

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

579

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 862

H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 862 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the use of motorcoaches, small buses, and vans for school bus services if certain conditions are met.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Transportation; State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council; Hawai'i State Teachers Association; Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus; Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; and four individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from Soderholm Bus and Mobility. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that the availability of school bus services is essential to student attendance, particularly for families who live in rural and remote areas, as well as students who come from socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. Currently, there is a nationwide shortage of school bus drivers.

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This shortage is forcing the suspension or partial suspension of school bus services across the State.

Your Committee further finds that, to address the shortage of school bus drivers in Hawaii, the Governor issued an emergency proclamation in August 2024 to allow the Department of Transportation to grant exemptions for the use of vehicles other than school buses to transport students. Specifically, this and subsequent related emergency proclamations allow for the transport of students using vehicles other than school vehicles by drivers possessing a commercial driver's license with an endorsement authorizing the driving of vehicles carrying passengers. Your Committee believes that making this exemption permanent will help alleviate the lack of school bus drivers in the State.

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. 862, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 862, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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



JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair



