
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STUDENT TRAVEL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, for over thirty
2 years, public school students have been afforded the opportunity
3 to participate in educational tours that enrich their academic
4 experience by making the lessons they learn in the classroom
5 real and tangible. For many students, educational tours are the
6 first, and sometimes only, opportunity for interstate travel.
7 More than simply providing an enriching academic experience,
8 educational tours also offer students the chance to experience
9 places and cultures that expand their world.

10 The legislature recognizes that teachers often devote
11 personal time to research, plan, and implement educational
12 tours, including aligning travel destinations and activities to
13 the curriculum and chaperoning students twenty-four hours a day
14 during the trip. To help ensure that teachers are able to
15 continue to provide this enrichment benefit, many educational
16 tour companies offer to pay the direct travel expenses of
17 chaperones, based upon the number of students who are traveling.



1 On August 4, 2015, the state ethics commission issued a
2 memorandum stating that the state ethics code prohibits
3 employees, including teachers, "from accepting free travel and
4 other benefits from tour companies for serving as chaperones on
5 student educational trips."

6 The legislature believes that, were it not for teachers
7 taking on the burden of researching, planning, and implementing
8 educational tours, in addition to their daily responsibilities,
9 students would not have the invaluable and enriching opportunity
10 of educational tours. Expecting teachers to fund the direct
11 travel expenses for educational tours for which they are serving
12 as chaperones is unrealistic and ignores the substantial amount
13 of additional work that teachers take upon themselves to
14 facilitate these educational tours.

15 The legislature finds that providing chaperones with direct
16 travel expenses benefits students by ensuring chaperones have
17 the financial resources necessary to continue providing these
18 educational travel opportunities. To ensure the continued
19 opportunity for these educational trips, the department of
20 education has established a student travel program to provide
21 for the direct travel expenses of chaperones and to fund



1 scholarships to provide financial assistance to students who
2 would not otherwise be able to participate in educational
3 travel.

4 Accordingly, given the value of educational tours for many
5 of Hawaii's students and the importance of supporting the
6 efforts of Hawaii's teachers to offer these educational travel
7 opportunities, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate general
8 funds to assist the department of education with its student
9 travel program.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to support
13 the department of education's student travel program.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 education for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY: BTah

JAN 27 2016



H.B. NO. 2739

Report Title:

Student Travel; DOE; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to support the DOE's student travel program.

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