



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/03/2020
Time: 01:00 PM
Location: 225
Committee: Senate Education
Senate Transportation

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2325 RELATING TO SCHOOL BUSES.

Purpose of Bill: Requires all school bus contracts to require contractor's vehicles to be propelled by electric power or a non-fossil fuel and to be equipped with seat belt assemblies by January 1, 2030.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports the overall intent of SB 2325 as it includes initiatives supportive of State of Hawaii's energy goals and offers the following comments.

The Department has concerns about the cost to electrify the school buses. The current cost could be more than three times the price of standard diesel fuel school bus vehicles.

As with all technology, we expect the advancement of electric power technology to continue to make improvements in efficiencies and reduce the cost to operate and manufacture electric school buses. We also note that while electric vehicles are one option, hydrogen fuel cell technology is quickly developing into what could be another viable alternative to electric buses.

As for the safety equipment, three-point passenger safety restraints on school bus vehicles is quickly becoming a much more affordable option in the school bus manufacturing industry. Although it has not yet achieved standard equipment status, we are hopeful in its becoming a more commonplace safety feature in school bus design.

Furthermore, as these safety accessories become the norm for all buses, we expect the associated cost to be imbedded into the overall cost of the bus.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information

is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

SB-2325

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 5:40:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/3/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Kahn	Testifying for Surfrider Oahu	Support	No

Comments: