

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 8, 2019  
10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Room 423

**LATE**

**HB 812  
RELATING TO LOW SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES**

HOUSE Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation supports H.B. 812 with amendments.

This bill will define low speed electric bicycles.

The low speed electric bicycle, by definition, in title United States Code section 2085(b) has a "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."

Presuming electric bicycles can go 20 mph without much human effort, it is recommended that an age limit of 15 years of age be established for operators.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-812**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:24:45 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lee Steinmetz       | County of Kauai     | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Honorable Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and members of the Committee on Transportation:

The County of Kauai supports HB 812, relating to low speed electric bicycles. The Bill brings the State of Hawaii in conformance with the Federal definition of a bicycle to include a "low speed electric bicycle" with a defined maximum power and speed. This will provide clarity for regulation and enforcement of low speed electric bicycles consistent with Federal law.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lee Steinmetz

Transportation Planning Officer, County of Kauai

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

MISSION MEMORIAL BUILDING  
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**LATE**

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



SHERI T. KAJIWARA  
DIRECTOR

RANDY M. LEONG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY OF ABUL HASSAN, LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
Friday, February 8, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 423

HOUSE BILL 812, "Relating to Low-Speed Electric Bicycles"

TO: The Honorable Henry J. C. Aquino, Chair  
The Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Transportation

The Department of Customer Services of the City and County of Honolulu **supports the intent** of H.B. No. 812 which proposes to amend the definition of "bicycle". to include low-speed electric bicycles.

The Division of Motor Vehicle, Licensing and Permits is the entity that oversees the registration of bicycles and enforcement of codes subsequent to the registration. We are generally supportive of redefining the term "bicycle" to include low-speed electric bicycles as defined by the United States Code. However, we request that H.B. No. 812 be amended to include the following language:

Pursuant to HRS 249-14 we request a modification to the placement of the decal as is outlined in 249-14(b):

(b) An owner of a bicycle having two tandem wheels that are less than twenty inches in diameter is not required to register that bicycle, but may do so to facilitate the return of recovered stolen bicycles by payment of the registration fee. The fee collected shall not be refunded or prorated. Upon receipt of the fee, the director of finance shall number and register each bicycle for which the fee is paid, in the owner's name, and furnish the owner with a metallic tag or decal for each bicycle, which shall be attached to the bicycle. The decal shall be affixed to a bicycle on the upright post attached to the sprocket facing in the ~~[forward direction]~~ backward direction, below the seat. Upon initial registration by an owner or transferee, the director of finance shall require proof of ownership and require the owner to furnish verification of the serial number and description contained in the proof of ownership and application for registration. The metallic tags or decals shall be in a form as the director of finance shall from time to time prescribe. It shall be the duty of the director of finance of each county to purchase a sufficient number of these tags or decals.

LATE

The Honorable Henry J. C. Aquino, Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Transportation  
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We subsequently request the definition in HRS 249-14(a) be updated to reflect the present proposed definition in H.B. No. 812 with the following modifications:

- (a) Bicycle fee. ~~[Bicycles having two tandem wheels that are twenty inches or more in diameter]~~ A device propelled solely by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels sixteen inches in diameter or greater, and including any device generally recognized as a bicycle though equipped with two front or two rear wheels are required to be registered and shall be subject to a permanent registration fee of \$15, to be paid by the owners thereof to the director of finance.
1. A low-speed electric bicycle, as defined under Title 15 United States Code Section 2085 shall be required to be registered and shall be subject to a permanent registration fee of \$30.00, to be paid by the owners thereof to the director of finance.
  2. Funds received through registration under HRS 249-14 shall be utilized by the director of finance for the sole and exclusive purpose of operational improvement to the bicycle registration program; to include automation of registration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of H.B. No. 812.

**HB-812**

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 8:57:33 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Todd Boulanger      | Bikeshare Hawaii    | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Bikeshare Hawaii supports this bill in the interium. Ideally ithe bill would have different tiers for ebikes that perform commercial tasks (like freight / package delivery) and thus need more wattage and weight vs the low speed rules for bike commute type ebikes.

**HB-812**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 1:26:55 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>     | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Daniel Alexander    | Hawaii Bicycling League | Support                   | Yes                       |

Comments:

**LATE**

Dear Mr. Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair of the House Committee on Transportation

Subject: House Bill 812. Relating to Low Speed Electric Bicycles or e-Bikes

February 07, 2019

My name is Henry Jiao. I am an electric bike Rider and almost a pioneer rider, earlier than most of the people on the Islands of Hawaii. In so many years, electric bikes have been proven to be safe and easy to ride for everyone who wants to enjoy outdoors or combine commute and recreation, without noise and pollutions. And they are almost the same as regular bicycles, but much easier for everyone, particularly on hills – we have many hills here and long rides. However, I am very concerned about the legging situation regarding electric bike registrations in the State of Hawaii – in fact, many people are left confused at present. I am testifying in support of H.B. 812.

This bill will be heard on Friday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Thank you for the opportunity to let me testify in strong support on this matter of great importance to our future generations, and to create a Cleaner and Greater City of Transportation.

Henry Jiao  
808-741-8766