

Resolution

No. 25-176

URGING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO INCREASE ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF HAWAII'S HELMET LAWS

WHEREAS, as of August 2025, Maui County reported 13 traffic fatalities for the year, a 50 percent increase compared to the same period in 2024; and

WHEREAS, recent news reports on serious traffic accidents in Maui County have stated that vehicle operators were not wearing mandatory helmets, including the following accidents:

- On March 8, 2025, a 40-year-old male suffered fatal injuries in a motorcycle accident at Ting's Bridge in Wailuku;
- On May 28, 2025, 62-year-old male lost control of his moped near a roundabout in Kihei, struck a curb, and was thrown from the moped;
- On June 26, 2025, a 51-year-old male was critically injured in a head-on e-scooter crash with a car on Keonekai Road;
- On July 6, 2025, 33-year-old female was killed in a crash when she was ejected from her motorcycle after colliding with a car at the intersection of Wahinepio Avenue and Keopuolani Parkway; and

WHEREAS, a State Hawai'i Department of Health report found that motorcyclist and moped riders accounted for 24 percent of all traffic fatalities between 2020 and 2023, with 62 percent of those riders not wearing helmets at the time of the crash; and

WHEREAS, studies published in the National Institutes of Health journals found that unhelmeted motorcyclists in Hawai'i had more than double the odds of a fatal injury compared to helmeted riders; and

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WHEREAS, technological advancements in battery power have expanded the transportation alternatives that are attractive to younger users; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of new and varied transportation options—including e-bikes, scooters, and motorcycles—has raised growing concerns on the use of safety equipment; and

WHEREAS, various provisions in Hawai'i Revised Statutes, including the Highway Safety Act and the Statewide Traffic Code, regulate and mandate the use of helmets for operators of various modes of transportation, including the following:

- **All-terrain vehicles; utility-terrain vehicles**—HRS Section 286-12(a)(6);
- **Motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds**—HRS Section 286-81(a);
- **Skateboards**—HRS Section 291C-____, Act 130 (2025);
- **Electric foot scooters**—HRS Section 291C-139(d);
- **Bicycles**—HRS Section 291C-150(a); and
- **Mopeds**—HRS Section 291C-195(a)(2); and

WHEREAS, the Council has deep concerns regarding the safety of the public, especially the youth, when it comes to safely using these various modes of transportation on the County's roads, streets, bicycle paths and lanes, sidewalks, parks, and open spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that public outreach and stricter enforcement of Hawai'i's laws requiring the use of protective gear such as helmets are critical to improving the safety of all County transportation modes; now, therefore;

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the Police Department to increase enforcement and public awareness of Hawai'i's helmet laws for various modes of transportation;
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be sent to the Police Chief, the Police Commission, and the Prosecuting Attorney.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane M. Sinenci", written in a cursive style.

SHANE M. SINENCI