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Letter: E-bike consensus, input needed, not blanket ban

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Electric bikes have become a wildly popular form of transportation, but have also led to accidents and

concerns about roadway safety. An e-bike user is seen traveling along Ward Avenue on Aug. 30, 2024.

The Hawaii Department of Education recently announced new regulations governing e-bikes on all department campuses, effective immediately. Prohibiting e-bikes on elementary/middle/intermediate school campuses seems more a rushed reaction, than an effective policy.

It was announced without public input, nor due consideration for the importance of affordable, sustainable transportation options for Hawaii families.

This contrasts with robust debate and many hours of testimony heard during the 2025 Legislature, where more than a dozen bills were introduced to regulate e-bikes. The Hawai'i Bicycling League worked with allies including the Honolulu Police Department, public health advocates, educators, transportation stakeholders and lawmakers to pass comprehensive legislation to regulate e-bikes and micromobility devices.

This public consensus recognized that e-bikes shall be classified in three distinct classifications, and age restrictions were removed for class 1 and 2 devices, which cannot exceed 20 mph. Rather than blanket bans on devices, safer shared routes to school will come from behavior change, no

matter if you walk, bike, roll or drive.

Eduardo Hernandez

Hawai‘i Bicycling League advocacy director

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Shoeter

1 day ago

"...but have also led to accidents..."

No such thing as an accident. The injuries and deaths associated with e-bikes are due to careless, lazy, sloppy behavior, via a series of bad decisions, resulting in a motor vehicle collision.

Every...single...time.

 1  Report 

wiliki

1 day ago

No action will take place until someone gets killed... it's mostly political. Then you'll see a ban in place.

  Report 

RussellH

1 day ago

The problem is how does the school distinguish between a legal e-bike and an illegal/not-age

appropriate/modified e-bike? Especially when they're parked. A blanket ban is easier to enforce.

3 Report

bmdd

1 day ago

You need to be 15 years old to legally ride an e-bike so prohibiting them on elementary/middle/intermediate school campuses is an effective policy.

3 Report

bikemom

1 day ago

Teachers and other staff are more than 15 years old and should have the option to use e-bikes.

1 Report

wiliki

1 day ago

"Teachers and other staff" are adults.

Report

bikemom

1 day ago

Exactly, and they should have the option of riding e-bikes on campus.

