SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY WAYS TO ENCOURAGE ALL POLICE AND FIRE STATIONS IN THE STATE TO HAVE A CERTIFIED CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY TECHNICIAN AVAILABLE TO INSPECT CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINT SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, Hawaii's child passenger restraint law, codified as section 291-11.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires children under four years of age to be properly restrained in a child passenger restraint system that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards at the time of the system's manufacture; and

WHEREAS, the child passenger restraint law further requires that children four years of age or older, but less than eight years of age, must be properly restrained in a child safety seat or booster seat that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards, unless the child meets certain exemptions; and

WHEREAS, persons operating a vehicle in violation of the child passenger restraint law are required to appear in court, attend a four-hour course on child passenger restraint system safety, and pay a fine between \$100 and \$500; and

WHEREAS, currently, parents who wish to have their child's safety seat or booster seat inspected to ensure that the seat meets the requirements of state law have limited options; and

WHEREAS, although certain inspection stations offer free car seat inspection services, these stations are limited in number, especially on neighbor islands; and

WHEREAS, for example, on the island of Hawaii, inspection stations are located only in Hilo, Kailua-Kona, and Kamuela; and

WHEREAS, on the island of Maui, child seat inspections are only available in Wailuku, Hana, and Lahaina; and

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WHEREAS, on the island of Kauai, inspection stations are located only in Lihue; and

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WHEREAS, the limited number of inspection station locations means that parents often need to make long drives to have safety seats inspected; and

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WHEREAS, many other states offer a higher number of inspection locations, typically at neighborhood fire and police stations, thereby ensuring that all residents have convenient access to safety seat or booster seat inspections; and

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WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii should examine whether a similar approach would be feasible here; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Department of Transportation is requested to study ways to encourage all police and fire stations in the State to have a certified child passenger safety technician available to inspect child safety and booster seats; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation.

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