



STATE OF HAWAII
ILIMA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
91-884 FORT WEAVER ROAD
EWA BEACH, HI 96706

April 17, 2024

Dear Ilima Intermediate Families,

We are reaching out to address a matter of growing concern in our school community regarding the use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) by students. Recent incidents involving e-bikes in our Ewa Beach Community have prompted us to revisit the safety guidelines and regulations concerning their use, particularly among our students. The Honolulu Police Department (HPD) has informed the school that they will begin enforcement of Hawaii State E-Bike Regulations HRS 291C-139 as early as Monday, April 22, and have asked for our support in notifying our school communities.

- **Registration:** E-Bikes must be registered to an adult (18 years or older) in the household.
- **Age Restrictions:** Riders under 16 must wear helmets. Children aged 15 and above can ride with permission from a registered adult owner (over 18).
- **Safe Riding Practices:** E-Bikes are not allowed on sidewalks and should be ridden in designated bike lanes only. Passengers and overloading are strictly prohibited. All riders must follow general traffic rules.
- No "packing" or carrying other passengers.

Although families can opt to allow their children to use e-bikes for traveling to school, it's essential to stress the significance of following safety regulations and legal requirements. Riding e-bikes on campus is strictly forbidden, and not abiding by this rule may lead to confiscation and possible legal ramifications, such as fines and court involvement for parents or guardians permitted under the law. Our school mandates that all students walk their bikes on campus and securely store them in assigned locations. Failure to follow these regulations may result in disciplinary actions in accordance with Chapter 19 guidelines.

We understand the concerns raised by members of our school community regarding the presence of e-bikes in our vicinity. However, rather than implementing a blanket ban on e-bikes, we believe that education and communication are key to addressing these concerns effectively. There are a large number of students who require e-bikes and other transportation options to get to school and do so safely.

Therefore, we urge all families to have open and honest conversations with their children about the proper safety guidelines to be followed when using e-bikes and other modes of transportation in our community. Emphasize the importance of obeying traffic laws, wearing protective gear, and being mindful of pedestrians and other road users just as our adult community operating vehicles should do the same.

Our overarching goal is to ensure the safety and well-being of our students during their travels to and from school. By working together as a community, we can foster a culture of responsible transportation usage and mitigate any potential risks associated with their presence in our area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Sincerely,

Shayne Greenland - Principal