MOTOR SCOOTERS,
MOPEDS, AND BICYCLES TO WEAR SAFETY HELMETS.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Health advocated in its Hawaii
2 Injury Prevention Plan for 2012-2017 for a universal moped and
3 motorcycle helmet law to increase traffic safety; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Injury Prevention Plan for 2012-2017
6 cited a study that concluded that helmets reduced the risk of
7 death by 42 percent and the risk of head injury by 69 percent
8 for riders involved in an accident; and
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10 WHEREAS, states that have enacted universal helmet laws
11 have seen significant reductions in fatality rates, head
12 injuries and overall medical expenses related to motorcycle
13 injuries, according to a safety guide published by the National
14 Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2011; and
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16 WHEREAS, a federally mandated universal helmet law was
17 enacted in Hawaii in 1968 and was repealed in 1977. Between
18 1968 and 1976, motorcycle fatalities in Hawaii decreased by 57
19 percent. According to a report published by the National
20 Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2012, there were six
21 motorcycle fatalities per 10,000 registered motorcycles between
22 1968 and 1976 versus fourteen motorcycle fatalities per 10,000
23 registered motorcycles prior to 1968 and after the repeal in
24 1977; and
25

26 WHEREAS, states with universal helmet laws, which require
27 all operators and riders to wear safety helmets, have motorcycle
28 rider fatality rates that were 20-40 percent lower than states
29 with partial helmet laws, which require only certain operators
30 and riders to wear safety helmets; and



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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a partial helmet statute only requiring
2 riders under the age of eighteen to wear a helmet and
3 between 2005 and 2009 in Hawaii, more than two-thirds (67
4 percent) of fatally injured motorcycle riders and almost all (96
5 percent) of fatally injured moped riders were not wearing a
6 helmet at the time of the crash, according to a report published
7 by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2012;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, medical costs of helmeted riders average 67
11 percent lower than that of un-helmeted riders, according to The
12 Queen's Hospital Financial System data from 2005-2007; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Corporation reported
15 in 2008 that Medicaid, Medicare, and Quest currently pay 22.5
16 percent of the medical costs for head injuries associated with
17 motorcycle or moped crashes; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation ("DOT") updated
20 its Strategic Highway Safety Plan ("SHSP") for 2013 to 2018 and
21 reported that according to the National Highway Traffic Safety
22 Administration, from 2008 to 2012, nine additional lives per
23 year could have been saved in Hawaii if helmets had been used
24 and the DOT acknowledged that "those who choose not to wear
25 helmets represent the highest cost to the public"; and
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27 WHEREAS, the DOT, in its SHSP, identified motorcycle,
28 scooter, and moped safety as an updated area of emphasis and
29 that one of its policies and strategies is to enact a universal
30 helmet law as such a law would increase traffic safety in
31 Hawaii; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2018, that the DOT is urged to expedite implementation of its
36 strategic goal for motorcycle, motor scooter, and moped safety
37 by submitting legislation for a universal helmet law in Hawaii
38 requiring all operators and riders of motorcycles, motor
39 scooters, mopeds, and bicycles to wear safety helmets by the
40 Regular Session of 2019; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DOT is also urged to
 2 consider legislation that would address a requirement to wear a
 3 safety helmet securely fastened with a chin strap, and
 4 prohibitions on leasing or renting a motorcycle, motor scooter,
 5 or bicycle without such a helmet, and recommended fines for
 6 violating the safety helmet requirement; and

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 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 9 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and
 10 the Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY:

Lowry

Chen T. K.

Nadine K. Maden

[Signature]

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