

MAR 08 2022

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXPAND TRANSPORTATION  
SERVICES IN THE PEARL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

1 WHEREAS, the Pearl City School District is experiencing a  
2 transportation shortage, primarily due to a reported bus driver  
3 shortage; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, transportation issues and bus driver shortages in  
6 the Pearl City School District have existed since at least 1991;  
7 and  
8

9 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and related  
10 impacts have exacerbated the transportation shortage during  
11 2021; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, safe and reliable transportation to and from  
14 school is critical to academic success; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, parents have reported that more than a dozen Pearl  
17 City students currently lack transportation services and are on  
18 a waitlist; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Education's Student  
21 Transportation Services Branch:  
22

23 (1) Students must live at least one mile away from the  
24 school to qualify for regular school bus service;  
25

26 (2) Students who live less than one mile may be waitlisted  
27 for bus service even if there are unused seats on the  
28 bus and it will not result in cost to the State;  
29

30 (3) Only full-sized school buses are deployed for most  
31 routes and routes must have a minimum number of  
32 student riders (i.e., forty-eight for elementary  
33 schools) to qualify for bus service;



- 1 (4) Students not qualifying for a free bus pass are  
2 required to pay up to \$72.00, quarterly, for  
3 transportation services;  
4
- 5 (5) Approximately fifteen-thousand students use bus  
6 services on Oahu and eighteen-thousand use bus  
7 services on the neighbor islands; and  
8
- 9 (6) Pearl City School enrollment is approximately five  
10 thousand, and approximately five hundred of these  
11 students use bus services to and from school; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, to address the current transportation shortage,  
14 the Department of Education launched a mileage reimbursement  
15 program on September 1, 2021; now, therefore,  
16

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
19 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
20 Education is requested to work expeditiously to achieve the  
21 following:  
22

- 23 (1) Immediately provide bus service to all students in the  
24 Pearl City School District who are currently on the  
25 waitlist for bus services;  
26
- 27 (2) Identify schools in the Pearl City School District  
28 that lack regular transportation services;  
29
- 30 (3) Utilize smaller buses and lower route ridership to  
31 maximize transportation options for students;  
32
- 33 (4) Enhance direct outreach opportunities between the  
34 Department of Education, schools, and parents to  
35 discuss changing demographics and transportation needs  
36 in the district;  
37
- 38 (5) Develop a bus driver and commercial driver license  
39 training and feeder program;  
40
- 41 (6) Establish a driver "pool" by collaborating with  
42 teachers, parents, unions, senior groups, community



1 nonprofit organizations, the military, and the  
2 university system; and

3  
4 (7) Explore staggered school start and end times to  
5 facilitate student transportation; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Department of  
9 Education.

10  
11  
12 OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennett J. Mesnick", is written over a horizontal line.