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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 – 10:00am

**Hawai'i Bicycling League Strongly Opposes HB 708, Relating to Insurance**

Aloha Chair Kila, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members,

My name is Travis Counsell, and I am the Executive 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 strongly opposes HB 708**, which imposes insurance coverage as a prerequisite for the operation of electric bicycles in the State and establishes a regulatory framework for electric bicycle insurance.

Electric bicycles, electric mopeds, and other electric mobility devices serve as a way to reduce the costs of living for Hawai'i residents while also working towards the State's climate 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.

At the Hawai'i Bicycling League, we believe that requiring insurance for electric bicycle riders is unnecessary and creates barriers to sustainable and affordable transportation. **We are unaware of any data that suggests insurance would improve safety, nor any state in the nation that has enacted such a requirement.** E-bikes are much like traditional bicycles in terms of their risks, with most accidents involving minor injuries and are far less dangerous than motor vehicles. Requiring insurance would discourage people—especially in underserved and low-income communities—from using e-bikes, which provide an affordable and environmentally-friendly alternative to cars. Instead of focusing on insurance, HBL advocates for better bike infrastructure, safety education, and the promotion of responsible riding. These measures will better protect riders and make cycling accessible to all without imposing unnecessary financial burdens.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. Please oppose **HB 708** and help create more affordable transportation alternatives.

Ride Aloha,

**Travis L. Counsell**  
Executive Director