

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2772**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 05 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2549
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 2549, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to strengthen the reliability, flexibility, safety, and accountability of student transportation by:

- (1) Authorizing the Department of Education to:
 - (A) Recommend to the Governor the removal or suspension of provisions of school bus contracts relating to routes if the contractor does not provide services on a contracted route for five or more consecutive instructional days; and
 - (B) Upon approval by the Governor, enter into one or more interim agreements with multiple qualified carriers and divide transportation routes or service areas into smaller segments, as necessary to maintain continuity of service; and
- (2) Requiring the Department to assess a financial penalty against a contractor that fails to provide service on a contracted route without an approved justification.



Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from one individual.

Your Committee received written comments in opposition to this measure from the Department of Education.

Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the State Procurement Office.

Your Committee finds that the Department of Education continues to experience a shortage of school bus drivers despite efforts to increase the number of drivers. Your Committee further finds that when school bus contractors lose the ability to provide transportation services for all contracted routes, the Department of Education is currently prohibited from canceling or reassigning the unfulfilled part of the contract. Accordingly, your Committee finds that this measure will improve access to education by providing the Department of Education with the means to limit disruptions to school transportation.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2549, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

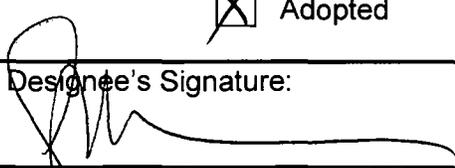
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2549, SD1	Committee Referral: EDU, WAM	Date: 3/2/2026 2/25/2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	13	0	0	0
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes