

---

---

# HOUSE 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  
3

4           WHEREAS, thousands of injuries to children occur each year  
5 involving school buses, sometimes ending with tragic fatalities;  
6 and  
7

8           WHEREAS, in an recent incident in Hawaii, a school bus and  
9 large dump truck collided in Kaimuki causing injury to 12  
10 children; and  
11

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  
16

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  
20

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  
26

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  
31

32           WHEREAS, in the past, bills have been introduced in the  
33 Hawaii House of Representatives for many years to require public



1 and private elementary school children to wear seat belts on  
2 school buses; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, last, and most important of all, the need to  
5 provide the maximum possible safety for children in school buses  
6 is of paramount importance and it offers parents and families a  
7 sense of security that all necessary precautions were taken to  
8 ensure the safety of their children; now, therefore,

9  
10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
12 of 2006, that Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to  
13 perform a study that:

- 14
- 15 (1) Reviews the issues associated with mandating that each  
16 school bus, private and public, be retrofit with seat  
17 belt and studies conducted to resolve these issues;
  - 18
  - 19 (2) Analyzes the costs of retrofitting school buses with  
20 seat belts; and
  - 21
  - 22 (3) Makes recommendations based on its findings, including  
23 suggested legislation;

24  
25 and

26  
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of  
28 Transportation is requested to assist the Legislative Reference  
29 Bureau with this study by providing it with all relevant  
30 research and data already compiled and with any other pertinent  
31 information and assistance; and

32  
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
34 Bureau report its findings and recommendations to the  
35 Legislature at least 20 days prior to the convening of the  
36 Regular Session of 2007; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House of  
40 Representatives, President of the Senate, Chairperson of the  
41 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Director of the



1 Department of Transportation, President of the Hawaii  
 2 Association of Independent Schools, Director of the Hawaii  
 3 Association of Charter Schools, and the Legislative Reference  
 4 Bureau.  
 5  
 6

OFFERED BY:

*Ryan L. James*

*Melo Carroll*

*Jim Lucha*

*J. H.*

*Agta Hain*

*Andy Evans*

*Tom*

*Paul*

*Mr. [Signature]*

*Dr. Riki Kamehaha*

*Wanni Nouli*

*Theresa Lee*

*Myra W. Mayberry*

*Bob Nelson*

*Janet [Signature]*

*Betha Kawakami*

*[Signature]*

*Helen Tenaka*

