



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/08/2024  
**Time:** 02:00 PM  
**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
**Committee:** House Education  
House Transportation

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2280 RELATING TO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires Department of Education school bus contracts to include provisions that require contractors to prioritize the use of motor vehicles that do not require those drivers to hold a commercial driver's license.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2280. Although the Department is open to measures that facilitate enhanced access to education, the efficacy of HB 2280 in addressing the current school transportation shortage is uncertain.

The utilization of smaller motorcoaches, buses, and vans owned by the Department's contractors – the operation of which does not require drivers to hold a commercial driver's license – is already being prioritized, albeit for special education transportation. Federally-mandated special education transportation remains the Department's highest priority. The prioritized allocation of these vehicles to fulfill the federal special education mandate does not allow for a sufficient number of vehicles to be utilized in regular education transportation.

For the foregoing reasons, the Department provides comments on HB 2280, and thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Teaching Today for Hawaii's Tomorrow



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**TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

Item: **HB2280 - Relating to student transportation**  
Position: **Support**  
Hearing: **February 8, 2024, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309**  
Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Woodson, Chair Todd, Vice Chair La Chica, Vice Chair Kila, and members of the committees,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** HB2280 which requires Department of Education school bus contracts to include provisions that require contractors to prioritize the use of motor vehicles that do not require those drivers to hold a commercial driver's license.

One of the most important ways students can be successful in class is for them to actually be in class. When transportation fiascoes prevent students from making it to school, something is fundamentally wrong with our school system. Oftentimes, the most vulnerable students are left behind without any ability to get to school without transportation options. These barriers compound themselves when students are repeatedly deprived of the opportunity for success through no fault of their own. If we are truly concerned about reducing chronic absenteeism in our school, we need to do more to get and keep students in their seats and ready to learn.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committees to **support** this bill.

**HB-2280**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 3:15:45 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/8/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scott Kidd	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Without any sort of provisions to ensure the safety of the student being transported, regardless of the size of the vehicle doing the transporting, I oppose this bill.