

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 03 2017

RE: S.B. No. 423  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 423 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to prohibit schools from denying a student a meal solely for failure to pay.

More specifically, this measure prohibits denying a meal solely for failure to pay:

- (1) Within the first thirty days of the first semester of a school year while the student's application for free or reduced lunch is being processed; or
- (2) Within one week after a student's meal fund account reaches a zero or negative balance.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Education, Hawaii State Teachers Association, Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, Hawaii Children's Action Network, and seventeen individuals.

Your Committee finds that forty-seven percent of public school students in Hawaii qualify for the Department of Education's free and reduced lunch program. Your Committee notes



that gaps in coverage for students in the program can arise due to delays in processing applications or the financial situation of the student's family. Your Committee recognizes that chronically hungry students suffer significant hardships that can result in achievement gaps, loss of concentration, illness, increased absenteeism, behavioral problems, depression, and misdiagnosed learning disorders. Your Committee believes that this measure will ensure that students are not denied a meal solely for failure to pay due to delays in processing applications for free or reduced lunch or for temporarily low or negative meal fund account balances. This issue has been brought before the Legislature previously, and given the inconsistency in school-level policies as to how parents are informed of meal fund account balances and the point at which students are denied meals, your Committee believes statutory action is required.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring the Department of Education to submit a report to the Legislature on the issue of students being denied a meal solely for failure to pay, which is to include:
  - (A) The number of meals that have been denied because of a zero or negative balance in a student's meal fund account;
  - (B) The number of students that have been denied a meal because of a zero or negative balance;
  - (C) The reasons for the zero or negative balance and subsequent meal denial;
  - (D) Steps the department is taking to make the process of paying for meals easier;
  - (E) Procedures for notifying parents of low or negative balances, including when and how they are notified; and
  - (F) The standard operating procedure for low or negative balance notification and subsequent meal denial; and



- (2) Making technical nonsubstantive changes for the purposes of style and clarity.

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. 423, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 423, S.D. 1.

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



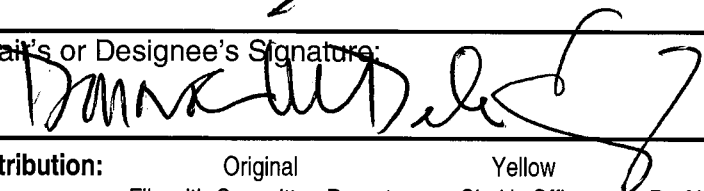
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JILL N. TOKUDA, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Ways and Means**  
**WAM**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 423</b>	Committee Referral: <b>EDU, WAM</b>	Date: <b>2/23/17</b>		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
TOKUDA, Jill N. (C)	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (VC)	/			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	/			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	/			
HARIMOTO, Breene	/			
INOUE, Lorraine R.				/
KAHELE, Kaiali'i	/			
RIVIERE, Gil	/			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	/			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	/			
WAKAI, Glenn				/
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:             Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes