

SB 2185

**RELATING TO
SCHOOL BUSES**



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/02/2016

Time: 02:45 PM

Location: 229

Committee:

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2185 RELATING TO SCHOOL BUSES.

Purpose of Bill: Requires all school buses with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than ten thousand pounds purchased, leased, or contracted for use by the State as of July 1, 2018, and thereafter, to be equipped with a seat belt assembly at each designated seating position.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (DOE) supports the intended goal of SB 2185 to further protect student health and safety. However there are significant operational and financial issues that must be considered concurrent with this legislation.

School bus vehicles with a seating capacity of 24 passengers or less that the department uses now already include shoulder and lap belts for all seated passengers. However, our higher capacity vehicles do not. High capacity vehicles, once outfitted with shoulder and lap belt protection for all seated passengers, provide less seating capacity than vehicles of similar size that do not have such protection. The DOE is concerned that absent a concurrent increase in funding for additional school buses to accommodate the inherent loss of available seating once existing school bus vehicles are retrofitted with shoulder and lap belts will prevent some students from accessing their educational opportunities via the school bus, and unwittingly subject them to potential health and safety risks.

Therefore, the DOE recommends conducting further analysis on the operational and financial impact of requiring seat belts on all school bus vehicles used by the State.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [TRE Testimony](#)
Cc: jshon@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2185 on Feb 2, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 10:09:28 AM

SB2185

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for TRE/EDU on Feb 2, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Jim Shon	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: IN the HIDEOE, buses are purchased with funds allocated for this purpose. For charter schools, the schools must purchase buses by using their limited per pupil funding. Should this bill pass, suggest additional funding for charters to upgrade or replace existing buses.

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Kaala Coleman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 1:12 PM
To: TRE Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2185 on Feb 2, 2016 14:45PM*

SB2185

Submitted on: 1/29/2016

Testimony for TRE/EDU on Feb 2, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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