



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
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By  
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### HB 1973 HD1 – RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of HB 1973 HD1 as amended to continue support for the Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Operations Education Fund under Section 296-9, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

The University of Hawai'i Community College (UHCC) system currently provides State of Hawai'i approved motorcycle safety education training at three (3) community college campuses, including Leeward Community College on O'ahu, UH Maui College on Maui, and Hawai'i Community College on Hawai'i Island. Over the past 5 years Leeward Community College, the largest of the three campuses, has trained over 5,404 community members, averaging 1,080 riders annually.

The motorcycle safety education program, governed by Hawai'i Administrative Rule 19-123, provides residents a mechanism to obtain a type 2 (motorcycle) endorsement on a Hawai'i driver's license following completion of the State approved motorcycle education curriculum.

The State of Hawai'i Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT) – Highways Division provides oversight for the administration of the motorcycle education programs in accordance with Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) 19-123. This includes review and approval of curriculum, certification of instructors, issuance of numbered embossed seals for each certified instructor, and the tracking of the license waivers issued to students. Additionally, DOT – Highways Division certifies motorcycle education sites and conducts periodic inspections, including administrative recordkeeping, classroom and skills range physical inspections, and acts as liaison with the respective county's Department of Motor Vehicle, Licensing, and Permits Division and the certified sites.

Repealing the Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Education Fund would eliminate funding essential for the DOT to administer the Motorcycle Safety program and result in a loss of Federal dollars from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA). These additional funds are essential for instructor training and certifications, community outreach and more. The NHTSA and Hawai'i Motorcycle Safety programs

are essential to reduce the number of incidents involving motorcycle accidents and fatalities in our State.

Abolishing the Motorcycle and Motor Scooter Education Fund would result in additional negative impacts including:

- a. DOT – Per previously submitted testimony, the Highways Division would not be able to certify sites or instructors for the motorcycle education program. This would make it impossible for the UHCC's to continue to provide residents with a means to obtain motorcycle safety training and be issued a class 2 operators license.
- b. The UHCC motorcycle education programs would not be eligible to apply for federal funding to augment the unsubsidized motorcycle education program.
- c. Without federal funding or other subsidies, the UHCC motorcycle education programs would not be sustainable. HAR 19-123, signed into law in 2004, caps the tuition at \$200 per student.
- d. Without an incentive to enroll in the UHCC motorcycle education programs, residents would likely opt to either ride unlicensed or operate with permits, which requires only a written examination.
- e. Fatalities would increase. From 2015 through 2019, the State of Hawai'i incurred a total of 545 roadway fatalities. Of these, 129 were motorcycle-, scooters-, or moped-related fatalities, which represents nearly one-quarter (24%) of all roadway fatalities.

We support HB 1973 HD1 as amended. Thank you for considering this testimony in your deliberations. Aloha.