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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STUDENT ATHLETES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the benefits of  
2 providing students with opportunities to participate in  
3 athletics extend beyond improved physical fitness. Multiple  
4 studies have concluded that student athletes tend to have higher  
5 academic achievement compared to non-athletes and have suggested  
6 that participating in sports improves discipline and time  
7 management, resulting in improved grades, graduation rates, and  
8 career outcomes. Studies have also shown that student athletes  
9 experience better mental health outcomes including lower rates  
10 of stress, anxiety, and depression and higher levels of  
11 emotional well-being when compared to their non-athlete peers.

12           The legislature further finds that, as a multi-island  
13 jurisdiction, Maui county students participating in school  
14 sports face unique and burdensome challenges when attending  
15 competitions within the county, including the cost of air or sea  
16 travel and access to reasonable lodging accommodations.  
17 Multiple days of travel are often required for Maui county



1 student athletes to attend competitions on a non-home island.  
2 This requires significant fundraising efforts and logistical  
3 planning, which may include chartering boats or planes, renting  
4 multiple vehicles, recruiting volunteers on a non-home island to  
5 house, feed, and shuttle students, coaches, and chaperones,  
6 sleeping on gym floors, and relying on unhealth but convenient  
7 food.

8 The legislature notes that the travel costs for student  
9 athletes to compete within Maui county presents a significant  
10 and unique financial and logistical burden for both the athletes  
11 and their families, which may affect the ability of the student  
12 athletes to compete at their highest form. The legislature  
13 believes that providing a funding mechanism to cover intra-  
14 county travel expenses of student athletes that live in a county  
15 consisting of more than two islands is essential for ensuring  
16 equitable access to the opportunities and benefits provided  
17 through participating in school sports and athletics.

18 The purpose of this Act is to establish and appropriate  
19 funds for a student athlete travel pilot program to provide  
20 funds for intra-county travel expenses for student athletes of  
21 Maui county.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a three-year student  
2 athlete travel pilot program, to be administered by the  
3 department of education, to provide funding for intra-county  
4 travel expenses for student athletes of Maui county.

5 (b) The department of education may collaborate with  
6 private entities and volunteers for the chartering or rental of  
7 transportation and housing for participating students of the  
8 pilot program.

9 (c) The department of education shall submit a report of  
10 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
11 legislation, on the student athlete travel pilot program to the  
12 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
13 the regular session of 2028. The report shall include:

14 (1) The number of student athletes participating in the  
15 pilot program;

16 (2) The total amount of funds used for the pilot program  
17 and amount of funds used for each student athlete; and

18 (3) The companies the pilot program contracted with to  
19 provide transportation to student athletes.

20 (d) The pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30,  
21 2028.



# H.B. NO. 88

1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
 3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
 4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
 5 year 2026-2027 for the establishment and implementation of the  
 6 student travel athlete pilot program pursuant to section 2 of  
 7 this Act.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
 9 of education for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, and  
 11 shall be repealed on June 30, 2028.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Makini J. Papea*

JAN 13 2025



# H.B. NO. 88

**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Student Athletes; Travel; Pilot Program

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Education to establish and administer a three-year student athlete travel pilot program to provide funding intra-county travel expenses for student athletes of Maui county. Appropriates funds. Repeals 6/30/28.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

