

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN COORDINATION WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO TRANSITION THE SCHOOL BUSES USED FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO ELECTRIC BUSES TO EXPAND THE BENEFITS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED IN OTHER PLACES.

1 WHEREAS, section 225P-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, directs
2 the State to sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse
3 gases than emitted within the State as quickly as practicable,
4 but no later than 2045; and

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6 WHEREAS, section 226-18(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes,
7 directs increased energy security and self-sufficiency through
8 reduction and ultimate elimination of the State's dependance on
9 imported fuels for electrical generation and ground
10 transportation; and

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12 WHEREAS, section 225P-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, directs
13 the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve zero
14 emissions across all transportation modes, including ground
15 transportation and interisland sea and air transportation, and
16 each department, board, and commission to incorporate these
17 goals into their plans and take actions necessary to achieve
18 them; and

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20 WHEREAS, in the 2024 to 2025 school year, the Oakland
21 Unified School District partnered with Zum to deploy seventy-
22 four electric school buses, creating the first fully electrified
23 fleet of a major United States school district; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Oakland transition to electric school buses
26 has already produced noticeable benefits, including electric
27 buses with expected lifespans twice those of traditional fossil
28 fuel school buses, reductions in cost for fuel, maintenance, and
29 related expenses, and has opened the door to additional revenue



1 for the school district by providing power from the buses back
2 to the electric grid in peak periods of high demand; and

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4 WHEREAS, Oakland's new generation of school buses were
5 specifically designed to be safer, easier to operate, and have
6 cleaner air within each bus, eliminating the exposure of
7 students to noxious fumes present in traditional buses; and

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9 WHEREAS, the switch to electric buses has also resulted in
10 more students arriving to school on time and overall higher
11 student attendance, as students and parents are able to better
12 plan by tracking each bus online in real time and receive
13 automatic notifications when a student is dropped off, enabling
14 parents to better rely on school bus transportation and freeing
15 their schedules for work and other responsibilities; and

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17 WHEREAS, Oakland's transition to electric school buses is
18 reducing greenhouse gas emissions by approximately twenty-five
19 thousand metric tons annually and returning approximately 2.1
20 gigawatt-hours of electricity to the grid each year, enough to
21 power hundreds of homes during peak demand; and

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23 WHEREAS, Oakland's electric school bus fleet has also
24 become an invaluable tool for disaster response, as each
25 electric school bus is a giant battery on wheels which is able
26 to provide immediate mobile emergency power and support to any
27 community in the event of a disaster such as a hurricane or
28 wildfire; and

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30 WHEREAS, since 2015 the laws of the State have directed
31 state departments to begin transitioning to electric
32 transportation and exploring innovative transportation
33 technologies for public services that can produce numerous
34 benefits; now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
38 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
39 Education, in coordination with the Board of Education, is urged
40 to develop a plan to transition the school buses used for public
41 transportation to electric buses to expand the benefits already
42 demonstrated in other places; and



