
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY TO SHOW THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH, AND THE
ADVISABILITY OF MANDATING THE USE OF SEAT BELTS FOR MINORS
IN EVERY SCHOOL BUS.

1 WHEREAS, millions of children in the United States begin
2 and end each day with a trip on a school bus; and

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4 WHEREAS, thousands of injuries to children occur each year
5 involving school buses, sometimes ending with tragic fatalities;
6 and

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8 WHEREAS, in a recent incident in Hawaii, a school bus and
9 large dump truck collided in Kaimuki causing injury to 12
10 children; and

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12 WHEREAS, the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act
13 includes bus safety requirements and sets standards that require
14 schools buses to be structurally and mechanically safe as also
15 applied to pedestrian and occupant safety; and

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17 WHEREAS, there is an increasing debate to the necessity of
18 seat belts in school buses, however, the effects of installing
19 seat belts are unknown; and

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21 WHEREAS, the National Transportation Board concluded that
22 the possible benefits of seat belts on school buses were
23 insufficient for the National Highway Traffic Safety
24 Administration to mandate the installation of seat belts on
25 school buses; and

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27 WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
28 recommends that smaller children should "buckle up" and be
29 secured in child passenger restraints as a passenger on a school
30 bus; and

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1 WHEREAS, in the past, bills have been introduced in the
2 Hawaii House of Representatives for many years to require public
3 and private elementary school children to wear seat belts on
4 school buses; and
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6 WHEREAS, last, and most important of all, the need to
7 provide the maximum possible safety for children in school buses
8 is of paramount importance and it offers parents and families a
9 sense of security that all necessary precautions were taken to
10 ensure the safety of their children; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
14 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference
15 Bureau is requested to perform a study that:
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- 17 (1) Reviews the issues associated with mandating that each
18 school bus, private and public, be retrofit with seat
19 belt and studies conducted to resolve these issues;
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- 21 (2) Analyzes the costs of retrofitting school buses with
22 seat belts; and
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- 24 (3) Makes recommendations based on its findings, including
25 suggested legislation;
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27 and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of
30 Transportation is requested to assist the Legislative Reference
31 Bureau with this study by providing it with all relevant
32 research and data already compiled and with any other pertinent
33 information and assistance; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
36 Bureau report its findings and recommendations to the
37 Legislature at least 20 days prior to the convening of the
38 Regular Session of 2007; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House
 3 of Representatives, President of the Senate, Chairperson of the
 4 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Director of the
 5 Department of Transportation, President of the Hawaii
 6 Association of Independent Schools, Director of the Hawaii
 7 Association of Charter Schools, and the Legislative Reference
 8 Bureau.
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