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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 there is a shortage  
2 of school bus drivers in the State. This shortage has  
3 contributed to the suspension or cancelation of bus  
4 transportation services at ten high schools on Oahu and four  
5 schools on Kauai.

6           The legislature further finds that many school buses  
7 transport few students, making standard size school buses  
8 unnecessary. Drivers of standard size school buses are required  
9 to hold commercial driver's licenses, while those that drive  
10 motor vehicles that do not fall within the definition of a  
11 commercial motor vehicle, like passenger vans carrying less than  
12 sixteen people, do not. If the department of education and its  
13 student transportation contractors consider the use of vehicles  
14 that do not fall within the definition of a commercial motor  
15 vehicle, this may alleviate the shortage of drivers, and  
16 ultimately the lack of student transportation services, because



1 student transportation drivers will no longer need a commercial  
2 driver's license.

3 The purpose of this Act is to mandate that school bus  
4 contracts require contractors to consider the use of smaller  
5 vehicles that do not require drivers to hold a commercial  
6 driver's license for routes with low ridership or specific  
7 geographical limitations, as determined by the department,  
8 subject to certain conditions.

9 SECTION 2. Section 302A-407, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 **"§302A-407 School bus contracts.** (a) Any school bus  
12 contract between the State and the contractor shall include a  
13 provision requiring the contractor to equip the contractor's  
14 vehicles with the signs and visual signals described in section  
15 291C-95(d) and (g). The contract shall also include other  
16 provisions as may be deemed necessary by the State for the  
17 safety of school bus passengers and shall include provisions  
18 requiring compliance with the rules and standards described in  
19 section 286-181.

20 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a), any  
21 school bus contract between the State and the contractor shall



1 require the contractor to consider the use of smaller vehicles  
2 that do not require drivers to hold a commercial driver's  
3 license for routes with low ridership or specific geographical  
4 limitations, as determined by the department; provided that:

5 (1) The smaller vehicles shall meet all relevant safety  
6 standards; and

7 (2) The contractor shall ensure the safety and well-being  
8 of all passengers.

9 [~~b~~] (c) All moneys received from students and parents or  
10 guardians of students by public schools for state-provided  
11 school busing services, as authorized by section 302A-406, shall  
12 be deposited into the school bus fare revolving fund. Except as  
13 otherwise provided by the legislature, expenditures for the  
14 operation of state-contracted school bus services, as authorized  
15 by section 302A-406, shall be made from this fund."

16 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
17 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
18 begun before its effective date.

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



**1** SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

School Bus Contracts; Licensing

**Description:**

Mandates Department of Education school bus contracts to require contractors to consider the use of smaller vehicles that do not require drivers to hold a commercial driver's license for routes with low ridership or specific geographical limitations, as determined by the Department, subject to certain conditions. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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