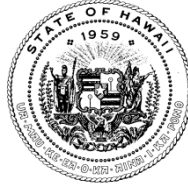


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN
PATRICK H. MCCAIN
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 22, 2022
10:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225/Teleconference

**H.C.R. 125
REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE
DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION AND EDUCATION**

Senate Committee(s) on Transportation and Education

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.C.R. 125, in which an Auditor is requested to conduct a performance audit of the Drivers Education program administered by the DOT.

Currently, there are 175 DOT certified instructors within the Drivers Education program. Included in this statewide program are three Train the Trainers and four new Instructor Trainers certified to instruct qualified individuals for program expansion needs.

The DOT expects that a performance audit will assist in providing opportunities to address the current backlog and improve the program for the entire state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

Date: 04/22/2022

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: CR 225 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Transportation
Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 0125 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION AND EDUCATION.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HCR 125. The Department's Driver Education student program falls under the administration of the State Department of Transportation (DOT). In School Year 2019-20, approximately 1,600 students completed the driver education program. In School Year 2020-21, 2,226 students completed the program. Prior to the pandemic, the Department enrolled and serviced between 4,200 and 4,500 students in a school year.

The Department's Driver Education classes were suspended from March 2020. The DOT provided guidelines to reinstate the program in Fall 2020. The guidelines included adding virtual classes that were vetted and approved by the DOT. Virtual classes were limited to 14 students compared to the previous in-person class size of 30 students in a class. During this same period, in-person classes limited to ten students were also allowed. In February 2022, the DOT rescinded the limit of ten students for face-to-face classes provided the social distancing requirement in the classroom was followed. The Department is moving to increasing the class numbers for both in-person and virtual classrooms.

The effect of the pandemic was a major factor in limiting driver education for public school students statewide. Eight driver education instructors (two on Maui, six on Oahu) left the program due to the risk of infection from the virus. The loss of the eight instructors combined with the restrictions on continuing classes and class size contributed to the longer waitlist of students wanting to complete driver education courses offered by the Department's high schools. The Department has since certified 16 new instructors and has ten teachers on a

waitlist to be trained.

The Department will continue to collaborate with the DOT to collectively address the backlog of students caused by the pandemic.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.