

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

236

Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: FEB 13 2007
S.B. No. 691
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 691 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Department of Education to provide suitable transportation to and from school and for educational field trips for all children in grades kindergarten to twelve and in special education classes.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Hawaii State Teachers Association and the Hawaii School Bus Association. Comments on the measure were also submitted by the Department of Education (DOE).

Your Committee finds that part of providing a proper education to public school students throughout the State includes the provision of safe and reliable transportation to and from school and for educational excursions. Currently, the DOE provides transportation services to students living outside of Honolulu proper, with some exceptions, and those living beyond a mile away from school. Many other students may not require transportation services because they live in areas that are serviced by the City and County of Honolulu bus system, are attending schools under a geographic exemption, or do not proceed directly home after school. Your Committee understands that to require the DOE to provide transportation services to all public




school students could be a costly endeavor and a huge undertaking. Your Committee is most concerned with ensuring that the current level of transportation services provided to students is not diminished, or, if necessary, that such changes are not executed without input from interested parties, including parents. The establishment of a process to allow stakeholders to participate in changes to current policies and procedures will help to ensure that the transportation needs of the students are being met.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing language mandating the DOE to provide transportation to and from school and for educational field trips for all children in grades kindergarten to twelve and in special education classes;
- (2) Including the requirement that the DOE establish a process for allowing stakeholder participation when contemplating changes to the DOE's current policies, procedures, and programs regarding transportation services for students;
- (3) Changing the effective date of the Act to July 1, 2008, to provide the DOE time to establish new procedures for implementation of the Act; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for purposes of clarity and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 691, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 691, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,


NORMAN SAKAMOTO, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 691</i>	Committee Referral: <i>EDU, WAM</i>	Date: <i>02/07/07</i>
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The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312 Pass, with amendments 2311 Hold 2310 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAKAMOTO, Norman (C)	X			
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)	X			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	X			
HEE, Clayton	X			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	X			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	X			
GABBARD, Mike	X			
TOTAL	7			

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: 

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes