With an e-bike, bicyclists can ride more often, farther, and for more trips.

Electric bicycles are designed to be as safe as traditional bicycles, do not compromise consumer safety, and benefit bicyclists who may be discouraged from riding a traditional bicycle due to limited physical fitness, age, disability or convenience.

In many states, e-bikes are regulated under antiquated laws primarily aimed at combustion engine vehicles such as mopeds or scooters. PeopleForBikes is clarifying state laws governing the use of e-bikes in the U.S. Every state’s law is different, but the objective is to ensure that low-speed e-bikes are regulated similarly to traditional, human-powered bicycles.

An e-bike is defined as a “low-speed electric bicycle” whose assisted maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a motor, is less than 20 mph.

E-bike owners are required to be registered and pay a fee of $30 at any city hall satellite location or the state business registration unit in Honolulu. You must at least 18 years old to register.

Persons 15 years and older may operate an e-bike if it is registered to a household member. Helmets are required for anyone under the age of 16.

E-bikes are allowed everywhere a bike is allowed, including bike paths.

HAWAII’S E-BIKE LAW FOR THE ROAD

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HAWAII’S E-BIKE LAW FOR TRAILS

» LOCAL: Consult your local land management agency.

» STATE: The Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources has stated that eMTBs are not allowed on natural surface trails. Contact the department for the most up to date information. PeopleForBikes is monitoring this policy and will update this document as needed.

» FEDERAL: On federal lands, eMTBs are considered motorized vehicles and have access to motorized trails. However, Hawaii has minimal federal lands where mountain biking is allowed.

HAWAII’S E-BIKE LAW FOR THE ROAD

» Generally, any natural surface trail that is designated as open to both motorized and non-motorized uses is also open to eMTBs.

» eMTBs may not be allowed on trails managed for non-motorized activities.

» Do not ride your eMTB in areas where the local rules are unclear. Ride legally and only on authorized trails to show that mountain bikers are responsible trail users.

» When in doubt, ask your local land manager about access to specific trails. Local land rules change frequently.

eMTB GUIDELINES

» On federal, state, county and local trails, e-mountain bike (eMTB) access varies significantly.

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CHECK OUT

» A map of great eMTB rides at peopleforbikes.org/emtb

» eMTB “Adventures” at peopleforbikes.org/e-bikes

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Learn more at PeopleForBikes.org/e-bikes

» Blogs and webinars

» E-bike laws around the country

» E-bike statistics and research

» Buying guide

» Retailer materials

» eMTB management resources