

# REQUEST FOR LEGAL SERVICES

**Date:** February 4, 2026  
**From:** Tom Cook, Chair  
Water and Infrastructure Committee

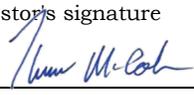
TRANSMITTAL

**Memo to:** DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL  
Attention: Caleb P. Rowe, Esq.

**Subject:** BILL 16 (2026), REGULATING LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES (WAI-22)

**Background Data:** Please see the proposed CD1 version of Bill 16 (2026). Apart from minor technical revisions, the bill removes the phrase "non-standing or" from proposed paragraph 10.52.125(C)(2). Please submit your response to wai.committee@mauicounty.us with a reference to WAI-22.

**Work Requested:**  FOR APPROVAL AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY  
 OTHER:

Requestor's signature  Tom Cook, Chair	Contact Person <u>Keone J. Hurdle or Carla M. Nakata</u> (Telephone Extension: <u>7659 or 5519, respectively</u> )
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- ROUTINE (WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS)
- PRIORITY (WITHIN 10 WORKING DAYS)
- RUSH (WITHIN 5 WORKING DAYS)
- URGENT (WITHIN 3 WORKING DAYS)

SPECIFY DUE DATE (IF IMPOSED BY SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES): February 6, 2026, at noon  
REASON: For distribution at the February 9, 2026, WAI Committee meeting.

**FOR CORPORATION COUNSEL'S RESPONSE**

ASSIGNED TO: CMT	ASSIGNMENT NO. 2025-0173	BY: jap
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TO REQUESTOR:  APPROVED  DISAPPROVED  OTHER (SEE COMMENTS BELOW)  
 RETURNING--PLEASE EXPAND AND PROVIDE DETAILS REGARDING ITEMS AS NOTED

COMMENTS (NOTE - THIS SECTION NOT TO BE USED FOR LEGAL ADVICE): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Date 2/5/26 By 

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BILL NO. 16, CD1 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10.52,  
MAUI COUNTY CODE, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION  
REGULATING LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI:

SECTION 1. This Ordinance’s purpose is to establish regulations for the safe operation of low-speed electric bicycles, with a particular focus on protecting minors and promoting responsible use. It seeks to accomplish this by:

- **Mandating helmet use for underage riders:** Requiring individuals under 18 to wear a helmet that meets specific safety and design standards to reduce head trauma and injuries.
- **Defining safe riding conduct:** Prohibiting unsafe maneuvers, such as standing on the seat or intentionally lifting wheels from the ground, which endanger the operator and others.
- **Restricting exhibition driving:** Making it unlawful to operate a low-speed electric bicycle in an exhibition or unsafe manner on public rights-of-way, except for legally-permitted events.

SECTION 2. Chapter 10.52, Maui County Code, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**“10.52.125 Riding on low-speed electric bicycles. A. A person under 18 years of age may not operate a low-speed electric bicycle unless that person is wearing a helmet that:**

- 1. Is properly fitted and fastened and specifically designed for riding a bicycle;**
- 2. Is equipped with a chin strap; and**
- 3. Meets the helmet testing and design requirements of section 291C-150(a), Hawai‘i Revised Statutes.**

B. A low-speed electric bicycle may be operated only with all wheels on the ground at all times, with the operator facing forward and seated in a normal riding position; except that it is not a violation of this subsection if the wheels lose contact with the ground briefly because of the road surface conditions or other circumstances beyond the operator's control.

C. It is unlawful for an individual to operate a low-speed electric bicycle:

1. In an unsafe manner or engage in exhibition driving, such as wheelies or stunts, on any public street, highway, alley, path, trail, or other public right-of-way; except this subsection does not apply to an individual engaging in exhibition riding as part of a parade, tournament, or other activity permitted by law;

2. Standing or kneeling on the bicycle seat, riding on the handlebars, or engaging in any other non-standard riding position; and

3. While engaging in any other maneuver that endangers the operator, passenger, or the general public, or that demonstrates reckless or negligent operation of the bicycle.”

SECTION 3. New material is underscored. In printing this bill, the County Clerk need not include the underscoring.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance takes effect on approval.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:



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CALEB P. ROWE  
Department of the Corporation Counsel  
County of Maui

wai:misc:022abill01:kjh

INTRODUCED BY:

*Yuki Lei Sugimura*  
YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA

## WAI Committee

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**From:** Caleb P. Rowe <Caleb.Rowe@co.maui.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 5, 2026 5:15 PM  
**To:** WAI Committee  
**Cc:** June A. Pacubas; Keone J. Hurdle; Carla M. Nakata  
**Subject:** WAI-22  
**Attachments:** WAI-22 2026-02-04 RAFL Hurdle Amd Bill 16 (2026) CD1 version.pdf

Please see attached.