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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of  
2 education provides regular bus service for qualified public  
3 school students to facilitate compliance with the State's  
4 compulsory attendance law and transportation of school children  
5 law, as well as with federal law relating to the provision of a  
6 free and appropriate education. According to the department of  
7 education, the daily student ridership average for regular  
8 education students is 35,090 students per day and 3,359 per day  
9 for special education students. The legislature further finds  
10 that the school bus service provided by the department of  
11 education is essential for getting students to and from school,  
12 particularly for students who lack other transportation options  
13 or face hardship in obtaining school transportation services due  
14 to economic difficulty.

15           The legislature also finds that to qualify for regular  
16 school bus service, students in grades kindergarten through five  
17 must reside a mile or more, and students in grades six through



1 twelve must reside 1.5 miles or more, from the school within  
2 their attendance area. Students who qualify for school bus  
3 service may receive a free bus pass if they meet eligibility  
4 requirements or pay \$36.00 for quarterly one-way trips, \$72.00  
5 for quarterly round trips, or \$10.00 for ten coupons. The  
6 legislature finds that a student who qualifies for free lunch  
7 under the free and reduced price lunch program is eligible for a  
8 free bus pass; however, free bus passes do not extend to  
9 students who qualify for reduced price lunch under the free and  
10 reduced price lunch program. Students and families of  
11 households who qualify for the reduced price lunch would also  
12 benefit from receiving free bus passes.

13 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
14 education to create a student bus fare rate system for the  
15 department of education's school bus program to include free bus  
16 passes for students whose household qualifies the student for  
17 free or reduced lunch under the free and reduced price lunch  
18 program.

19 SECTION 2. Section 302A-406, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended to read as follows:



1           "**§302A-406 Transportation of school children.** (a) The  
2 department may provide suitable transportation to and from  
3 school and for educational field trips for all children in  
4 grades kindergarten to twelve and in special education classes.

5           (b) The department shall adopt policies, procedures, and  
6 programs [as it deems] necessary to provide suitable  
7 transportation[-]; provided that policies, procedures, and  
8 programs related to the department's school bus program that  
9 provide bus transportation services to students to and from  
10 school shall encompass a student bus fare rate system as  
11 follows:

12           (1) Students who qualify, based on the student's household  
13 eligibility, for free lunch or reduced price lunch  
14 under the free and reduced price lunch program shall  
15 be eligible for a free bus pass; and

16           (2) Students who do not qualify under paragraph (1) shall  
17 pay the full rate for a bus pass.

18           [~~(b)~~] (c) The department shall adopt rules under chapter  
19 91 governing the supervision and administration of the  
20 transportation of school children under this section."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
5 year 2024-2025 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
7 of education for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2023



# H.B. NO. 828

**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Student Transportation; School Bus Program; Fares; Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of education to establish a student bus fare rate system to include free bus passes for students whose household qualifies the student for free or reduced price lunch under the free and reduced price lunch program. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

