



Mothers Against Drunk Driving HAWAII
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LATE

February 9, 2009

To: Senator Kalani English, Chair – Senate Committee on Transportation,
International and Intergovernmental Affairs; Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice
Chair; and members of the committee

From: Arkie Koehl — Chair, Public Policy, MADD - Hawaii

Re: **Senate Bill 1630** – Relating to Transportation

I am Arkie Koehl, speaking in support of **Senate Bill 1630** on behalf of the membership of MADD-Hawaii.

MADD supports the use of safety helmets for those operating mopeds and motor scooters, as well as for motorcycle riders. Research shows that helmets reduce crashes as well as deaths and serious injury on the highways.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

Monday, February 09, 2009

Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senator Will Espero
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Senator Sam Slom

Brian Grayling, State Director
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Testimony Against SB630

Senators of the Transportation Committee:

Normally Street Bikers United would not involve themselves with the consideration of legislation dealing with mopeds and bicycles. However, SB1630 proposes that moped and motor scooter riders wear a safety helmet with a chin strap. SBU would like to remind the committee of HRS291-195, which already mandates a safety helmet fastened with a chin strap for moped riders under 18.

So who would be affected by SB630 if passed? Primarily the young college students and eighteen to twenty five year olds whose income is usually low, and their moped their only means of transportation. The cost of a helmet for many would be equivalent to a months worth of groceries. In these times of gridlock and overburdened roads and parking facilities, legislators should be encouraging the use of bicycles and mopeds under the current rules and regulations, and not put up road blocks.

Under the Hawaii Revised Statutes, the use of the word moped and bicycle is almost interchangeable. Certainly, as a small example, mopeds have the right of use of the bicycle lane. Yet there is no proposal to mandate helmets for bicyclists over sixteen. There is an intrinsic unfairness to SB1630.

Street Bikers United has always held the tenant that allows those adults who ride to decide whether to wear a helmet. This basic belief should extend to the laws governing the riders of mopeds and bicycles, and we urge the removal of SB630 from further consideration.

Thank you for your attention.

Brian Grayling
State Director, SBU