



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

**Date:** 03/13/2023

**Time:** 03:25 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 1330, HD1 RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS SERVICES.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the department of education for school bus services. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1330, HD1, which appropriates funds for school bus services. An appropriation of \$22,000,000 would allow the Department to expand the pool of qualified drivers at the school level, waive school bus fees until consistent service can resume, and provide flexibility in supporting our current bus contractor staff.

Increased funding for the next two (2) fiscal years (2023-2024 and 2024-2025) would allow the Department to increase contractor payments to accommodate driver differential pay statewide. The entirety of the daily rate increases would be directed to driver pay and benefits, and the contractor would be held accountable for no less than 30% of route reactivation for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

Increased funding for school bus services could also provide other avenues for meeting the challenges of finding qualified bus drivers. These funds could be used to encourage school-level staff with some initial training to become qualified bus drivers. Since these employees have already passed some of the initial driver requirements as outlined in Section 19-143, the Hawaii Administrative Rules, they could be good candidates as support staff amid the driver shortage. Encouraging school staff to complete the driver requirements and training could also increase qualified driver availability in areas like Hawaii county, where the driver shortage has had the most impact.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony for this measure.

**HB-1330-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 2:38:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/13/2023 3:25:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion K A Kapuniai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**THIS BILL SHALL BE AMENDED BY INSERTING TO INCLUDE FUNDS FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION TO THE "HAWAII STATE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION" !**

**ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS SHALL HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES.**

**THE STATE OF HAWAII HAS TWO PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAMS;**

**ONE BEING ADMINSTERED BYTHE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,AND ONE BEING ADMINISTERED BY AUTHORIZER, STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION.**

**THANK YOU, M KAPUNIAI**