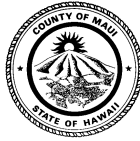


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April 14, 2026

TO: The Honorable Darius K. Kila, Chair  
House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 15, 2026; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 31, 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.**

I **support** this measure to request 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.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Reliable school transportation is critical to ensuring consistent access to education, particularly for students in rural and neighbor island communities where transportation options are limited.
2. The ongoing shortage of qualified school bus drivers has resulted in route cancellations and service disruptions that negatively impact students and families, especially those with limited alternatives.
3. This measure takes a coordinated and practical approach by identifying barriers in licensing, training, and workforce development, and by seeking solutions that can strengthen the long-term pipeline of qualified drivers.

Thank you for your consideration.