STAND. COM. REP. NO. Z

Honolulu, Hawaii FEB 1 3 , ²⁰²⁴

RE: H.B. No. 1656 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 1656 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Education to assist individuals in obtaining a commercial driver's license for the purpose of becoming school bus drivers.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education; Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that there is a nationwide shortage of bus drivers. This shortage has affected Hawaii by causing route cancellations and other disruptions in transportation options for students attending K-12 schools throughout the State. Your Committee notes that while around three thousand three hundred students in Hawaii depend on Department of Education funded school buses to commute to and from school, one hundred fifty out of seven hundred positions for school bus drivers were left vacant in September 2022, negatively impacting student attendance rates. Your Committee recognizes the need for funding to hire additional school bus drivers to transport more students to and from schools

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and believes that using funds to incentivize obtaining a commercial driver's license will encourage more people to obtain the license.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 3000.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1656, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1656, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Education,

WOODSON, Chair

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State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature



Record of Votes of the Committee on Education

Bill/Resolution No.: Committee Referral:		e Referral:	Date:		
HB1656	B1656 EDN,		Date: 2/8/24		
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
EDN Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WOODSON, Justin H. (C)					
2. LA CHICA, Trish (VC)			2000 - Contra		
3. KAPELA, Jeanne					
4. MARTEN, Lisa					
5. MARTINEZ, Rose					
6. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z.					
0. WATATOSHI, Scot Z.					
7. MIZUNO, May Besario				an a	
8. PERRUSO, Amy A.					endelingener:
9. QUINLAN, Sean					X
10. TODD, Chris	ad the grant degree of the second				ingen van commenter
11. GARCIA, Diamond					
TOTAL (11)		10			l
The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted If joint referral,					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					