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HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
Wednesday, September 4, 2024
Testimony in Support of Bill 52, relating to electric bicycles

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

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.

Hawai'i Bicycling League supports Bill 52, which codifies a classification system for electric bicycles (e-bikes) and better defines how they may be operated. By creating clear rules on how and where people can ride e-bikes you can support their safe and increased use which has many benefits for individuals, business and the community at large.

Electric bicycles serve to reduce the costs of living for Honolulu residents, while also working towards local and statewide climate and sustainability goals. These devices can reduce the need to own a vehicle, often allowing households to eliminate a vehicle and save upwards of \$10,000 per year. They can also reduce the number of vehicles being used for short trips, therefore reducing parking demand and vehicle traffic.

This bill is based on standards that have been adopted across the country and represents model legislation to promote safety for everyone. As e-bikes continue to expand in popularity, save money for households and deliver cleaner transportation options, it is important that our laws keep up with clear classification designations, definitions of words and best usage practices.

We applaud the introduction of this bill by Council Members Dos Santos-Tam and Tulba. The intent of this bill will help to create a safer environment and make affordable and reliable transportation options available for a broader audience.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. Please support **Bill 52**.

Ride Aloha,

Eduardo Hernandez
Advocacy Director