



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/10/2017
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0423 RELATING TO STUDENT MEALS.

Purpose of Bill: Prohibits denying a student a meal for the first: (1) 30 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. Authorizes the Department of Education to adopt rules or policies on the collection of funds for negative student meal balances.

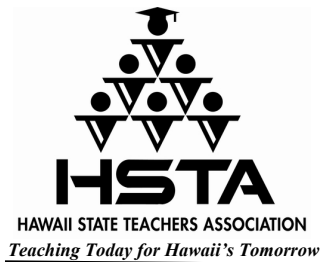
Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 0423, which allows a student to continue to receive meals for the first thirty days of the first semester, while the student's applications for free or reduced meals is being processed.

The Department requests an amendment to remove Section 1 (b) (1). Current USDA regulations allow a carryover of the student's eligibility from the previous year for up to 30 operating days or until a new application is processed. Meal applications are currently received by the Department via the school office, U.S. mail, and online. It would be difficult for the Department to monitor if a student has submitted a meal application.

The Department supports allowing a student to continue to receive meals within one week following his meal fund account reaching a zero or negative balance. This will ensure that no student shall be denied a meal for failure to pay.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 423 - RELATING TO STUDENT MEALS.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 423**, relating to student meals, **with suggested amendments**.

In Hawai'i, food insecurity is one of the most pressing manifestations of overall socioeconomic inequality. Over 70,000 public school students eat free or reduced-price meals in our state, though only 40 percent eat school breakfasts. Hawai'i ranks 47th in school breakfast participation rates among qualifying students.

Congress established the National School Lunch Program, in 1946, and School Breakfast Program, fully implemented in 1975, to ensure that low-income students are properly nourished. Yet, many local families struggle to provide nutritious meals for their children. According the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, in Hawai'i, 15.3 percent of families experience food insecurity, meaning that "they do not always know how they will afford their next meal." An additional 3.9 percent are "very low food secure" families that have significantly reduced food consumption because of economic hardship.

At the same time, 47 percent of all public school students qualify for the Department of Education's free and reduced lunch program, a number that has risen by 20 percent since 2007 because of economic decline and cost of living increases. Low-income students are, again, less likely to receive adequate meals at home, leaving them without the calories necessary to perform basic academic tasks. Cases of chronic hunger can lead to achievement gaps, concentration loss, illness, increased absenteeism, behavioral problems, depression, and misdiagnosed learning

disabilities. Thus, providing a decent meal for our impoverished children—or in this case, ensuring that those meals aren't unnecessarily taken away—is a moral and educational imperative.

To make this measure more effective, however, we suggest an amendment to proposed subsection §302A-404(b)(2) to read: “Within **two weeks** following a student’s meal fund account reaching a zero or negative balance.” Many parents, particularly from low-income families, are paid on a two-week cycle. Our requested amendment will prevent children whose balance runs out during the beginning of a pay cycle from being denied access to school meals, something that could be particularly important to families facing unexpected financial emergencies.

Hungry students cannot focus. To ensure that our students are well-fed and ready to learn, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



Hawaii
Children's Action Network
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

February 9, 2017

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **SB 423 – Relating to Student Meals**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229, February 10, 2017, 2:45 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB 423 – Relating to School Meals.

Hawaii has been ranked as the state where people are most likely to live paycheck to paycheck. With this income insecurity, often times families do not have the disposable income to pay for school lunches on schedule. **SB 423** will provide food security for numerous children until the family can qualify for free or reduced-price lunches or be able to deposit money into the child's account.

It is necessary to develop a "charge" program for these instances. Yet, according to the School Nutrition Association's 2016 State of School Nutrition Survey, 76% of school districts reported that their meal program had unpaid student meal debt at the end of the 2014-15 school year. The option some schools districts are choosing is to remove the co-pay for children receiving reduced price lunch or to offer universal free lunches for the entire school, these options provide an increase in enrollment in the program providing additional federal dollars and significant administrative cost savings. The debt taken on by the schools through HB 423 should be monitored and additional revisions to the Department of Education's policies considered in the future.

It is important for Hawaii's students to continue receiving meals:

- **Students who come to school hungry cannot focus, and children suffering from food insecurity are unable to grow to their full potential.** Undernourished children don't learn as fast or as well as nourished children. Children struggling with hunger are more susceptible to obesity & its health consequences. Children who struggle with hunger are sick more, recover slowly, & are hospitalized more frequently. Teens who regularly face hunger are more likely to be suspended & have difficulty getting along with others. (nokidhungry.com)

- **Hawaii Participation in School Meal Program:** As the economy faltered, Hawaii saw its numbers of free/reduced-price lunch-qualifying children rise. Children with family incomes below 130 percent of the poverty level receive free meals, and a family with a household income between 130 and 185 percent of the poverty level qualifies a student for a reduced-price meal. Today, 47 percent of Hawaii's public school children qualify for free and reduced price lunch, an increase of 20 percent since 2007. (www.hiappleseed.org/school-meals)

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2017 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 423 Relating to School Meals
Senate Committee on Education
Scheduled for Hearing Friday, February 10, 2017, 2:45 PM, Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **SB 423**, which is a commonsense way to reduce the frequency of students being denied meals at school.

No one wants to see a child go hungry, and we all know that a student can't learn on an empty stomach. However, as KHON reported in May 2015, at times keiki in our schools are denied meals. In the KHON case, an Oahu brother and sister's lunch trays were taken away after their school meal accounts showed negative balances. Instead, they had to watch all the other students around them eat lunch.

According to their mother, she had deposited funds into her children's school meal accounts, but it appears that the processing was delayed. In other cases, busy parents may forget to refill their keiki's accounts on time. Or parents may forget to pack their kids' lunches, or their children may forget to bring their lunches from home.

Just over half of DOE school's students come from families whose incomes are low enough to qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. But in the rush of the beginning of the academic year, it can take a few weeks for schools to process their meal applications. In the meantime, the students' parents may not be able to afford to pay full price for school meals.

That is why the proposals in SB423 make a lot of sense. By making sure that students are not denied schools meals "solely for failure to pay" during the first month of the school year while their free or reduced-price meal applications are being processed, nor in the first week after their meal account balances reach zero or below, we are helping avoid unfortunate scenarios like the one reported by KHON.

School cafeteria workers, many of whom chose their careers because they love children, dislike having to take meals away from children that they serve. Teachers and principals know that hungry students can be disruptive and won't be learning while their stomachs are growling. Parents are usually furious when they learn that their child was denied a meal at school, especially when an administrative delay was at fault.

While the financial challenges of school meal programs are real, the measures proposed in SB423 are an effective way to avoid denying meals to children due solely to issues with school meal application processing delays or account balances. The month-long and week-long grace periods are appropriate to ensure that school meal applications are processed and school meal accounts are replenished, respectively.

The United States Department of Agriculture, which administers the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, leaves school meal accounts policies to “local discretion.” According to a School Nutrition Association survey, almost half of districts across the nation had a formal policy, and over a quarter had an informal procedure, in place for dealing with students lacking funds to pay for school meals. It is reasonable and compassionate for our state to join them.

February 9, 2017

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Members of Education Committee

From: Maria Darrah

Subject: Support of SB423

Aloha! My name is Maria Darrah, and I am currently a junior at Kalaheo High School. I am in support of Senate Bill 423. I believe this bill would be very effective in school meal programs around Oahu.

At my school, there have been multiple cases of students going into a lunch line in the cafeteria, getting their lunch only to be declined at the register because they don't have money on their lunch account. Because of that they either have to put in spare money they have on them for that day or not eat. "The Department serves more than 100,000 meals daily during the school year" according to the Department of Education Nutritional Standards. Yet 15.3 percent of families in Hawaii experience food insecurity, meaning sometimes they wouldn't be able to pay for school lunches. Most families pay for free or reduced lunches if their income is very low on the poverty scale. But what about those families that have decent wages that can't afford a school lunch for their child because they are tight on money? Or parents who just forget that their child is out of money on their lunch account? That is where this bill would come in handy. To enable students to get a lunch even if they don't have money on their account.

A hungry student is not a productive student. You have a chance to stop that from happening. Mahalo for your time.

Relating to Free Lunch

Thursday, February 9, 2017

Support to S.B. NO 423

Aloha, my name is Evan Johnson, and I am currently a freshman at Kalaheo High School in Kailua. I'm in support of the Senate Bill 423, and I would like to ask the government and its officials to support it as well. If they don't have money on their account, students are denied lunch, even if they have a reduced lunch payment plan. Some people's only option for food might be school lunch, and limiting their access can create many issues for their health. Student's should be able to the availability to school foods for a certain amount of time, due to the fact that the government are creating and enforcing many nutrition plans.

Many political figures have taken steps in order to put into effect dietary campaigns to help promote good health. Providing students the opportunity to be able to purchase meals without payment can affect the school's income. However, it also will benefit the students in need and can benefit their performance in schools, at home attitude, and health.

In other states, cafeteria workers and admin serve students whose parents have a low income with free meals, while knowing that the school may never be reimbursed for these actions. Hawaii has always been known for sticking up for the younger kids in the state and providing a safe environment for them to grow up. Our state should continue this ongoing trend of supporting our your by giving those who can't afford lunch, an opportunity to do so. By passing this bill, students will continue to stay healthy and everything will remain and become stronger.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you support Senate Bill 423.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:52 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: laulani@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB423 on Feb 10, 2017 14:45PM

SB423

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 10, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laulani Teale, MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this measure. It is too easy to have an unpaid balance under the current system, and children are traumatized by small errors that should not affect them. Mahalo Laulani Teale

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February 8, 2017

To:

Chair Michelle N. Kidani

Vice Chair Kaiali'i Kahele

Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Daven Ruggles

Subject: Support of Senate Bill 423, Relating to Student Meals

My name is Daven Ruggles, I am a junior attending Kalaheo High School in Kailua. I strongly support SB 423 which Prohibits denying a student a meal for the first 30 days of the first semester of a school year while the student's application for free or reduced lunch is being processed.

A 2014 report, "Nutrition and Students' Academic Performance,"(Wilder Research) suggests that a lack of nutrients, such as zinc, protein, and vitamin B, negatively impacts a child's ability to learn. By preventing a student from obtaining lunch due to a lack of payment, a school could contribute to a student's difficulty in learning. As school is designated as a place of education, it is in a school's best interest to ensure a student is best prepared to receive this education. Thus, to be in agreement with its purpose, a school should guarantee lunch for all students, regardless if they can pay.

Similar programs to this bill ensure children do not go hungry at school. In Minneapolis, 96 school districts, including public schools, provide a lunch to children who can not pay, (Brooks, "Minnesota students: Don't forget your lunch money"). As previously stated, a school has the obligation to look out for the well being of their students, it would be in Hawaii's best interest to follow suite of other school districts to guarantee a quality education environment.

I sincerely hope you will be in agreement to support Senate Bill 423. Thank you for your time and consideration.

To: Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

From: Byers H. Na'ope
Hearing Date: Friday, February 10, 2017, 2:45p.m.
Conference Room 229

SUPPORT FOR SB 423 – RELATING TO STUDENT MEALS

This testimony is written in **support for SB 423 Relating to Student Meals**. Having timely access to food is an extremely important facet of our children's wellbeing and education. Well-nourished children perform better in school, for example, cognitively, emotionally, and socially. School meals help children to get the energy and nutrients that they need in order to function effectively.

In many instances, children and families rely on school meals. Although the prevalence of food insecurity varies from State to State and households with different demographic and economic characteristics, sadly food insecurity affects nearly 1 in 6 people in the U.S. This issue is further complicated when households with children are headed by a single woman or a single man.

Just as food insufficiency is concomitant with academic impediment and psychosocial dysfunction, so too are our teachers impacted. Teachers focus on their students' academic abilities, needs, interests, attitudes, and backgrounds. Teachers need to evaluate their effectiveness in the classroom setting, and their sense of engagement with teaching ability.

By effectively integrating school meals into our children's day, for as much as possible, we advance change. I support SB 423 and humbly thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Respectfully,
Byers H. Na'ope
475 Kinoole Street Suite 102 PMB 167
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Alohilani Zapata

Subject: Supporting SB 423, Relating to Student Meals

Aloha! My name is Alohilani Zapata, and I'm a senior at Kalāheo High School. I strongly believe in SB 423, and would like to respectfully ask for your support. So many students go hungry- more so in intermediate and high school each day on campus, and for many of them it's either not their choice or not their fault.

According to the DOE, in the 2015-16 school year out of the 172,763 students enrolled in schools in Hawai'i, 23,328 of them got free lunch and 17,266 of them got reduced lunch. It usually takes a while to get the results back... I personally have been denied lunch, a couple years in a row actually, because my mom said that I was accepted to receive free lunch and apparently the school didn't receive that same information. So, I suffered both embarrassment and a hungry stomach. Also, something else that hurts students is when the people in the cafe that are scanning our IDs wait until we have \$0. What the heck?!!! How is that fair to us? How were we supposed to know? You should have told us before, when we were getting low, not wait until it was too late and then tell us we can't eat.

According to USA Today, "Hawai'i is the most expensive state in the U.S. to live." All these parents out there try their hardest to make ends meet- living paycheck-to-paycheck. But sometimes that just isn't enough, and sometimes they are not able to or forget to put money into their child's school lunch account. Another thing to think about is that many parents are single parents now days. So, that makes it even harder on them. 35% of households are run by single parents, According to the Kids Count Data Center, "...children raised in single-parent households are more likely to drop out of school..." These kids already don't want to be there, and if you take their lunch away from them they're not going to want to be there any longer. Schools are here to give us students an education. In fact, it's required by law that we be in school so, I say stop giving the students more reasons to rebel. Lastly, the University of Minnesota states, "The food we eat give our bodies the "information" and materials they need to function properly." If you were to visit our school- a class really- after lunch then you would probably find some students with their heads down. I guarantee you that those students did not eat lunch.

In giving these students a grace period, in other words, you will not only be helping them, but their teachers and parents. We would just have to make sure that everyone works together to make sure everyone is informed correctly, the students are being helped, parents are being reminded, etc. So, I kindly urge the committee to please pass SB 423. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Also, thank you for your time and consideration.

Representative Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Representative Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Representative Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Representative Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Members of Senate Committee on Education

Support S.B. No. 423, Relating to Student Meals

Aloha, my name is Ysabella Reyes and I am currently a freshman at Kalaheo High school. I support Senate Bill 423 and hope that you as government officials will as well. If this bill isn't passed, it will restrict students, including those who are provided free or reduced lunch, to receive what may be their main meal of the day.

Currently some schools are allowed to deny their students to purchase school lunch if they don't have enough money on their card and will continue to reject them until they deposit more money. It is immoral that students are being denied a healthy lunch under the same roof that they are taught the importance of having a healthy diet. Schools should be required to provide grace periods and warnings so they can encourage their students to maintain their good health and not immediately punish them.

Thank you for your time and consideration for S.B. 423.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 8:28 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: ipoc.m.chang@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB423 on Feb 10, 2017 14:45PM

SB423

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 10, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Corine Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of SB 423. No child in Hawaii should ever be denied a meal in school because they don't have enough money. No child should ever go hungry, nor be embarrassed in front of their peers when they go up to the cafeteria cashier with their food and find out they don't have funds in their account. I am in support of SB 423, and ask that all our lawmakers support SB 423 as well. Mahalo Nui, Corine M Chang
Mountain View, Hawaii 96771 808-968-7192

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 5:35 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB423 on Feb 10, 2017 14:45PM*

SB423

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 10, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 4:43 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: choonjameshawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB423 on Feb 10, 2017 14:45PM

SB423

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 10, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Choon James	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SB423 SUPPORT Aloha, Our public school children should not go hungry. We must do our best to provide these basic needs. I believe that if we're careful and efficient with the funds and resources, we can mitigate this. Mahalo, Choon James
Reference: EDU, WAM SB 423 Status & Testimony RELATING TO STUDENT MEALS. Prohibits denying a student a meal for the first: (1) 30 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. Authorizes the Department of Education to adopt rules or policies on the collection of funds for negative student meal balances.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 8:22 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: zoercox@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB423 on Feb 10, 2017 14:45PM

SB423

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 10, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zoe Cox	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Representative Michelle N. Kidani, Chair Representative Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair Relating to Student Meals Thursday, February 10, 2017 Support for S.B NO. 423 All students should be able to receive lunch no matter what. In my opinion it is wrong of the school to deny any student lunch, especially when there forms for free and reduced lunch are in the process. Now I understand that students should pay if they are able to, but there should be a certain amount of days that students are still allowed to get lunch. For example, if they run out of money they have 30 days to add more money to their account, but they should still be able to receive lunch. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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**To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Members of Education Committee**

From: Hannah Francis

Subject: Support for SB423, Relating to Student Meals

I am the first Vice President of Kalaheo Higher School in Kailua, Hawai'i. I am in support of SB423, Relating to Student Meals, and respectfully ask for your belief in it, too. According to the Census Bureau's "supplemental poverty measure," one and six Hawai'i residents live in poverty. As of July 1, 2016, the eligibility for free or reduced lunch is a \$5,043 monthly income for an average family of five. For this low income rate, many families in the state of Hawai'i will be eligible for this lunch program.

30.3 million students receive free or reduced lunch at their public schools. For students who are in the process of getting their application approved or who don't have the funds at the moment are often denied school lunch. Not having enough food doesn't just mean that kids are hungry, but it also leads to childhood obesity. Students who aren't getting their free lunches typically rely on foods with extremely low nutritional content because it's what they and their families can afford.

If we allow students a week that the meal fund balance is zero or negative, with rules or policies on the collection of funds for negative student meal balances, then we can increase the rate of students who are eating at least two meals a day and getting their nutritional value. I am a strong believer that every child shouldn't be denied the affordable access to food. It would only be necessary to offer some kind of support for the less fortunate while school is in session, at least.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope that you would agree with me, and support SB423.

February 9th, 2017

Representative Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Representative Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Education Committee

Senate Committee on Education

From: Tia Vernon

Testimony in support to S.B. number 423 relating to student meals

_____ My name is Tia Vernon and I represent the students of Kalaheo high school. I am in support of the bill S.B. number 423 relating to student meals. Not many students have the money to always put money on their account when they run out. Even kids that get reduced lunch don't always have the money to put in their account at the beginning of the year. According to UNICEF, children account for nearly half of the world's extreme poor. This means that over 900 million, or 1 in 7 people, are still living in extreme poverty. It's not fair for the kids that live in poverty to have their lunch taken away just because they don't have money on their account. A school lunch may be the only meal a child living in poverty may get for the day.

There is also the fact that students who apply for free or reduced lunch have to wait for their application to be processed. According to the Fullerton School District Nutrition Services, it can take up to ten school days for an application to be processed. The time needed varies depending on the amount of applications received and problems with missing information. If there is missing information on the application, it has to be fixed before the actual process can be complete. If there is a problem with a child's application, it may be returned back to their house by mail. Sometimes, parents will be asked to return to the office in person. So, if a child has an incomplete application, it delays the process for them. It's not the child's fault if their application isn't processed by the time school starts. A student shouldn't have to go hungry just because their application isn't processed in time.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that students should not be denied lunch the first thirty of the semester while their application for free or reduced lunch is being processed. It's not fair to the students who are living in poverty to be denied a meal when it may be their only one for that day. The application process for free or reduced lunch may take longer than expected. I don't think it's right for a school to deny a student lunch if they have to wait for their application to be processed. All students should have the right to eat school lunch, even if they don't have money on their account. Thank you for listening to my testimony.

January 27, 2017

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele

And Members of the education and ways and Means committee

From: Austin Maglinti

Subject: support of Senate bill 423, relating to student meals

Aloha! My name is Austin Maglinti , And I am currently a senior at Kalaheo High School. I'm strongly in Support of Senate Bill 423, and I Would like you to support me in passing this bill.

According to project Hawaii Everyday 1 in 3 children go hungry each day Across the state of Hawaii , that's 40% of 180,000 students, and don't forget according to the city and county polls we continue to grow 2,000 students each year. Lets pass this Bill so NO child is left behind. An income for a family of three in the poverty level makes 42,902 a year to take care of their children. they don't need to stress the fact where they got to worry about the next meal there going to feed them. Please as a former child that lived on the poverty level, support me and feed these kids the meals they need during that 30 day period.

As many of us know sometimes times get hard and our parents can't always bring home a decent pay check. and it not only effects the older generation of the family but as well as us. in ways where now were not able to afford lunch for a week but with this bill it allows them to eat and have time to figure out the next move.

February 8, 2017

To: Chairperson Michelle Kidani
Vice Chair Kaiali'i Kahele
Members of the Education Committee

From: Zöe Carmack

Subject: Support of Senate Bill 423, Relating to Student Meals

Aloha, my name is Zöe Carmack, and I am currently a freshman at Kalaheo High School in Kailua. I'm in support of the Senate Bill 423, and I would like to ask for you as government officials to do the same. Currently in effect, students are denied lunch if they don't have any money on their account, even if their reduced lunch application is in effect. For some, this may be the only source of food they receive that day, and limiting their access can cause health issues. Since the government is implementing numerous nutrition campaigns, students should be able to have the availability to those foods for a limited period of time.

Michelle Obama and many other political figures have taken many steps in order to put into effect dietary campaigns to help promote good health. By providing students the opportunity to be able to purchase meals, without any payment for a given period of time, may affect the amount of income the school receives. Although this may be true, by not allowing students food, that could lead to the lack of energy to perform well in the classrooms or on test, leading to low test scores and less money in other areas of income for the school, not just meals.

In some states, they do actually serve students on low incomes without money in their accounts, while still knowing that they will not be reimbursed. Hawaii has always known for sticking up for their keiki and for providing a safe, comfortable place for their keiki to grow and thrive. Let's continue the ongoing trend of supporting our youth by allowing those who can't afford it have the access to the meals that the school provides. By passing this bill, students will continue to stay nutritious, and their knowledge will remain the same and become stronger.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope you will support Senate Bill 423.

February 8, 2017

To: Chairperson Michelle Kidani
Vice Chair Kaiali'i Kahele
Members of the Education Committee

From: Zöe Carmack

Subject: Support of Senate Bill 423, Relating to Student Meals

Aloha, my name is Zöe Carmack, and I am currently a freshman at Kalaheo High School in Kailua. I'm in support of the Senate Bill 423, and I would like to ask for you as government officials to do the same. Currently in effect, students are denied lunch if they don't have any money on their account, even if their reduced lunch application is in effect. For some, this may be the only source of food they receive that day, and limiting their access can cause health issues. Since the government is implementing numerous nutrition campaigns, students should be able to have the availability to those foods for a limited period of time.

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Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope you will support Senate Bill 423.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 2:04 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: mac3@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB423 on Feb 10, 2017 14:45PM*

SB423

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for EDU on Feb 10, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan N. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Committees on Education and Ways and Means

Relating to Student Meals

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Support for S.B. NO 423

Aloha Senators, my name is Isabella Hartline and I am a freshman and the recording secretary at Kalaheo High School. I am in support for Senate Bill #423 and would like you all to vote the same. Currently without this bill, students at schools are denied lunch because they have no money in their account. For some student, they may just be lazy, but for most of the students that don't have enough money, they are not able to pay and that may be their only meal for the whole day.

There are some families that can't afford to put loads of money into their lunch account constantly. These families may have problems with feeding everyone at home as well. If a student who genuinely needs help is denied the daily nutrition they need, then health risks will increase. Here in Hawai'i, we always talk about eating healthy and providing for our children, if that is true, this bill should enable for kids who need help a longer time period to eat.

Statistically, one in seven people in Hawaii struggle with hunger. One in four children/students struggle with hunger. Only 43% of those who are signed up for free or reduced-price lunches are eating the provided breakfast. All of these kids are eligible for other critical meals, but too many are missing out. If this bill is passed, these students will be provided with more food and will stay healthy.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will support S.B.423.

Senate Education Committee(EDU):
Representative Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Representative Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means(WAM):
Representative Chair Jill N Tokuda,Chair
Representative Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Relating to School Lunches

February 7, 2017

Subject: Support of Senate Bill 423,

Aloha. My name is Madi Maronde, I am a freshman at Kalaheo High School in Kailua. I truly believe in SB 423 potential and that it would be a great success. Currently, if students do not have money in their lunch account they are not allowed to purchase lunch, no matter how hungry they are. Even if students are under the free and reduced lunch they are still restricted from purchasing lunches if they don't have enough money. Since the government has many nutrition campaigns students getting lunch should be part of them.

In Hawaii 1 in 7 people suffer from hunger. By allowing students to purchase lunches with no money in their account, this number could be reduced. Many schools are suffering from underfunding for cafeterias. By allowing students with no money in their accounts to purchase lunches still, schools could receive more money. Food is necessary for students to perform well and could raise school's test scores.

Certain States serve lunches without being reimbursed. Hawaii has been known for supporting our Keiki and allowing them to live safe and successful lives. It's time to continue supporting our Keiki by providing them lunch, no matter their account balance. By passing this bill students will be able to remain healthy and grow both mentally and physically.

Mahalo for your time and efforts, I truly hope you will support Senate Bill 423.