



# HMDA News

The Newsletter of the HMDA • Nov. / Dec. 2010 • Volume 18, Issue 5

## Will there be an HMDA in 2011?



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The following are some of the HMDA accomplishments, in dealing with our legislators:

- We helped establish passing of the motorcycle safety course to be accepted in lieu of having to take the actual riding test, to get a motorcycle endorsement on your driver's license.
- We prevented them from including motorcycles in a law to report the sale of every bottle of motor oil sold and charging a 5 cent per bottle fee.
- HMDA helped stop a bill to prevent anyone under 18 from riding an ATV.
- We helped stop a bill to require full licensing of mopeds, which would have killed that market.
- A bill was proposed that required anyone under 18, driving a motor vehicle during certain hours, to have an adult in the seat next to them. We pointed out that all licensed motorcycles are "motor vehicles," in the State of Hawaii and this would not be possible on a two wheel vehicle. In fact probably the most common battle we have had is where the legislators put up a bill, aimed at automobiles, but use the words "motor vehicles" instead, inadvertently including motorcycles in harmful or impossible restrictions, or requirements.

**Do you think any of this stuff is important??**

# HISTORY OF THE HAWAII MOTORCYCLE DEALERS ASSOCIATION

HMDA was created in 1988 in response to the insurance crisis that was having a serious effect on our industry: customers were effectively unable to purchase insurance because of the way the Hawaii no-fault law was set up.

Premiums, particularly on sport bikes, were equivalent to the purchase price of the bike and most agents simply were not motivated to sell no-fault to motorcyclists. This crisis provided the perfect impetus for us to band together and address the issue. We began meeting in the offices of a sympathetic Honolulu attorney who assisted the group in drafting its by-laws and articles, and establishing its non-profit status.

We have both Active and Associate members. Active members are generally the authorized dealers of motorcycles and our Associate members represent the aftermarket and servicing businesses. Associate members can, upon Board approval, become provisional active members and participate as full, voting Board members. Related industries, such as insurance companies, are also members of our Association.

Most of Hawaii's motorcycle dealers as well as many secondary shops are members of HMDA. Our unified voice succeeded in changing the insurance environment to where coverage is both affordable and available. Rider training provides an opportunity for Hawaii's riders to realize additional savings on premiums and we support and endorse an ongoing educational program provided by the University of Hawaii Employment Training Office as well as all branches of the military services in the State.

As part of Hawaii's motor vehicle industry, the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs regulates us all. We continue to function as the "eyes and ears" of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board and the Regulated Industries Complaints Office and have assisted those offices with enforcing licensing laws. Additionally, our members have assisted local law enforcement agencies in investigating fraudulent activity.

Another important role that the Association plays is encouraging the public to patronize local businesses. To this end, HMDA is active in the legislative arena to insure that our industry's voice is heard with regards to proposed laws that might impact our members. While most of our efforts are industry-specific, we also monitor general business-related issues such as taxation and government regulation.

# GET INVOLVED FOR THE SAKE OF THE MOTORCYCLE INDUSTRY! READ THIS!!!

2011 is almost here. We must have elections at the next meeting in December and that is just a couple weeks away. Throughout this year the only people attending the meetings has been Don Fern, the current President, or Mark Ely, the Vice President, Red Proctor, the treasurer, myself, as secretary, Gail Caveney, our executive secretary and often Rick Davis, representing SBU. No other dealer has shown up even once. Don Fern also was the legislative committee, which is a very time consuming job, for three months out of the year. Don has been president for the last two years and is not sure he can find the time to do it for a third year in a row, or do the legislative committee again. Mark Ely is in the same position. Red Proctor and I have held an officer position every year for more than 20 years and a few years ago agreed that it was not proper for either one of us to be President or Vice President, since neither of us is a dealer. I have also been the legislative watch dog for many years and just no longer have the time or willingness to do it again.

**If we don't get some participation, if we can't come up with at least a President and Vice President, HMDA will simply go inactive for 2011.** I know the economy is still tough and everyone's time is tight, but this is not the time to risk letting the legislature slip something through that will make OUR BUSINESS even tougher. This is the time, however, to stay together, watch the legislature and communicate with each other, to keep OUR BUSINESS alive and strong. What better way than HMDA, which is already in place? Red Proctor and I are willing to repeat our positions again, but without a President and Vice President, what's the point?

So here's the deal (bet you've heard that phrase before). If you don't think HMDA is worth keeping alive. If you don't think someone needs to keep an eye on the legislature, then just don't do a thing. Don't send in your membership renewal/request. Don't put a name on the nomination form and don't come to the **next meeting on December thirteenth**. That will probably do it. However, if you think we should all stick together, keep HMDA alive and keep a sharp eye on the legislature, then fill out your enclosed membership form, put a name on the enclosed nomination form and, at least think about coming to a meeting, preferably the next meeting in December.

## **My vote? KEEP HMDA ALIVE! What's yours??**

Thanks for listening,  
Mark Morrison – HMDA secretary



# HMDA Board of Directors 2011 Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Nominated For:

\_\_\_\_\_

*(President • Vice President • Treasurer • Secretary)*

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address/Daytime Phone #:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Fax your nomination to 1866-333-5157 toll free, or...**

Mail to: HMDA • P.O. Box 1813 • Kailua, Hawaii 96734



## HMDA Membership Application

New

Renewal

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Web Site *(Is this a Public Access Site?)* \_\_\_\_\_

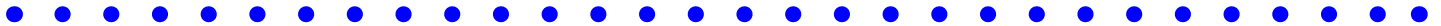
Membership Type: Active (\$150): \_\_\_\_\_ Associate: (\$30): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: HMDA • P.O. Box 1813 • Kailua, Hawaii 96734



**Next HMDA  
Meeting  
Monday, December  
13th at 8:30 a.m.  
Best Western  
Airport Plaza Hotel  
Coffee Shop**



**Hawaii Motorcycle Dealers Assoc.**

P.O. Box 1813 • Kailua, HI 96734  
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**HMDA wishes you Happy Holidays  
Ride SAFE!**