
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO CONDUCT AN INVENTORY OF BUS STOPS ON HAWAII ISLAND UTILIZED BY CHILDREN TO TRAVEL TO SCHOOL AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SAFETY AT EACH LOCATION.

1 WHEREAS, ensuring the safety of Hawaii's keiki as they
2 travel to and from school is a paramount concern for families,
3 educators, and policymakers; and
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5 WHEREAS, unlike other islands in the State, many students
6 on Hawaii island face unique transportation challenges,
7 including long travel distances, limited access to school bus
8 services, and reliance on the County of Hawaii's Hele-On public
9 transportation system through special arrangements with the
10 Department of Education; and
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12 WHEREAS, these challenges are compounded by bus route
13 limitations, road infrastructure deficiencies, and the absence
14 of safe, dedicated school bus stops in certain rural and
15 underserved areas; and
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17 WHEREAS, the availability and staffing of active bus routes
18 are critical concerns, as many school transportation services
19 struggle with driver shortages, funding constraints, and an
20 insufficient number of routes to accommodate all students safely
21 and efficiently; and
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23 WHEREAS, the need for additional bus routes has become
24 increasingly evident, particularly in remote communities where
25 children must walk long distances along unsafe roads to reach
26 their nearest bus stop or school; and
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28 WHEREAS, poorly designed or maintained bus stops, lack of
29 proper lighting, insufficient pedestrian crossings, and



1 hazardous traffic conditions pose significant risks to children;
2 and
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4 WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of existing bus stops on
5 Hawaii island used by school-aged children is necessary to
6 identify deficiencies and develop recommendations for
7 improvements; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
11 that the Department of Education is urged to collaborate with
12 the Department of Transportation, Safe Routes to School Advisory
13 Committee, and the County of Hawaii to conduct an inventory of
14 bus stops on Hawaii island utilized by children to travel to
15 school and develop strategies to improve safety at each
16 location; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this inventory is requested to
19 include an assessment of safety conditions at each bus stop,
20 including but not limited to:
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- 22 (1) The presence and condition of sidewalks and
23 crosswalks;
- 24 (2) Adequate lighting and visibility;
- 25 (3) Traffic patterns and congestion;
- 26 (4) Proximity to high speed roadways;
- 27 (5) The availability of shelters and seating;
- 28 (6) The adequacy of current bus routes in meeting student
29 transportation needs; and
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- 31 (7) Any other potential hazards affecting student safety;
32 and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education, in
35 coordination with the Department of Transportation, Safe Routes
36 to School Advisory Committee, and the County of Hawaii, is
37 requested to develop recommendations and propose strategies to
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1 enhance the safety of these bus stops, including infrastructure
2 improvements, traffic calming measures, additional bus routes,
3 and community engagement initiatives; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
6 requested to submit a report of its findings and
7 recommendations, including a prioritized list of bus stops in
8 need of immediate safety improvements, to the Legislature no
9 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
10 Session of 2026; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
14 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Director of
15 Transportation, Chairperson of the Safe Routes to School
16 Advisory Committee, and Mayor of the County of Hawaii.

