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**From:** Ann Thornock on behalf of Rep. Marilyn Lee  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2008 9:31 AM  
**To:** TRNtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 2406 late testimony  
**Attachments:** 1425077503-West Brook Bus Crash Families.pdf; 648768806-NHSTA 2007 Proposed Rulemaking.pdf

**From:** Sabrina Clark [mailto:sabrina@sabrinaclark.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2008 11:34 PM  
**To:** Rep. Marilyn Lee  
**Subject:** HB 2406

Hello Representative Lee,

Below is my late testimony to support my oral testimony on HB 2406. Enclosed are the reports you requested. I am available for any research or lobbying you desire on this subject. The second generation seat belts can be seen at: [http://safeguardseat.com/bus/products\\_flex.htm](http://safeguardseat.com/bus/products_flex.htm)  
 The National Coalition for School Bus Safety has many up to date articles at <http://www.ncsbs.org/news-2007/news.htm>

Sincerely,  
 Sabrina Clark

Representative Joseph M. Souki, Chair  
 Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice-chair  
 Transportation Committee  
 Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
 Representative Glenn Wakai, Vice-chair  
 Economic Development and Business Concerns Committee  
 Wednesday, January 30, 2008  
 Support of HB 2406, Relating to School Buses

Sabrina Clark  
 2440 Campus Road #308  
 Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822  
[Sabrina@sabrinaclark.com](mailto:Sabrina@sabrinaclark.com)

I strongly support HB 2406.

Hello,

My name is Sabrina Clark and I am a concerned citizen in favor of HB 2406. I support seat belts on school buses for the following reasons.

1. It is a sad fact that children die in school bus accidents, at an average of 11 per year. Just because no child has YET to die in a school bus in Hawaii, does not mean that seat belts should not be available on

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school buses. Most school bus accident fatalities occur in rollover crashes. Seatbelts will help prevent injuries in rollover crashes and side crashes more than mere compartmentalization, the current safety method used for schoolbuses. An accident in Kaimuki involving a dump truck and a school bus caused 12 children riding the bus to be hospitalized. The American Association of Pediatrics estimates about 6,000 to 10,000 children are injured in school buses per year and 3,000 to 5,000 of these children could be spared injury if they were wearing lap/shoulder seat belts. According to the 2007 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, shoulder/lap seat belts would make a child safer on large school buses. (see 49 CFR part 571 at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/staticfiles/DOT/NHTSA/Rulemaking/Rules/Associated%20Files/222UpgradeNPRMSept25.pdf>).

2. Loss of ridership is not an argument with the availability of "second generation" lap/shoulder seat belts as these seats combine compartmentalization with room for 2 large students to adults or 3 gradeschool students per seat, the same number buses currently carry. (see [http://safeguardseat.com/bus/products\\_flex\\_work.htm](http://safeguardseat.com/bus/products_flex_work.htm)). Any argument for inflating the cost of implementing the use of seat belts on school buses because of the need to purchase more buses due to loss of ridership is false and patently outdated. California and Texas have implemented such "second generation" seats on new school buses with no loss of ridership.

3. Implementing seat belts on school buses is not prohibitively expensive. The cost to outfit a large school bus with the "second generation" seating is about \$7000 to \$10,000. It can be much more expensive to retrofit an older bus than a new one, and perhaps the bill can be amended to reduce the cost by calling for only newly acquired buses to have seat belts. Also to offset costs, an additional fee can be added to moving violations. For example, Texas used an additional \$15 fee per moving violation to fund seat belts on school buses.

4. Seat belt laws and huge amounts of government spending have convinced the public that wearing a seat belt saves lives. New York, New Jersey, Florida, Texas, Kansas and California have all passed laws requiring seat belts on school buses. Hawaii should follow the lead of these states and help protect children on school buses. How can a parent have their child in a child seat, booster seat, or seat belt at all times and not feel concerned that their child is not in a seat belt on a school bus? It just makes sense to have seat belts available on school buses in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time in allowing me to testify in favor of HB 2406. I support the implementation of seat belts on school buses.

Sincerely,  
Sabrina Clark