DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAI`I 96804

Date: 02/07/2018
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: 423
Committee: House Transportation

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1938 RELATING TO SCHOOL BUSES.

Purpose of Bill: Increases the fine to not more than $1,000 for passing or overtaking a school bus on a state highway while the bus is stopped and its visual signals are turned on.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) supports HB 1938.

Passing a stopped school bus that has its visual signals actuated poses a serious safety risk to students who utilize the school bus as their primary means of school transportation. The DOE attempts to route school buses in a way that minimizes the occasions in which students must cross the street to get to or from the school bus stop. However not all residential neighborhoods afford this approach particularly in rural areas, so we will always have cases in which certain students will have to cross the street. Procedurally, students are taught to stay on their side of the street until the school bus is stopped, the flashing red lights are actuated, and the bus driver signals them that it is safe to cross.

The Student Transportation Services program annually participates in a national survey of illegal passing violations. In 2017, Hawaii school bus drivers collectively counted more than 600 illegal passes in a single day of service (morning and afternoon). The DOE continues to support legislation that helps to protect student safety.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

HB-1938

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:02:05 AM
Testimony for TRN on 2/7/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Maui Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

February 7, 2018

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
ON HB 1938 RELATING TO SCHOOL BUSES**

Thank you Chair Aquino and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 400 transportation related members throughout the state of Hawaii.
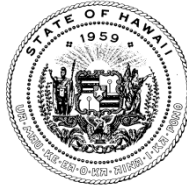
HTA supports this measure to increase the safety of our keiki heading home from school. After disembarking the bus these keiki can and do move in all directions to go home, including across the street.

The only way to provide a 360 degree zone of safety around the school bus is to obtain everyone's awareness and compliance with the visual signals. Today, there is a lack of that awareness and/or compliance so increased penalties are one avenue to improve the situation.

We also believe more reminders / publicity is necessary to create that safe zone we want.

Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LATE

Testimony by:

JADE T. BUTAY
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROY CATALANI
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 7, 2018
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423
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H.B. 1938
RELATING TO SCHOOL BUSES

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation **supports** H.B. 1938 which increases the fine for passing or overtaking a school bus on a state highway while the bus is stopped and its visual signals are turned on.

This bill enhances safety for children getting on or off a school bus.

This bill will reinforce to the driving public that a driver needs to stop for a school bus when its visual signals are turned on. Increasing the fine on a state highway will deter drivers from passing school buses when their visual signals are activated, thus keeping our keiki safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.