



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

**Date:** 02/16/2021

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** CR 211 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 1385, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the department of education to develop a reorganization plan to provide students and schools with centralized transportation services. Requires the department of education to develop a plan to provide students with more locally produced food. Requires the department of education to report to the legislature. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports a centralized approach to providing students and schools with food and transportation services as indicated in SB 1385, SD1.

Currently, the overall program management and service delivery of food and transportation services are, for the most part, centralized. Reorganization to provide further centralization in both areas could lead to additional efficiencies and service improvements. As part of its modernization efforts, the Department is currently exploring such opportunities as coordinated school bell schedules to better meet student transportation needs and increase bus efficiency and student capacity and a centralized kitchen for food preparation.

The implementation of centralized kitchens may also assist in increasing the procurement of foods directly from local farmers. Centralized kitchens will allow farmers to deliver food directly to one site for multiple schools within that area as opposed to having many delivery points across the islands, easing the burden of the farmers. Centralizing food services may therefore increase local farmer participation in bid solicitations and help to further the farm-to-school program's aim of increasing the procurement of local produce and food as contemplated in SB 1385, SD1.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



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**SB-1385-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:44:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/16/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Elento	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support transportation at no cost to all students, including disabled students, to increase student attendance, and require less administrative time (at individual schools, and time expended by bus drivers and parents).

**SB-1385-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 10:05:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/16/2021 10:00:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear WAM Committee members,

I strongly support serving more locally-grown foods at our schools. The produce is fresher and it supports our farmers.

Thank you.

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii