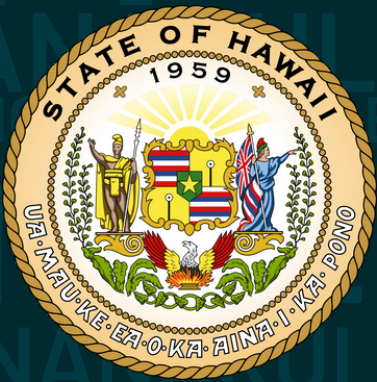


POSTS SESSION



**AUGUST
2023**

NEWSLETTER

Proudly serving the community of

DISTRICT 44

*Mā'ili, Nānākuli, Ko'olina, and
Honokai Hale.*

*Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 322
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813*

Phone: (808) 586-9480

Fax: (808) 586-9485

Email: repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov

Proudly serving the community of District 44, Mā'ili, Nānākuli, Ko'Olina, and Honokai Hale



Aug. 2023

Aloha District 44!

Aloha,

Welcome back to school, keiki! I am wishing you all a prosperous school year filled with new memories!

We are excited to be hosting a Resource Fair with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. This fair aims to bring various organizations together to share their services and resources that are beneficial for DHHL beneficiaries to be aware of and potentially use. Join us for this informational event to learn more about what resources are available to you!

My office sends a heartfelt aloha to the Maui Wildfire victims. As a united community, we will explore ways our district can extend support to our 'Ohana there. If you or a community organization of which you are a member is organizing an event, please let my office know so that we can share it as well!

Mahalo nui loa,
Representative Darius K. Kila

State Representative Darius K. Kila



House District 44

Mā'ili, Nānākuli, Ko'Olina,
and Honokai Hale

Email: repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov

2023 Committee Member of
Transportation (Vice Chair)

Finance
Housing



'ŌLELO NOEAU

*'A'ohē loko maika'i i
nele i ka pāna'i.*

*No kind deed has ever lacked
its reward.*

Hookuaaina.org, Ōlelo No'ēau: A Hawaiian
Teaching and Learning Tool

#177

Connect With Me!

@darius.kila

UPCOMING EVENT



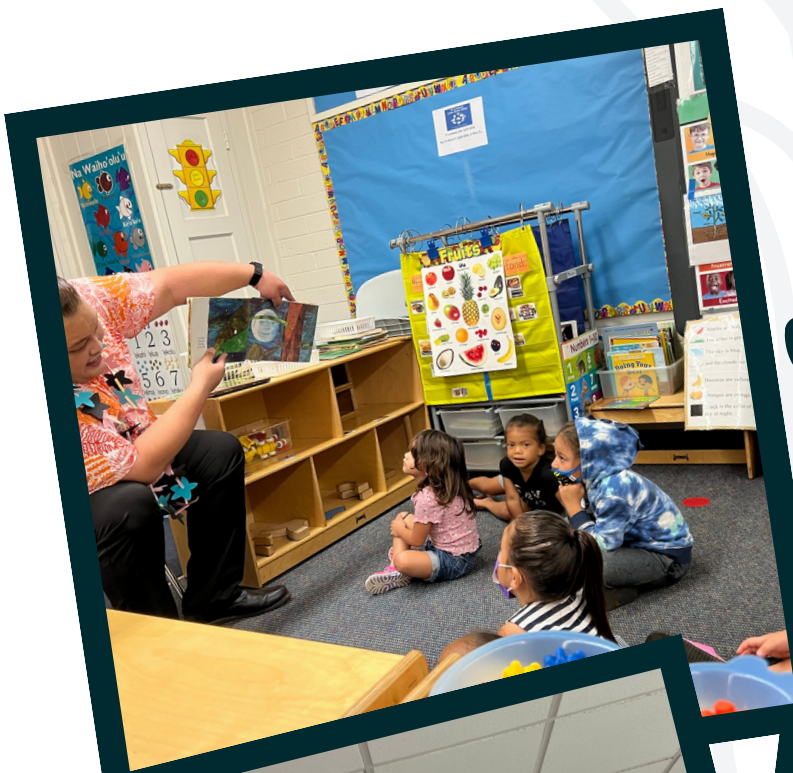
KALANIHOOKAHA CENTER
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
Resource Fair

9:00AM - 12:00PM

THIS WEEK!

89-102 Farrington Highway in Nanakuli

Back to SCHOOL



Wishing you a successful and enjoyable school year, filled with new memories and achievements to celebrate!



FAQs

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION DRIVER SHORTAGE

FACT SHEET PROVIDED BY THE D.O.E.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION DRIVER SHORTAGE FACT SHEET

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges faced during the specified school years and the various solutions sought to address the ongoing student transportation driver shortage. The implementation of innovative strategies and collaboration between the DOE and bus contractors played a crucial role in mitigating the impact of the shortage on students' transportation needs since the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, the recruitment and retention of qualified drivers as well as partnerships with State and Local Agencies remain critical areas of focus to ensure efficient and reliable transportation services for all students in the coming years. Continued efforts and proactive measures will be essential to meet the transportation demands of schools across the state.

School Year 2020-2021

Situation	Action Taken
1. Schools were shut down in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, resulting in an estimated 120-150 school bus drivers retiring or leaving the profession.	- In May 2021, the Student Transportation Services Branch (STSB) proposed a coordinated bell time plan to minimize the impacts of driver shortages. However, its implementation required a significant union-involved process that schools were not equipped to handle at that time.

School Year 2021-2022

Situation	Action Taken
1. DOE bus contractors faced a shortage of over 100 Class A CDL drivers when schools restarted in August 2021.	- From August to November 2021, the DOE reached out to various sources, including the National Guard, tour bus operators, and firefighters (retired and active), but all were unable to assist due to personnel or insurance liability issues.
2. Continued driver losses occurred from August to October 2021 due to spiking COVID-19 cases and government mandates.	- The DOE explored collaboration with mainland bus operators to address the shortage, but they couldn't help due to the national driver shortage.
3. Lack of backup drivers to cover routes when drivers called out sick, COVID-19 quarantine, or planned vacations.	- Between August and September 2021, the DOE conducted scenarios in routing software to explore changes that could

	increase bus service. However, the shortage of available drivers and the geographic attendance areas of schools limited the impact of these scenarios.
4. High turnover among recent applicants and issues with potential applicants not clearing required background checks added to the driver shortage challenge.	- From August 2021 to May 2022, bus contractors utilized all available personnel, including trainers, supervisors, and managers, to drive routes regularly. - Routes were combined and consolidated whenever possible, with a focus on prioritizing rural routes to optimize bus service coverage.
5. Competition with other companies offering higher wages for Class A CDL drivers further exacerbated the shortage.	- Bus contractors offered various incentives, such as hiring bonuses, benefits, pay for training, and licensing, to attract drivers to their teams and retain existing drivers. - The DOE provided mileage reimbursement to qualifying families who could drive their child(ren) to school instead of using bus transportation, reducing the demand for bus services. - The DOE also provided bus pass refunds to families with disrupted active routes due to driver shortages, aiming to alleviate the inconvenience caused by reduced transportation availability.

School Year 2022-2023

Situation	Action Taken
<p>1. Continued driver shortage</p>	<p>- DOE and HI DOT applied for a driver qualification exemption for a waiver on the S-endorsement driver license requirement so a larger pool of qualified drivers (drivers with current CDL licenses) could assist with student transportation. Request was denied by USDOT (Federal approval is required for this type of request)</p> <p>- DOE partnered with county bus agencies to launch EXPRESS (Expanding Ridership to Educated Students in Schools). The goal of this pilot was to help mitigate the impacts of the national school bus driver shortage and offer more options to assist with high school (grades 9-12) student transportation. This program started November 2022 with county bus pass availability until July 31, 2023.</p> <p>In total, there were 10,568 applicants statewide: Oahu – 9,939 (94%), Kauai – 323 (4%), Maui – 243 (2%)</p>

School Year 2023-2024

Situation	Action Taken
<p>1. In July to August 2023, regular school bus service for Kapaa district schools (Kapaa HS, Kapaa MS, Kapaa ES, and Hanalei ES) was suspended until more drivers are hired by the current contractor.</p>	<p>-The STSB requested additional SPED van drivers and aides to move current CDL drivers back to regular school bus routes.</p> <p>-Contractor has provided the following update to their recruiting efforts (actions taken since 7/27/23):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1000 sign-on bonus • Increased pay for SPED drivers = \$23/hour • Increased pay for SPED aides = \$20/hour • Increased job positing visibility by expanding to Craigslist, Facebook, and Garden Isle Newspaper • Reached out to former employees
<p>2. At the start of July, Oahu bus driver counts had reduced to 88 regular education drivers (start of school driver count expected was 113).</p>	<p>- Utilize the EXPRESS program for high school student transportation as the sole mode of transportation for nine (9) Oahu high schools</p> <p>-STSB prioritized drivers to service bus routes for SPED, Elementary and Middle School students</p> <p>- Collaborate with DTS to allow a 1-2 week grace period for HIDOE students to use the public transportation system free of charge to allow students to activate their HOLO Card.</p> <p>- Activated the online EXPRESS application portal on 7/27 prior to the August 1, 2023 date and start of the new school year.</p>

New Driver Allocation (Oahu):

-Upon the successful recruitment of new drivers,

KEY FACTS

ACCORDING TO THE FACT SHEET PROVIDED BY THE DOE.

PANDEMIC RELATED EMPLOYEE SHORTAGES

WORKFORCE REDUCTION DUE TO RETIREMENT & SEEKING ALTERNATIVE
EMPLOYMENT

100 DRIVER SHORTAGE

HIGH TURNOVER RATES & APPLICANTS NOT CLEARING BACKGROUND CHECKS

COMPETITION WITH OTHER COMPANIES OFFERING HIGHER PAY

AT THE START OF JULY, OAHU BUS DRIVER COUNTS HAD REDUCED TO
88 REGULAR EDUCATION DRIVERS (START OF SCHOOL DRIVER COUNT
EXPECTED WAS 113).

CURRENT ACTION

- Utilize the EXPRESS program for high school student transportation as the sole mode of transportation for nine (9) Oahu high schools.
- STSB prioritized drivers to service bus routes for SPED, Elementary and Middle School students.
- Collaborate with DTS to allow a 1-2 week grace period for HIDEOE students to use the public transportation system free of charge to allow students to activate their HOLA Card.
- Activated the online EXPRESS application portal on 7/27 prior to the August 1, 2023 date and start of the new school year.

**AUGUST
19TH**

KALANIHOOKAHA CENTER
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
Resource Fair

9:00AM - 12:00PM

THIS WEEK!

**SEPT.
5TH**

Nānākuli High and Intermediate School
NHIS Cafeteria:
Department of Transportation

6:00PM - 8:00PM

**OCT.
11TH**

Nānākuli High and Intermediate School
NHIS Cafeteria:
LAWMAKERS LISTENING SESSION

6:00PM - 8:00PM

**NOV.
28TH**

SAVE THE DATE
2024
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
PLACE & TIME TBD

CONCERNS ON THE COAST

COLLABORATE WITH MY OFFICE

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 322

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Phone: (808) 586-9480

Fax: (808) 586-9485

Email: repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov



DIRECTORY



Park Maintenance:
808-768-3003

Dead Animals:
808-768-9766

Abandoned Vehicles:
808-768-2530

Potholes:
808-768-7777

Sidewalk Concerns:
808-768-8118



Landlord-Tenant Hotline
808-564-2634



Adult Abuse:
808-832-5115

Child Abuse:
808-832-5300



Public Assistance Line
808-643-1643



Office Contact

Dorene Eddy,
Office Manager

Email: d.eddy@capitol.hawaii.gov

Phone: (808) 586-9480

Fax: (808) 586-9485



Scan to visit
us online!