



Wednesday, July 22,  
2026



83°

Today's  
Paper

HAWAII NEWS

KOKUA LINE



Add as a preferred  
source on Google

# Kokua Line: Does new Hawaii law lower age to ride e- bike?



By Christine Donnelly

July 19, 2026



---

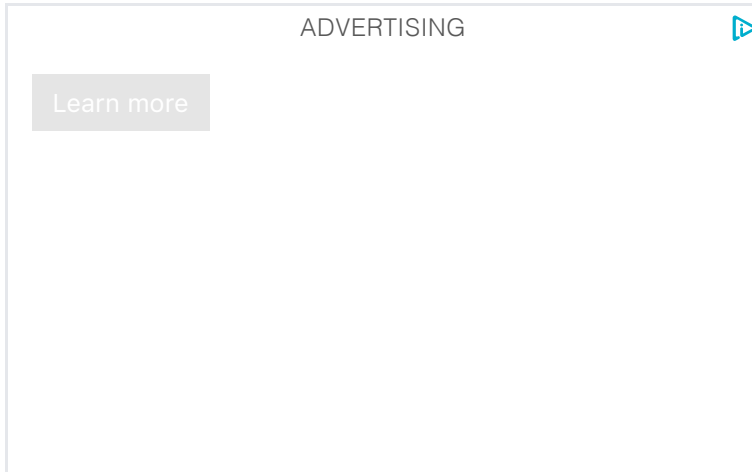
JAQUINO / JAQUINO@STARADVERTISER.COM

Ebikes for sale are displayed at The Bike Shop on Wednesday in Honolulu.

**Question:** Regarding the new e-bike law, did they change the age for riding or not? I am seeing conflicting information.

**Answer:** Yes, now there's no minimum age to operate a Class 1 electric bike, which can go up to 20 miles per hour with its pedal-assisted motor, and children under 16 can operate a Class 2 or Class 3 electric bike under direct adult supervision. A Class 2 e-bike has a throttle and can go up to 20 mph, while a Class 3 e-bike has no throttle and can go up to 28 mph.

Act 259, signed into law last week, amended state law to redefine electric bicycles into three classes when previously there was one category ("low-speed electric bicycle") and any operator had to be at least 15 years old.



An e-bike of any class must have fully operable pedals and an electric motor of no more than 750 watts. High-speed electric devices with motors over 750 watts that can go faster than 28 mph are not e-bikes and can be seized by police if they don't conform to applicable laws.

The Hawaii Bicycling League has a detailed description of Act 259 on its website, [hbl.org](https://hbl.org) .

**Q:** Since legal e-bikes go up to 28 mph, I'm wondering if a driver's license will be required since that's almost as fast as a moped?

**Don't miss out  
on what's  
happening!**

Ente

**Sign Up**

Stay in touch with  
breaking news, as it  
happens,  
conveniently in your  
email inbox. It's  
FREE!

By clicking to sign up, you agree to Star-Advertiser's and  
Google's [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). This  
form is protected by reCAPTCHA.

**A:** Act 259 doesn't mandate an operator's license for any class of e-bike. A driver's license is required to operate a moped, which under state law is defined as having a top speed of 30 mph on a level surface and a motor with a maximum output of 2 horsepower (1,492 watts). E-bike motors are about 1 horsepower.

**Q:** Must e-bikes have insurance?

**A:** No. Bicycle riders are not mandated to have insurance in Hawaii. Act 259 defines e-bikes as a type of bicycle. "Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require insurance for the operation of a road-legal, permitted, and classified electric bicycle," it says.

**Q:** Didn't Hawaii already have a helmet law for bicyclists?

**A:** Yes, but the amended law raised the applicable age. Now riders under age 18 must wear a helmet on public property; it used to be under age 16.

**Q:** What is allowed in the King Street Protected Bike Lane? When it first opened (in late 2014), I recall the city stressing it was bicycles only. Has that changed? Or is it still supposed to be only bikes in there?

**A:** Here's the response from the Honolulu Police Department's Traffic Command:

"Under Act 259, bicycle lanes — such as the South King Street Protected Bike Lane — are strictly reserved for:

">> standard bicycles

">> legally registered e-bikes (Class 1, 2, and 3): The motor must be 750 watts or less and motor assistance is restricted to 20 mph for Class 1 and 2, or 28 mph for Class 3

">> electric micro-mobility devices and e-scooters

"Driving mopeds, electric motorcycles and other high-speed electric devices (any device with a motor exceeding 750 watts and capable of speeds over 28 miles per hour) on bicycle lanes is prohibited."

**Q:** What are electric micro-mobility devices?

**A:** According to Act 259, electric micro-mobility device “means a device weighing no more than 75 pounds that is fully or partially motorized and used for personal transportation, such as onewheels and electric skateboards. ‘Electric micro-mobility device’ does not include electric bicycles or electric foot scooters.” Operators must be at least 15 years old and wear a helmet if they are under 18, the law says. Those age restrictions also apply to electric foot scooters.

## **Auwe**

Auwe to the man who said I was a “nuisance” while I was trying to find a parking space on Thursday at the Villas at St. Francis. I am disabled and since all the handicap parking stalls were occupied, I was trying to find one that was easy for me to get into and out of. Too bad he lacked patience and compassion. He has created his Karma. — G.Y.

## **Mahalo**

Thank you so much to the parking attendant who guided me out of my very tight parking space at the dentist office last week. She went above and beyond. I had chosen that

spot because it was empty on both sides of me when I got there but by the time I was finished at the dentist the whole parking lot had filled up! — *Grateful driver*

---

**Write to Kokua Line at Honolulu Star-Advertiser, 500 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 2-200, Honolulu, HI 96813; call 808-529-4773; or email [kokualine@staradvertiser.com](mailto:kokualine@staradvertiser.com).**

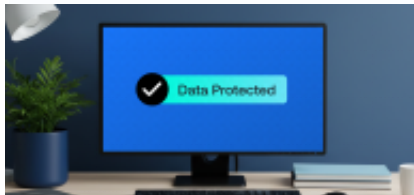
---

---

See more: [Editors' Picks](#) [Featured Columns](#)



13 COMMENTS



**Storage doesn't = backup. Ensure your most important files never get lost.**

[Learn More](#)

Continuous Unlimited True Backup

**CARBONITE**