

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Transportation for Students Involved in After School Extracurricular Activities

**REFERENCE:** Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 98

**ACTION REQUESTED:** The Department of Education and Department of Transportation are to conduct a survey to include the following options: 1) changing bus schedules to accommodate after school activities, without increasing the number of bus trips; 2) determining the additional costs for extended and additional bus services; 3) determining the costs that parents or students are willing to pay; and 4) identifying the particular activities of sufficient interest that warrant modifying or adding the number of buses to benefit students and their families.

**DOE REPORT:** Attached is a draft of the report requested by the Legislature in response to SCR 98. The report was completed. However at the request of the Board of Education, additional information was requested. Therefore, collection, compilation, and analysis of the additional requested information will be completed and submitted twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2002. The requested information will include a listing of all athletic and non-athletic extracurricular events, the demand for after-school hour student transportation services with cost projections, further information on the four options, and a review by other programs affected to determine if this effort is truly representative of the department's position.

# **D R A F T**

## **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 98 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**

November 2001

Senate Concurrent Resolution 98 (SCR 98) requested the Department of Education to conduct a survey to include the following options:

1. Changing bus schedules to accommodate after school activities, without increasing the number of bus trips;
2. Determining the additional costs for extended and additional bus services;
3. Determining the costs that parents or students are willing to pay; and
4. Identifying the particular activities of sufficient interest that warrant modifying or adding the number of buses to benefit students and their families

The Concurrent Resolution 98 also requested that the Department of Education to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the regular session of 2002 and that certified copies of the Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Director of Transportation.

### **Methodology**

Necessary information was obtained primarily through direct contact with parties, surveys, knowledge of school bus operations and available data.

It should be noted that the investigation of providing later after school transportation did not include elementary schools and Honolulu District Schools.

The following discussion of each aspect of the request of SCR 98 attempt to capture the major issues relative to each topical area.

### **Changing bus schedules, without increasing the number of bus trips**

We have explored the possibility of changing bus schedules to accommodate after school activities, without increasing the number of bus trips and find that it would be difficult without impacting schools and students who desire to be transported from school to home as soon as possible.

Since 1992, the Student Transportation Services Program has been steadily reducing the number of regular education or fixed route school buses contracted (from 558 in SY 1991-92 to 527 in SY 2001-02). Reductions were made possible by certain schools changing their school schedules which allowed buses to make three trips per bus instead of the normal two trips, reducing the number of bus trips from aging subdivisions, and optimizing load factors.

School buses generally make two trips in the morning and two trips in the afternoon; elementary schools are serviced on the first afternoon trip to the greatest degree possible. As such, removing buses from the normal service hour may require elementary schools to provide supervision to students who would need to wait longer for school to home transportation.

For schools with large attendance areas it will not be possible to reduce the number of bus trips since transportation to the distant part(s) of the attendance area are serviced by buses that make only one trip. Some examples are Kapaa High School to Hanalei, Kauai High School to Kalaheo, Kahuku High School to Kualoa, Hana High and Elementary to Keanae, Hana High and Elementary School to Kaupo, Molokai High and Intermediate School to Halawa Valley, Maui High School to Makena, Lahainaluna High School to Honokowai Valley, Konawaena High School to Milolii, and Waiakea High School to Volcano.

Unless the numbers of students desiring to participate in after school activities allows operating buses at a later times, buses may still need to duplicate services at a later time.

Contractors were polled to determine how many would agree to remove buses from normal daily service and operate the buses at a later time. All contractors cite additional costs for support staff at a later time, increasing cost of employee fringe benefits.

### **Determining the additional cost for extended and additional bus trips**

The various ending times of school activities at secondary schools presents interesting situations. For example, athletic practices generally end later than other activities such as club meetings, band practice, and student government activities.

Provision of transportation from after school activities is expected to result in the need to provide transportation to disabled students who may require specialized transportation arrangements, supervision in transit, and/or specialized equipment.

NOTE: We are in the process of re-polling school bus operators to obtain their views on providing later after school transportation for students participating in co-curricular activities. Further, we need to explore the possibility of compensating contractors for re-scheduled school bus services provided at a later time under their current agreements. The concern is over the scope of the contract. If transportation is to be provided, there will be areas where we may need to bid for services and situations where contractors

have a monopoly on transportation services and the cost of providing such service will be very high.

### **Determining the costs that parents or students are willing to pay**

This area was very difficult to determine and will require further investigation. Among the secondary schools, Statewide, there are

### **Identifying the particular activities of sufficient interest**

Interestingly, the results of an Athletic Interest Survey for School Year 2000-01 indicates that of the 2,865 Statewide respondents, 111 or 3.9% cited transportation as a reason for not participating in athletics. However, the level of confidence and margin of error in the Athletic Interest Survey is questioned as the number of non-participants is very different from a recent poll of Hawaii high schools. For example, according to the Athletic Interest Survey Waiakea High School's non-participants was 8, on our poll of Athletic Directors, Waiakea High's number of non-participants due to lack of transportation was 82. Of course, the recent poll includes all sports and there may be students who would have participated in multiple sports if transportation were provided.

It will be difficult to determine sufficient interest if activities with small numbers of students can be serviced with students who require transportation and are participating in other activities.

At the high school level, School Activity Coordinators (SACs) have commented that many students drive or catch rides with students who drive.

We have polled schools on the co-curricular activities available or desired to be made available to students. Attached are listings of athletic activities and non-athletic activities that may be available to students at secondary schools.

### **Conclusions**

Given the various activities and the various ending times of activities, as well as the cost of providing supervision to students, coordination of scheduling buses, funding is a major factor in the provision of after school transportation services.

Coordination of activities within school complexes is also a factor in providing transportation services that meets the needs of students, parents and schools.

Middle and intermediate schools where students do not have access to cars or friends who drive cars point out the need to have transportation services available in order to conduct after school co-curricular activities.

## **Recommendations**

The Department strongly supports provision of transportation to students participating in co-curricular activities. However, given priorities in funding the primary needs of the students, after school transportation ranks below other of the department's pressing needs.

We believe that after school transportation services should be incorporated in future bids for services.

Due to arguably fewer transportation options, geographically larger attendance areas, a greater lack of infrastructure such as sidewalk systems and street lighting, it is suggested that neighbor island schools be given greater consideration for implementation of after school transportation.

School complexes should be active participants in the development of arrangements for the provision of transportation services for students participating in after school activities.

If funding is made available to the impacted programs, the Department of Education is ready to put out bids for service that will include provision of after school transportation.

## Sanctioned After-School Activities

**Athletics** – Below is a general listing of public high school sports. The Start Date is the approximate first day of practice and the End Date is the approximate last day of the State Tournament for the sport.

Sport	Boys/Girls		JV/SV		Start Date	End Date
Bowling	x	x	x	x	August 6	November 9
Cross Country	x	x	x	x	August 6	November 10
Football	x		x	x	July 30	November 22
Air Riflery	x	x			August 6	October 30
Soft-Tennis	x	x			August 6	
Volleyball	x	x	x	x	August 6	November 17
Pep Squad						
Boys Basketball	x		x	x	November 12	February 23
Paddling	x	x			December 3	March 2
Soccer	x	x	x	x	October 29	February 16
Softball		x	x	x	October 15	February 2
Swimming	x	x	x	x	November 19	February 23
Tennis, Girls JV		x	x			October 9
Wrestling	x	x	x	x	November	March 2
Pep Squad	x	x			December 3	March 3
Baseball	x		x	x	February 11	May 18
Girls Basketball		x	x	x	February 4	May 17
Golf	x	x	x	x	January 7	May 15
Judo	x	x	x	x	February 4	
Tennis	x	x		x	January 19	May 11
Track and Field	x	x	x	x	January 28	May 11

**Non-Athletic Co-Curricular Activities, Year Round**

Activity	Inter/Middle	High School	Frequency of Meetings
Tutoring	x	x	
Intramural Sports	x		
Band	x	x	
Chorus		x	
Student Government	x	x	
National Honor Society		x	
Pacific Asian Affairs		x	
Key Club		x	
Math Club		x	
Science Club		x	
Chess Club		x	
Speech Club		x	
FFA		x	
Foreign Club		x	
Drama	x	x	
Cheerleading	x		
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Grant	x		