

A Bill for an Act Relating to School Buses.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to provide for the safety of school children by amending section 291C-95, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require each school bus driver to activate the flashing red lights of the school bus when child passengers embark and disembark.

Existing law requires: (1) school bus drivers to activate the flashing red lights when parked outside of business and residential districts, or when required to do so by county ordinances; and (2) motor vehicle operators in the immediate vicinity to come to a complete stop until the school bus resumes motion or the flashing red lights are deactivated. However, the greatest exposure to danger attributed to traffic occurs precisely in the business and residential districts, where the heaviest traffic exists.

This Act extends the statutory provision by requiring the operators of school buses throughout the State to uniformly activate the flashing red lights whenever child passengers embark and disembark. Moreover, motor vehicle operators in the immediate vicinity of the school bus must simultaneously come to a complete stop to minimize traffic hazards to the child passengers.

SECTION 2. Section 291C-95, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended to read:

“(a) Whenever a school bus is stopped on a highway with its visual signals as described in subsection (g) of this section actuated, the driver of any motor vehicle on the same highway in the lane occupied by the school bus and the lane immediately adjacent to the lane occupied by the school bus, regardless of the direction of traffic in that lane, shall stop the driver’s vehicle before reaching the school bus and shall not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or the visual signals are turned off.”

(2) Subsection (c) is amended to read:

“(c) The driver of the school bus shall actuate the visual signals described in subsection (g) only when the school bus is stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children[:

- (1) On a highway outside of a business or residence district; and
- (2) At any other location where the use of such visual signals is required by county ordinance].”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on September 1, 1987.

(Approved June 23, 1987.)