

MAR 07 2025

## SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COLLABORATE WITH THE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I TO  
CONDUCT AN INVENTORY OF BUS STOPS ON HAWAI'I ISLAND UTILIZED  
BY CHILDREN TO TRAVEL TO SCHOOL AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO  
IMPROVE SAFETY AT EACH LOCATION.

1 WHEREAS, ensuring the safety of Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i island face unique transportation challenges,  
7 including long travel distances, limited access to school bus  
8 services, and reliance on the County of Hawai'i'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  
30 hazardous traffic conditions pose significant risks to children;  
31 and  
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1 WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of existing bus stops on  
2 Hawai'i island used by school-aged children is necessary to  
3 identify deficiencies and develop recommendations for  
4 improvements; now, therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,  
8 that the Department of Education is urged to collaborate with  
9 the Department of Transportation and the County of Hawai'i to  
10 conduct an inventory of bus stops on Hawai'i island utilized by  
11 children to travel to school and develop strategies to improve  
12 safety at each location; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this inventory is requested to  
15 include an assessment of safety conditions at each bus stop,  
16 including but not limited to:

- 17  
18 (1) The presence and condition of sidewalks and  
19 crosswalks;  
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21 (2) Adequate lighting and visibility;  
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23 (3) Traffic patterns and congestion;  
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25 (4) Proximity to high speed roadways;  
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27 (5) The availability of shelters and seating;  
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29 (6) The adequacy of current bus routes in meeting student  
30 transportation needs; and  
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32 (7) Any other potential hazards affecting student safety;  
33 and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education, in  
36 coordination with the Department of Transportation and the  
37 County of Hawai'i, is requested to develop recommendations and  
38 propose strategies to enhance the safety of these bus stops,  
39 including infrastructure improvements, traffic calming measures,  
40 additional bus routes, and community engagement initiatives; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
2 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
3 recommendations, including a prioritized list of bus stops in  
4 need of immediate safety improvements, to the Legislature no  
5 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
6 Session of 2026; and

7  
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the  
10 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Director of  
11 Transportation, and Mayor of the County of Hawai'i.

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14 OFFERED BY: DKr

