

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2017

RE: S.B. No. 423

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, 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 denying a student a meal for the first:

- (1) 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) Week that the student's meal fund balance is zero or negative.

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

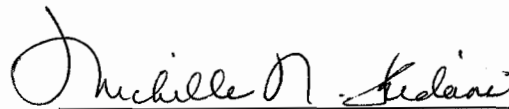
Your Committee finds that forty-seven percent of public school students in Hawaii qualify for the Department of Education's free and reduced lunch program. Your Committee further finds that gaps in coverage for individual students in the program can arise due to delays in processing applications or the financial situation of the student's family. Your Committee additionally finds that chronically hungry students suffer significant hardship compared to their classmates, and can



experience achievement gaps, concentration loss, illness, increased absenteeism, behavioral problems, depression, and misdiagnosed learning disorders. This measure will ensure that students qualifying for the free and reduced lunch program will not go hungry due to delays in application processing or missed payments.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 423 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,



MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 423	Committee Referral: EDU, WAM	Date: 2-13-17		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)	/			
KAHELE, Kaiali'i (VC)	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.				/
ESPERO, Will	/			
RIVIERE, Gil				/
TOTAL	3			2
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