

MAR 10 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, IN COORDINATION
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO EVALUATE AND RECOMMEND
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LICENSING, TRAINING, AND WORKFORCE
PIPELINE FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, reliable school transportation is essential to
2 ensuring equitable access to public education for students
3 across the State, particularly in rural and neighbor island
4 communities; and
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6 WHEREAS, persistent shortages of qualified school bus
7 drivers have resulted in route cancellations, service
8 disruptions, and barriers to consistent school attendance for
9 many students; and
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11 WHEREAS, transportation disruptions disproportionately
12 affect students with disabilities, students living in rural
13 areas, and families with limited access to alternative
14 transportation; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Legislature has considered measures to
17 strengthen recruitment, training, and retention of school bus
18 drivers, including financial incentives and workforce
19 development programs; and
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21 WHEREAS, testimony submitted to the Legislature has
22 identified structural limitations within the current student
23 transportation model that affect implementation of certain
24 workforce initiatives, including that school bus drivers are
25 employees of private transportation contractors rather than the
26 State; and
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28 WHEREAS, stakeholders and community testimony have also
29 identified barriers to entering the profession, including
30 challenges related to commercial driver's licensing access,
31 testing availability, training coordination, and geographic



1 inequities in licensing opportunities, particularly on neighbor
2 islands; and

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4 WHEREAS, the licensing and credentialing of school bus
5 drivers involves multiple agencies and processes, including
6 commercial driver's licensing requirements administered through
7 the Department of Transportation and workforce needs identified
8 by the Department of Education and private transportation
9 providers; and

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11 WHEREAS, improved interagency coordination and targeted
12 policy reforms may help expand the pool of qualified school bus
13 drivers, reduce barriers to entry, and strengthen the long-term
14 workforce pipeline; now, therefore,

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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
19 Transportation, in coordination with the Department of
20 Education, is requested to evaluate and recommend improvements
21 to improve the licensing, training, and workforce pipeline for
22 school bus drivers in the State; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the evaluation is requested to
25 include but not be limited to:

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27 (1) Access to commercial driver's licensing, including
28 geographic availability of testing, scheduling
29 capacity, equipment access, and barriers faced by
30 neighbor island applicants;
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32 (2) Coordination between state agencies, counties, and
33 private transportation providers in supporting
34 commercial driver's licensing, training, and
35 credentialing;
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37 (3) Opportunities to expand or decentralize testing and
38 training, including mobile testing units, regional
39 testing capacity, or partnerships with community
40 colleges or workforce programs;
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- (4) Administrative or statutory changes that may improve efficiency, reduce delays, or remove unnecessary barriers in the licensing process;
- (5) Strategies to align licensing pathways with school transportation workforce needs, including targeted recruitment, pre-licensing training support, and career pathway development;
- (6) Best practices from other states or jurisdictions that have successfully expanded school bus driver licensing pipelines; and
- (7) Any recommended legislative or administrative actions necessary to improve coordination and expand the pool of qualified school bus drivers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Department of Education are requested to consult with the Department of the Attorney General, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Department of Budget and Finance, county governments, school bus transportation contractors, workforce development partners, and other relevant stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Department of Education, is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Transportation, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Attorney General, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, Director of Finance, and the Mayor of each county in the State.

OFFERED BY:


