

Date of Hearing: March 24, 2008

Committee: House Education/Transportation

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title: H.C. R. 59, Requesting the Department of Education to evaluate the state's Driver Education program and its funding

Purpose: Requests the Department of Education and Department of Transportation review the implementation and funding of the driver education law as well as the distribution of the special drivers education fund and report its findings and recommendations to the 2009 Legislature

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) will collaborate with the Department of Transportation to review and prepare a report to the 2009 Legislature.

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From: keiki injury prevention coalition [kipc@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2008 8:28 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: HCR 59

Testimony for HCR 59 hearing of 3.24.08:

The Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition adamantly supports this bill. We are pleased the Legislature has recognized the need for this bill. Due to the lack of certified drivers' education teachers, a significant number of high school students are now unable to take the required class. As a result, they are not able to take advantage of extracurricular activities that will help them apply for colleges; they are unable to work part-time jobs that would provide the extra income needed to save towards college; and, they must place an additional burden on their parents to provide rides. As a result, data compiled by the State Department of Health two years which analyzed the impact of the original legislation requiring drivers' education for all students found that, in fact, the number of crashes among teens had gone up! Because teens were unable to obtain their permits, they drove illegally without the benefits from any education required to receive a license. As a result, the roads became less safe for teen drivers and anyone on the roads.

We beseech you to pass this legislation to increase the number of drivers' education teachers. It is desperately needed.

Thank you.

3/24/2008