

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF CANCELLED SCHOOL BUS SERVICE
ROUTES.

1 WHEREAS, the availability of school bus services is
2 essential to student attendance; and

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4 WHEREAS, school bus services are particularly crucial for
5 families who live in rural and remote areas, as well as students
6 who come from socioeconomically disadvantaged communities; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Department of Education provides bus services
9 in neighborhoods across the State to ensure broad access to
10 educational opportunities for Hawaii's students, serving
11 approximately twelve thousand student riders on Oahu and
12 thirteen thousand student riders on the neighbor islands; and

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14 WHEREAS, currently, there is a nationwide shortage of
15 school bus drivers; and

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17 WHEREAS, due to the shortage of qualified school bus
18 drivers in the State, student bus transportation services have
19 been completely or partially suspended at ten Oahu high schools
20 and four schools on Kauai in the 2023-2024 school year; and

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22 WHEREAS, suspensions of additional school bus service
23 routes in other counties of the State are anticipated if the
24 shortage of qualified school bus drivers continues; and

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26 WHEREAS, a comprehensive plan to reinstate previously
27 cancelled school bus service routes is needed to ensure that all
28 students in Hawaii are able to use school bus services to arrive
29 at public schools on time; now, therefore,
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S.C.R. NO. 72

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
4 Education is urged to develop a comprehensive plan for the
5 reinstatement of cancelled school bus service routes; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
8 requested to submit the comprehensive plan, including any
9 findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the
10 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
11 the Regular Session of 2025; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board
15 of Education and the Superintendent of Education.

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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. O. O.', written over a horizontal line.