JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA ʻOIHANA HOʻONAʻAUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAIʻI 96804

NIU VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
An International Baccalaureate World School
310 Halemaumau Street
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96821

May 21, 2025

Subject: Student e-Bike Ban on Campus Effective May 31, 2025

Aloha Parents and Guardians,

This letter addresses a matter of growing concern regarding the safety of our students and the use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) by students. After careful consideration, our school administration has made the decision to **prohibit student e-bikes on school grounds, effective May 31, 2025.** The decision is also fully supported by our school's School Community Council.

We understand that e-bikes can be a convenient mode of transportation for some students. However, we have observed instances of students riding at unsafe speeds and weaving through pedestrian and vehicular traffic. It would absolutely devastate our school's ʻohana should a student of ours get seriously injured or killed in an accident on an e-bike as they commuted to and from school, let alone any route. Furthermore, operators of e-bikes in our state need to be at least 15 years old, so technically, our students should not be operating e-bikes in the first place.

Here's what this new rule means for our students:

- **E-bikes are no longer permitted on our school property at any time.**
- **Besides operating e-bikes, students walking, parking, and storing e-bikes on our campus will no longer be permitted.**

We recognize that this change may require adjustments for some families, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in ensuring the safety of our school community. We encourage you to discuss alternative transportation options with your child, such as walking, traditional bicycles, carpooling, or the city bus where applicable.

Here's additional information from the Honolulu Police Department website and a video from Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi's YouTube channel about a recent bill that was signed into law to strengthen e-bike safety regulations.

Our primary responsibility is to ensure the safety and well-being of all our students, faculty, and staff. Should you have any questions or concerns, please also feel free to contact us via phone at (808) 307-6800 or email me at jeffrey.shitaoka@k12.hi.us. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Kind regards,

Jeffrey Shitaoka
Principal