

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/24/2025

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

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

**Bill Title:** HB 0862, HD1 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes the use of motorcoaches, small buses, and vans for school bus services if certain conditions are met. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

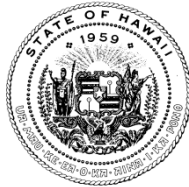
**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 862, HD 1.

While the school bus remains one of the safest transportation options for students, the Department recognizes that alternative vehicles, such as motorcoaches and small vans, offer flexibility for home-to-school transportation. These alternatives are being considered nationally, with state oversight to ensure safety requirements and proper implementation.

The Department thanks the Committee for the opportunity to comment on HB 862, HD 1.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors  
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele  
DREANALEE K. KALILI  
TAMMY L. LEE  
CURT T. OTAGURO  
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

February 24, 2025  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 308

**H.B. 862, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

House Committee on Finance

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The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 862, H.D. 1**, which authorizes the use of motorcoaches, small buses, and vans for school bus services if certain conditions are met.

The HDOT supports this measure to meet the needs of students who need transportation to and from school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII**  
**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 24, 2025

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

Dear Representative Yamashita, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB862 HD1 Relating to Transportation Services

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **strongly supports HB862 HD1**, which expands school transportation options by authorizing the use of motorcoaches, small buses, and vans for school services, provided they meet specific conditions.

Reliable and accessible school transportation is essential for students with developmental disabilities, many of whom rely on these services to attend school. For students who use wheelchairs, accessibility features such as lifts and securement systems are not just beneficial—they are necessary to ensure equitable access to education.

We appreciate the effort to address the school bus shortage by broadening transportation options. However, we urge thoughtful implementation to ensure that some of these newly authorized vehicles are designed to accommodate students with diverse mobility needs. Expanding transportation without including accessible options could inadvertently exclude students who depend on these features.

To uphold our commitment to inclusivity, we respectfully request that the bill include provisions requiring a portion of the new vehicles to be accessible to all students, including those with disabilities. By doing so, we can ensure that every student benefits from these improvements.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB862 HD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 • Fax: (808) 839-7106 • Web: [www.hsta.org](http://www.hsta.org)

**Osa Tui, Jr.**  
President

**Logan Okita**  
Vice President

**Cheney Kaku**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Ann Mahi**  
Executive Director

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## TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**Item: HB 862, HD1 – Relating to Transportation Services**

**Position: Support**

**Hearing: Monday, February 24, 2025, 10:00 am, Room 308**

**Submitter: Osa Tui, Jr., President - Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports** HB 862, HD1 which addresses the critical need for reliable student transportation in our public education system. HB 862, HD1 aims to alleviate the shortage of school bus drivers in Hawai'i by authorizing the use of motorcoaches, small buses, and vans for student transportation, provided that certain conditions are met.

Consistent and dependable transportation is fundamental to ensuring all students have equitable access to education, enabling them to arrive at school on time and ready to learn. This is especially vital for students from low-income families, those with disabilities, and those in rural areas who often face additional barriers in accessing education. HB 862, HD1 offers a practical solution to address the shortage of school bus drivers and ensure the continuation of this essential service, providing stability and support for our students and their families.

Mahalo.

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

From: Chevelle Davis, MPH - Director of Early Childhood & Health Policy  
Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!

Subject: Measure H.B. No. 862 H.D. 1 – Relating to Transportation Services

Hearing: Monday, February 24, 2025, at 10:00 AM, Conference Room 308

**POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of H.B. No. 862 H.D. 1**, which seeks to codify key provisions of the Governor's August 2024 Emergency Proclamation on school bus services into law. This bill authorizes using motorcoaches, small buses, and vans for school transportation under specific safety and regulatory conditions, ensuring that Hawai'i's keiki have reliable and efficient access to education.

**Addressing Hawai'i's Ongoing School Transportation Crisis**

For years, Hawai'i has faced a severe shortage of school bus services, exacerbated by rising costs, driver shortages, and logistical challenges. The emergency proclamation provided much-needed relief by expanding transportation options, allowing schools to contract with alternative vehicles such as motorcoaches and vans to ensure students could get to and from school safely. However, without permanent legislative action, our students may once again face significant barriers to transportation.

**Why This Bill Matters for Hawai'i's Keiki**

1. **Ensuring Consistent Access to Education**
  - Many students, particularly those in rural and underserved communities, depend on school transportation to access their education. Without reliable school bus services, students risk chronic absenteeism and academic setbacks.
2. **Expanding Transportation Options Safely**
  - By allowing motorcoaches, small buses, and vans to be used for school transportation under strict safety and regulatory conditions, this bill maintains a high standard of student safety while addressing the bus shortage.

### 3. **Supporting Working Families**

- Many families do not have the flexibility to drive their children to school daily. This measure provides working parents with peace of mind, knowing their children have safe and dependable transportation options.

### 4. **Strengthening Long-Term Transportation Solutions**

- Instead of relying on emergency measures, this bill establishes a long-term framework that ensures schools can continue utilizing alternative transportation providers when needed, promoting stability in our educational system.

For these reasons, we urge the Legislature to pass **H.B. No. 862 H.D. 1** to ensure that Hawai'i's students have consistent, safe, and reliable transportation to school. Codifying these provisions into law is necessary to protect educational access for all keiki and support working families across our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this critical measure.

TESTIMONY OF  
**LARRY S VERAY**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

***IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB861 HD1***

**RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION**

February 23, 2025

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Vice Chair La Chica and committee members. I am Larry Veray, Chairman for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21. I am submitting this testimony representing our board as a whole. Our neighborhood board passed resolutions and outgoing letters to the Department of Education stating our requirement for Pearl City to prevent bus service disruptions for our students. **I am in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB862 HD1.**

Our student bus service for Pearl City requires a strong infrastructure and uninterrupted service. The Department of Education should have high standards and accountability. During the past few years, the DOE could not meet our requirements to pickup all our students in Pearl City. As time past while they were trying to find and qualify more bus drivers or higher private bus companies, they could have used smaller vehicles where a CDL license was not required for drivers. I ask you to please pass legislation to authorize use of motorcoaches, small buses, and vans to transport students until the DOE can meet the demand with regular school buses.

We should not leave any students behind as we have experienced over the past years of disrupted service and many students having to find their own personal transportation to get to their schools.

**Please approve HB862 HD1.** Mahalo!

*Larry S. Veray*

1961 Aamaka Pl.  
Pearl City, HI 96782  
808-462-8356, [dancsmith@rocketmail.com](mailto:dancsmith@rocketmail.com)

February 23, 2025

Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Aloha Committee Members:

I write in strong support of HB862 HD1 that will allow the use of small buses and vans for student transportation. Legislation will replace emergency orders by the Governor and enlarge the pool of drivers. It is appropriate that the smaller, but adequate, vehicles will not require CDL-S licensed drivers.

Please pass HB862 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel C. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel C. Smith