The Department of Transportation **supports** S.B. 361.

This bill requires operators of mopeds to wear safety helmets, regardless of age.

According to the State fatality crash data for calendar years 2016 – 2018, there were 19 fatalities involving a moped. Of those 19 moped fatalities, only one (1) moped operator was wearing a helmet.

A helmet law that requires moped operators to use helmets will reduce the amount of head injuries and save lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.
Subject: Support SB361

Dear Senator Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation,

My name is Kari Benes and I am the chair of the Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) asking for your support of SB361, which requires all drivers of a moped to wear a helmet. This measure is one of the SHSP traffic safety priorities for 2019.

According to 2017 University of Hawaii Observational Studies, helmet use among moped riders has increased from 10% in 2002 to 31% in 2017. However, most moped riders are unhelmeted. Unhelmeted moped riders are more likely to receive a skull fracture or head injury in the event of a crash. This accounts for longer hospitalizations, disability and increased cost. Hospital charges are often 50% higher than for helmeted riders. Unfortunately, in Hawaii unhelmeted moped riders are 3 times as likely to require an income qualifying payer for their health insurance.1 Nationwide, state governments absorb nearly $5 billion in hospitalization for unhelmeted riders without medical insurance.2

The Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan’s vision is that all of Hawaii’s road users arrive safely at their destinations. You can help us achieve our goal of reducing yearly fatalities, by supporting this measure.

To view the Strategic Highway Safety Plan, go to www.hawaiishsp.com

Strategic Highway Safety Plan Mission

Save lives and reduce injuries on Hawaii’s roadways through strategic partnerships and implementation of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB361 Related to Moped Safety

To: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair; Committee on Transportation

Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC) **SUPPORTS** SB361 Relating to Safety Helmets.

My name is Lisa Dau, RN, Injury Prevention Coordinator and I represent Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC). KIPC **SUPPORTS** the passage of **SB361 RELATING TO SAFETY HELMETS** that requires all drivers to wear safety helmets when driving a moped. This bill is a **NO BRAINER**.

When a helmet is properly worn it prevents deaths (decreased by 42%) and brain injuries (decreased by 69%), this data comes from Hawai‘i State Department of Health, 2012. Other statistics from Hawai‘i DOH from 2005-2009 shows that 96% of fatally injured moped riders were not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash, and 86% of moped riders were not wearing a helmet in non-fatal crashes.

Helmets can reduce traumatic brain injuries and reduce health care costs. This is a public health issue that needs to be address by passing this bill. Please consider passing SB361

Mahalo,

Lisa Dau, RN
Injury Prevention Coordinator
Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition
SB-361
Submitted on: 2/5/2019 1:59:26 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

<table>
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<th>Submitted By</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Testifier Position</th>
<th>Present at Hearing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ray Pagan</td>
<td>Testifying for Street Bikers United</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>No</td>
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Comments:
### SB-361
Submitted on: 2/5/2019 4:29:38 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Paige</td>
<td>Testifying for Street Bikers United Hawaii</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
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Comments:
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travis</td>
<td>Testifying for SBU</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>No</td>
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Comments:
**SB-361**
Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:00:37 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jon</td>
<td>Testifying for SBU</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAWAII</td>
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Comments:
Comments:

The steady erosion of personal rights should stop. It is the rider's responsibility to take any and all safety precautions when riding. There are times when helmets hinder the rider's ability to avoid accidents.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Kaopua</td>
<td>Testifying for Street Bikers United</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>No</td>
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Comments:
SB-361
Submitted on: 2/5/2019 2:49:33 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By  | Organization    | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing
---           | ---             | ---                | ---
Dave Lau     | Testifying for HSBU | Oppose             | No

Comments:

I oppose SB361.
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<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Willie larry jr</td>
<td>Testifying for Indian Motorcycle Rider's Group</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>No</td>
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Comments:
SB-361
Submitted on: 2/5/2019 2:34:41 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tony Vincent Jr</td>
<td>Testifying for SNUHI.ORG</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>No</td>
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Comments:

I oppose this bill because it takes away our freedom off choice our freedom to choose to wear or not wear a helmet. Mopeds is the first they'll attack then motorcycles and then the door is open to make more changes and take more of our freedom of choice away.
I oppose the requirement of mandatory helmet usage.
Helmet laws are an infringement of our rights to make our own decisions. There are way too many laws taking away our rights.
I've worked as an emergency medicine physician at The Queen's Medical Center over the past 10 years and can personally attest to the physical and emotional devastation that could have easily been prevented by the simple act of wearing a helmet. All too often I have seen patients with life altering head/face injuries that could have been avoided had a helmet been required. Indeed, a helmet can sometimes make the difference between life and death.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James R Sowa</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>No</td>
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Comments:
SB-361
Submitted on: 2/2/2019 3:35:56 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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<tr>
<td>Richard Michaels</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Support</td>
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Comments:
I know this is a choice and I love the fact that I have the right to make that choice. This bill should not be allowed to pass due to the fact of it removes my choice to not wear a safety helmet and I am an educated individual that understands the risk to myself in not wearing one, but if desire to wear one I can also. Do not push someone else's want onto me leave me my choice.
To whom it may concern,

It is my belief that motorcyclists are the most safest individuals on the roads. We ride in the best interest of ourselves and others. We are constantly aware of our surroundings and look at the most possible outcomes when we ride. It is our right to choose what we wear and when. We ride to have a sense of living not captivity.

Sincerely,

Roylanda (live to ride, ride to live) (PKMC)
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Celeste Rogers</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>No</td>
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Comments:
SB-361
Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:52:40 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing
---|---|---|---
Terry Fitzpatrick | Individual | Oppose | No

Comments:
I oppose this bill.
SB-361
Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:29:31 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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<tr>
<td>Ikuko Watkins</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>No</td>
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Comments:
SB-361
Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:14:54 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Leibfreid</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Comments:

I oppose this bill and any helmet law for motorized transportation.
Dear Sen. Inouye, Sen. Harimoto, and other Members of the Committee on Transportation,

I am writing in VERY STRONG SUPPORT of SB361 relating to safety helmets for moped riders.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Bojanowski
Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712
Adult riders should have the right to choose. Aso riding conditions often make wearing a helmet more hazardous. Limits visibility, intense overheating, fogged visors, neck cramps, and wind resistance (especially winds hitting from the sides) are just some of the hazards included with helmets. Adults should maintain the right to choose.
I believe I can hear my surroundings better with no helmet, example: screeching cars, tires, horn’s people yelling, my peripheral vision is better, I can turn my head faster, when looking at my surroundings etc.
Honorable Senators:

I am a Hawaii resident and have 10 years bicycle riding experience and 13 years motorcycle riding experience with 50,000+ miles touring the Mainland (43,000+ miles on-island.) I never used a helmet while riding a bicycle; however, I did wear full-face Snell certified helmets on motorcycles (750cc & 1800cc). The decision to wear a helmet was a matter of personal choice; and I spent over $1,500 on helmets.

I am opposed to SB361 as a measure to require the wearing of helmets by moped operators based on age. This measure is vague and almost certainly impossible to enforce as it would necessitate profiling of operators of mopeds on the adjudicated matter.

SB 361 lacks definition for a moped safety helmet; is there a safety criteria for such moped helmets; is there a safety inspection required for such moped helmets. If a Snell helmet is dropped; it’s considered dead. As a matter of practicality who is going to throw away a $50 moped helmet if they happen to drop it? How will the state enforce this?

SB 361 lacks any specificity on moped helmets; and more importantly fails to recognize what purpose the safety helmet serves. Once the measure addresses what purpose is being served; it becomes more apparent just how vague, unenforceable, and how SB 361 totally misses the mark as a measure to improve public safety or prevent injuries or fatalities.

If you want to improve safety, separate moped traffic from all other forms of traffic. Even Biki bikes collide with pedestrians; and they don’t require helmets to rent.

Thank you for your consideration and I ask you please do not support SB 361.

Tadashi Mitsuoka
**SB-361**
Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:28:51 PM  
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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<tr>
<td>Terrill Watkins</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>No</td>
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Comments:
### SB-361
Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:05:37 PM  
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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<tr>
<td>Judith Rod</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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**Comments:**
SB-361
Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:13:47 PM
Testimony for TRS on 2/6/2019 1:15:00 PM

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kelvin N Asahina, DDS</td>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>No</td>
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Comments:
I strongly oppose SB361.