

HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION AND EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is tasked with creating a framework for the State's Driver Education Program; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education offers driver education programs throughout public schools in the State; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor David Ige issued a Third Supplementary Proclamation Related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Emergency, which ordered all persons within the State to stay at home or in their place of residence except as necessary to maintain operations of critical infrastructure sectors; and

WHEREAS, as a result, Governor Ige temporarily suspended specific sections of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and Department of Transportation administrative rules; and

WHEREAS, due to the lack of availability of driver instructors and flexibility of the Department of Transportation to allow for online class instruction, there has been limited availability for classes, especially for neighbor island residents; and

WHEREAS, even before COVID-19, the lack of available classes and instructors on the neighbor islands caused students to take classes on Oahu; and

WHEREAS, now with a high demand for classes caused by a backlog, many students have been turned away, causing a lack of fair access; and

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WHEREAS, driver education is important for every driver as it provides the knowledge and skills of driving that are applied while developing the attitudes and habits of a responsible driver; and

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WHEREAS, persons eighteen years of age or older are not required to complete a formal driver education course prior to obtaining a driver's license; thus, having enough available classes and options for students will ensure a higher rate of completion; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, that the Auditor is requested to conduct a performance audit of the Driver Education Program administered by the Departments of Transportation and Education; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to examine the administration of, as well as the policies and procedures, the Driver Education Program; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to examine the backlog of driver education opportunities and programs and whether these activities are being conducted effectively, efficiently, economically, ethically, and equitably; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor 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 2023; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Transportation, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Interim Superintendent of Education, and Auditor.

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