

FEB 28 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO PERFORM A STUDY
TO SHOW THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH, AND THE ADVISABILITY OF,
MANDATING THE USE OF SEAT BELTS FOR MINORS IN EVERY SCHOOL
BUS.

1 WHEREAS, millions of children in the United States begin
2 and end each day with a trip on a school bus; and

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4 WHEREAS, thousands of injuries to children occur each year
5 involving school buses, sometimes ending with tragic fatalities;
6 and

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8 WHEREAS, in a recent incident in Hawaii, a school bus and
9 large dump truck collided in Kaimuki causing injury to twelve
10 children; and

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12 WHEREAS, the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act
13 includes bus safety requirements and sets standards that require
14 school buses to be structurally and mechanically safe and
15 provides pedestrian and occupant safety; and

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17 WHEREAS, there is an increasing debate on the necessity of
18 seat belts in school buses; however, the effects of installing
19 seat belts are unknown; and

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21 WHEREAS, the National Transportation Safety Board concluded
22 that the possible benefits of seat belts on school buses were
23 insufficient for the National Highway Traffic Safety
24 Administration to mandate the installation of seat belts on
25 school buses; and

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27 WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
28 recommends that smaller children should "buckle up" and be
29 secured in child passenger restraints on school buses; and
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1 WHEREAS, in the past, bills have been introduced in this
2 Legislature to require public and private elementary school
3 children to wear seat belts on school buses; and
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5 WHEREAS, last, and most important of all, the need to
6 provide the maximum possible safety for children in school buses
7 is of paramount importance, and it offers parents and families a
8 sense of security that all necessary precautions were taken to
9 ensure the safety of their children; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative
14 Reference Bureau is requested to perform a study that:
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- 16 (1) Analyzes the issues associated with mandating that
17 each school bus, private and public, be retrofitted
18 with seat belts and reviews studies conducted to
19 resolve these issues;
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- 21 (2) Analyzes the costs of retrofitting school buses with
22 seat belts; and
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- 24 (3) Makes recommendations based on its findings, including
25 suggested legislation; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of
28 Transportation and the Department of Education are requested to
29 assist the Legislative Reference Bureau with all relevant
30 research and data as well as any other pertinent information and
31 assistance; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
34 Bureau report its findings and recommendations to the
35 Legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the
36 Regular Session of 2009; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
40 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Director of
41 Transportation, President of the Hawaii Association of



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1 Independent Schools, Director of the Hawaii Association of
 2 Charter Schools, and the Director of the Legislative Reference
 3 Bureau.

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