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## HBL Comments for the 2026 Hawai'i Legislature

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Aloha Members of the 2026 Hawaii Legislature :

For 50 years, the Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL) has been a leader for advocacy, education, and signature community events related to cycling & safe streets. We respectfully submit these comments for your consideration. We urge the Legislature to treat traffic safety as a [public health priority](#) and to advance policies that save lives on Hawai'i's roadways, and provide affordable options to enjoy the many benefits of bicycling and active transportation.

### **Hawaii's Deadliest Year of Traffic Fatalities in Decades**

In 2025, Hawai'i experienced its highest number of traffic fatalities since 2007. Vulnerable road users—people walking, bicycling, and riding micromobility devices, as well as motorcycles and mopeds—continue to be disproportionately represented among those killed and seriously injured. These deaths are preventable. The data are clear: roadway design, vehicle speed, and policy choices directly influence behavior and outcomes.

### **Need for a Comprehensive E-Bike and Micromobility Law**

The Legislature must revisit and pass a comprehensive [e-bike bill](#) in 2026 that addresses the concerns raised in the Governor's 2025 veto while preserving the intent of the original legislation: clarity, consistency, and safety. Hawai'i needs a modern legal framework that clearly defines e-bike classes, aligns with national best practices, supports enforcement, and encourages safe adoption of micromobility as a transportation option. Continued ambiguity undermines safety, public confidence, and equitable access to low-cost transportation.

### **Prioritizing Multimodal Transportation**

In Hawai'i, roads are largely funded by general taxes, meaning residents who do not own cars—including many kūpuna, students, and low-income households—still subsidize infrastructure built primarily for people driving. Prioritizing safe walking, biking, transit, and e-mobility ensures public dollars benefit everyone who pays into the system. Multimodal investments deliver benefits for physical and mental health, proven economic impact, and help realize the state's commitment as part of the Navahine settlement. Moreover, walking, biking, and public transit offer viable options for families to address a crisis of affordability and cost-of-living.

### **Infrastructure Shapes Behavior and Safety**

Decades of research and lived experience show that infrastructure determines how roads are used. Streets designed for high speeds produce high speeds. Conversely, protected bike lanes, safer crossings, traffic calming, and complete streets reduce crashes, slow vehicles, and create predictable behavior for all users. Legislative support for funding, design standards, and accountability is essential to achieving Vision Zero goals.

## **Proven Track Record of Education and Community Engagement**

HBL complements policy and infrastructure work with education for everyone from keiki to kūpuna. For more than 36 years, our [BikeEd](#) program has delivered in-school, on-bike education to thousands of 4th graders annually in classrooms across O‘ahu, helping children develop lifelong safety skills and awareness. We provide workshops and road safety education for kūpuna including [Golden Gears](#), a program utilizing a fleet of adult tricycles. With support from HDOT, we also offer [e-bike](#) safety classes. Together, we’re supporting healthy aging, independence, and confidence on Hawai‘i’s streets. Education works best when paired with safe infrastructure and clear laws. That’s why, we are asking you to favorably consider our 2026 grant-in-aid request to deliver more education and outreach initiatives for communities statewide.

## **A Shared Responsibility**

The 2026 Legislature has an opportunity—and a responsibility—to reverse deadly trends. We urge you to prioritize comprehensive e-bike legislation, sustained investment in safe infrastructure, and policies that place human life at the center of transportation decision-making. Hawai‘i can and must do better.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments and for your commitment to the safety of our communities.

Please reach out should you have any questions or need additional information before bill hearing dates.

Executive Director, Travis Counsell can be reached by email at: [travis@hbl.org](mailto:travis@hbl.org).

Advocacy Director, Eduardo Hernandez can be reached by email at: [eduardo@hbl.org](mailto:eduardo@hbl.org).

Our office telephone is (808) 735-5756.

Resources and additional background information:

Electric Bicycle Education from HBL: [hbl.org/ebikes](http://hbl.org/ebikes)

Electric Bicycle PSAs by HBL with HDOT support: <https://hbl.org/ebikevideos/>

National Resources from People For Bikes: <https://www.peopleforbikes.org/topics/electric-bikes>

National Resources from the League of American Bicyclists:

<https://bikeleague.org/2024-state-legislative-roundup-e-bike-registration-more/>

Respectfully,



Travis Counsell

Executive Director

Hawai‘i Bicycling League