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SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Thursday, January 30, 2025 – 3:00pm

Hawai'i Bicycling League Supports SB 1117, Relating to Transportation

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

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 SB 1117, which offers necessary and expanded eligibility and formula payouts for a renamed Electric Mobility Rebate Program. The bill also makes key updates to HRS to include a three-tier classification system for e-bikes, which is a standard used across most states in the nation, but currently not in Hawai'i.

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.

We offer comments for your consideration that could improve this bill:

- Also update bicycle definitions in Section 291-C of HRS that addresses traffic code
- Consider prohibitions on e-bikes for those under 15 to only class 3 e-bikes and allowing use for class 1 and 2 by all ages, as this is standard across most states.
- Define the term "bicycle with motor" in HRS; "bicycle(s) equipped with motor(s) motorized bicycle and bicycle with motor attached" to mean only an electric motor exceeding 750 watts or any combustion engine." These devices should be expressly prohibited from public street, highway, alley, path, or trail, including a bikeway. However, "bicycle with motor" should not include low-speed class 1, 2, or 3, electric bicycles.
- Consider point-of-sale rebate options to reduce barriers, especially for lower-income households.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. We encourage your support for **SB 1117** will help people to choose more affordable and sustainable transportation options.

Ride Aloha,

Eduardo Hernandez
Advocacy Director