

FOR: HR45 Department of Education; School Bus Routes

COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Royanne Santo

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Honorable Members,

My name is Royanne Santo and I am a student at The University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am writing in **strong support of HR45** which is urging the Department of Education to recognize and remedy statewide school transportation inequities by increasing and prioritizing school bus services for school children from low-to moderate-income families.

Having access to safe and efficient transportation to get to and from school is an important factor in ensuring all children have equal access to education. Many low-to moderate-income families rely on school transportation to get their children to school safely and on time which also allows for them to complete their own responsibilities. By not providing and prioritizing bus services for these families it could lead to tardiness, high absence rates, and overall a lower academic performance.

I have worked in the past with middle school students from low income families and one common issue the family often has to work around is the question of who is picking up and dropping off the child at school. Oftentimes the students' guardians are both working long hours and adding in the responsibility of getting the child to and from school can disrupt their work day or cause a delay in other household responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HR45.

Sincerely,

Royanne Santo