



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 27, 2024

The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2943 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities is in **SUPPORT OF SB2943 SD2 HD1**, which establishes a commercial drivers workforce working group within the Department of Transportation to address the workforce shortage of commercial drivers in the State.

In Hawaii, the shortage of school bus drivers poses a significant challenge for our education system, particularly for our special education students who rely on school bus transportation to access their educational programs and services. The establishment of a working group dedicated to examining the school bus driver shortage is important to ensure reliable transportation for all students, including those with disabilities. In the past, the lack of qualified Commercial Driver's License (CDL) drivers has resulted in disruptions to transportation services, leading to missed school days and inconsistency in attendance for our special education students. As consistency is crucial to the success of our special education programs, addressing the school bus driver shortage is essential for ensuring that all students have equitable access to education and support services.

Additionally, we propose leveraging the Oahu city and county para-transit system, Handi-Van, as a potential model to help alleviate the school bus driver shortage. The Handi-Van system, which only requires a driver's license and high school diploma or GED, could offer insights into alternative approaches to recruiting and training drivers for school transportation services. Exploring innovative solutions, such as adapting the Handi-Van model, can contribute to addressing the workforce shortage and ensuring the continuity of transportation services for our students.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB2943 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,
Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



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

Date: 03/27/2024

Time: 03:30 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: SB 2943, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a commercial drivers workforce working group within the Department of Transportation to address the workforce shortage of commercial drivers in the State. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2943, SD 2, HD 1, which establishes a working group within the Department of Transportation to address the workforce shortage of drivers with a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

The Department appreciates the Legislature's efforts to address workforce shortages and appreciates being included in the conversation. As it has been well documented, the shortage in bus drivers has impacted our ability to transport our students to and from school. Thus, we know how important it is to build the pool of CDL drivers, especially CDL drivers certified to drive school buses. Identifying strategies to recruit and retain qualified CDL drivers will not only fill current vacancies, but will also create a stable workforce pipeline. While our students do not meet the age requirements to obtain a CDL learner's permit to participate in training, the Department understands that it is important for the workforce pipeline that we prepare our students through exposure to the career field and through developing the skills necessary for them to succeed as CDL drivers, including the employability skills and an understanding of supply chains and logistics and customer service. Regardless of the outcome of this measure, the Department is committed to working with the Department of Transportation and other stakeholders in finding a solution to address this critical need.

The Department defers to the Department of Transportation with regards to the implementation of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2943, SD 2, HD 1.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 27, 2024
3:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

S.B. 2943, S.D. 2, H.D.1
RELATED TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. 2943, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, which establishes a working group within the Department of Transportation to address the workforce shortage of CDL drivers in the State.

The DOT recognizes the important role individuals who possess a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) have in a multitude of industries across the State and that the current shortage of CDL drivers has huge impacts, especially in transporting students to and from school.

The DOT believes that the members of the working group outlined in the bill can work together collectively to address ways to increase awareness of the ground transportation industry and increase the CDL workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

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TO: Committee on Finance

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 27, 2024
TIME: 3:30pm
PLACE: Room 308

RE: SB2943 SD1 Relating to Workforce Development

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

HFIA is in support of this measure. Like so many other critical services, Hawaii's food systems rely on vehicle transport to move goods around the state. Ensuring that our transportation systems are safe, reliable, and efficient is vital for our food systems.

Nationwide we are experiencing a shortage of CDL drivers and Hawaii is no exception. Lack of CDL drivers can have a wide range of negative impacts on our food systems and we urge the state to take steps to address this problem. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.