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# 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 the school bus service provided by the department of  
11 education 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 kindergarten through five  
17 must reside a mile or more, and students in grades six through



1 twelve must reside 1.5 miles or more, from the school within  
2 their attendance area. Students who qualify for school bus  
3 service may receive a free bus pass if they meet eligibility  
4 requirements; or pay \$36.00 for quarterly one-way trips, \$72.00  
5 for quarterly round trips, or \$10.00 for ten coupons. The  
6 legislature finds that a student who qualifies for free lunch  
7 under the free and reduced price lunch program is eligible for a  
8 free bus pass; however, free bus passes do not extend to  
9 students who qualify for reduced lunch under the free and  
10 reduced price lunch program. Students and families of  
11 households who qualify for the reduced lunch price would also  
12 benefit from receiving free bus passes.

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

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

18 "§302A-406 Transportation of school children. (a) The  
19 department may provide suitable transportation to and from  
20 school and for educational field trips for all children in  
21 grades kindergarten to twelve and in special education classes.



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

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

12        (2) Students who do not qualify under subsection (b) (1)  
 13 shall pay the full rate for a bus pass.

14        ~~[-(b)]~~ (c) The department shall adopt rules under chapter  
 15 91 governing the supervision and administration of the  
 16 transportation of school children under this section."

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



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

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

5           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;  
6 provided that section 3 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,  
7 2022.



**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Student Transportation; School Bus Program; Fares; Free or Reduced Lunch Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Education to establish a tiered student bus fare rate system to include free bus passes for students and households that qualify for free or reduced lunch under the free and reduced price lunch program. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

