
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 education provides regular bus service for qualified public
3 school students to facilitate compliance with the State's
4 compulsory attendance law and transportation of school children
5 law, as well as with federal law relating to the provision of a
6 free and appropriate education. According to the department of
7 education, the daily student ridership average for regular
8 education students is 35,090 students per day and 3,359 per day
9 for special education students. The legislature further finds
10 that school bus service provided by the department of education
11 is essential for getting students to and from school,
12 particularly for students who lack other transportation options
13 or face hardship in obtaining school transportation services due
14 to economic difficulty.

15 The legislature also finds that to qualify for regular
16 school bus service, students in grades K-5 must reside a mile or
17 more, and students in grades 6-12 must reside 1.5 miles or more,



1 from the school within their attendance area. Students who
2 qualify for school bus service may receive a free bus pass if
3 they meet eligibility requirements; or pay \$36.00 for quarterly
4 one-way trips, \$72.00 for quarterly round trips, or \$10.00 for
5 ten coupons. The legislature finds that a student who qualifies
6 for free lunch under the free and reduced price lunch program is
7 eligible for a free bus pass; however, free bus passes do not
8 extend to students who qualify for reduced lunch under the free
9 and reduced price lunch program. Students and families of
10 households who qualify for the reduced lunch price would benefit
11 from paying a school bus fare at a rate that is less than the
12 fare established by the department of education's administrative
13 rules.

14 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
15 education to create a three-tiered student bus fare rate system
16 for the department of education's school bus program.

17 SECTION 2. Section 302A-406, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "**§302A-406 Transportation of school children.** (a) The
20 department may provide suitable transportation to and from



1 school and for educational field trips for all children in
2 grades kindergarten to twelve and in special education classes.

3 (b) The department shall adopt policies, procedures, and
4 programs [as it deems] necessary to provide suitable
5 transportation[-]; provided that policies, procedures, and
6 programs related to the department's school bus program that
7 provides bus transportation services to students to and from
8 school shall encompass a three-tiered student bus fare rate
9 system as follows:

10 (1) Students who qualify, based on the student's household
11 eligibility, for free lunch under the free and reduced
12 price lunch program shall be eligible for a free bus
13 pass;

14 (2) Students who qualify, based on the student's household
15 eligibility, for reduced lunch under the free and
16 reduced lunch program shall be eligible for a bus pass
17 at a reduced rate; and

18 (3) Students who do not qualify under subsection (b) (1) or
19 (2) shall pay the full rate for a bus pass.



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1 [~~(b)~~] (c) The department shall adopt rules under chapter
 2 91 governing the supervision and administration of the
 3 transportation of school children under this section."

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to
 7 carry out the purposes of this Act.

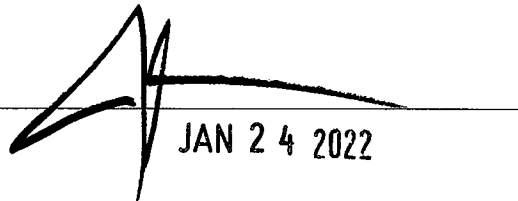
8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 9 education for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
 13 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

14

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 24 2022



H.B. NO. 1942

Report Title:

Department of Education; Student Transportation; School Bus Program; Fares; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of education to establish a three-tiered student bus fare rate system to include a reduced bus fare rate for students and households that qualify for reduced lunch under the free and reduced price lunch program. Appropriates funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

