



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

**Date:** 04/10/2025

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Resolution Title:** SCR 0117, SD1 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO CONDUCT AN INVENTORY OF BUS STOPS ON HAWAII ISLAND UTILIZED BY CHILDREN TO TRAVEL TO SCHOOL AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SAFETY AT EACH LOCATION.

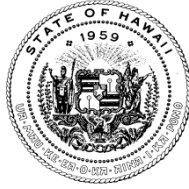
**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on SCR 117 SD 1.

In the County of Hawaii, the prevalence of private neighborhoods presents challenges for accessibility. Many newer developments where student families reside are located on private property, and inadequate infrastructure maintenance creates safety concerns for both public and school bus transportation.

The Department prioritizes the safety of all students and staff and is committed to collaborating with the State Department of Transportation and the County of Hawaii to enhance pedestrian and traffic safety. The Department respectfully requests that funding be allocated to either the State Department of Transportation or the County of Hawaii to conduct this study, as they possess the necessary expertise and oversee these roadways.

The Department thanks the Committee for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 10, 2025  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 309 & Videoconference

**S.C.R. 117 S.D. 1**  
**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ADVISORY**  
**COMMITTEE, AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO CONDUCT AN INVENTORY OF**  
**BUS STOPS ON HAWAII ISLAND UTILIZED BY CHILDREN TO TRAVEL TO**  
**SCHOOL AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SAFETY AT EACH**  
**LOCATION**

House Committee on Education

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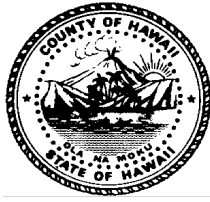
The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports S.C.R. 117 S.D. 1** that HDOT work with appropriate state and county departments and agencies to conduct an inventory of bus stops on Hawaii island utilized by children to travel to school and develop strategies to improve safety at each location.

The HDOT, in coordination appropriate state and county departments and agencies, is committed to further discussions and feasibility studies regarding the proposed solutions to improve the safety conditions of the bus stops. We recognize the urgency of addressing the safety needs and will work closely with stakeholders to evaluate infrastructure requirements, legal considerations, and public safety measures necessary to move forward responsibly.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Ashley L. Kierkiewicz**  
*County Council District IV*

*Chair – Policy Committee on Planning,  
Land Use & Economic Development*



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[ashley.kierkiewicz@hawaiiicounty.gov](mailto:ashley.kierkiewicz@hawaiiicounty.gov)

*Vice-Chair – Policy Committee on  
Public Works & Mass Transit*

## **HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL**

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

April 9, 2025

### **Support for SCR117 SD1**

#### **House Committee on Education**

Rep. Justin Woodson, Chair

Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice-Chair

Aloha, Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair La Chica, and Esteemed Members the EDN Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SCR 117 SD1**, which urges the Department of Education to collaborate with the Department of Transportation, Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee, and the County of Hawai'i to conduct an inventory of bus stops on Hawai'i Island utilized by children to travel to school and to develop strategies to improve safety at each location.

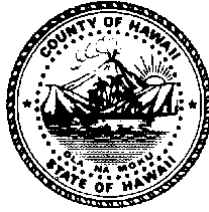
As the Council Member for the Lower Puna District, I represent communities where many subdivisions have substandard infrastructure and roads. Children in these areas often wait for school buses in hazardous conditions - without sidewalks, shelters, or protection from the elements.

I deeply appreciate this resolution's intent to inventory existing resources and create an action plan to address safety issues. Mahalo for your kind consideration and please let me know if there is anything I can do to support this work.

Cheers,

Ashley Lehualani Kierkiewicz  
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT IV  
HAWAI'I COUNTY

**C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.**  
*Mayor*



**William V. Brillhante, Jr.**  
*Managing Director*

**Merrick Nishimoto**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## *County of Hawai'i ~ Office of the Mayor*

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TO: Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Tricia La Chica, Vice Chair  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

FROM: C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D., Mayor

DATE: April 9, 2025

SUBJECT: **IN CONSIDERATION OF SCR 117, SD1, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COLLABORATE WITH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS TO SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO CONDUCT AN INVENTORY OF BUS STOPS ON HAWAII ISLAND UTILIZED BY CHILDREN TO TRAVEL TO SCHOOL AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SAFETY AT EACH LOCATION**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

As Mayor of the County Hawai'i, I support SCR117, SD1, which recognizes and addresses a critical need to improving the safety and accessibility of school bus stops across Hawai'i Island.

Our Keiki are the most precious resource, and it is our responsibility to ensure their safety to and from school. Hawai'i Islands geographical landscape presents numerous challenges to school transportation including distance, limited infrastructure, and availability of resources in rural communities. SCR 117, SD1, takes an important step forward by calling for a comprehensive, multi-agency effort to inventory all school related bus stops on Hawai'i Island and develop data informed strategies to improve safety.

The County of Hawai'i stands ready to collaborate with the Department of Education, Department of Transportation, and Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee to support this effort and ensure safety, equity, and accessibility of student transportation services across our island communities.

Mahalo, for your consideration of this critical issue.

**LATE**

**SCR-117-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 4:36:18 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/10/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kira Mahoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe if this bill passes we can finally move another step forward in the right direction. At one point for over a year there were no school buses available in Kona at all, causing massive amounts of traffic which we already don't need with the major influx of out of state people moving here. The DOE expects children to not miss no more than 10 classes per school year, how can they attend school on time and safely if the DOE doesn't even offer proper transportation from the beginning. Let's do right by our keiki!