

JAN 17 2020

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL LUNCH REFORM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that proper nutrition is
2 an important part of a student's healthy learning environment.
3 As such, the removal or refusal of a student's lunch due to the
4 inability to pay creates an unhealthy learning environment for
5 the student.

6 The purpose of this Act is to minimize the situations where
7 a student may be denied a school meal because of the student's
8 inability to pay.

9 SECTION 2. Section 302A-404, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "~~§302A-404~~ School meals [-]; report. (a) School meals
12 shall be made available under the school meals program in every
13 school where the students are required to eat meals at school.

14 (b) No student shall be denied a meal solely for failure
15 to pay:

16 (1) Within the first [~~twenty-one~~] thirty days of the first
17 semester of a school year while the student's



1 application for free or reduced lunch is being
2 processed; or

3 (2) Within [~~seven~~] thirty days after a student's meal fund
4 account reaches a zero or negative balance.

5 (c) A school may not permit public identification or
6 stigmatization of the student due to inability to pay for a
7 school meal, such as by requiring a wristband or hand stamp.
8 The student also may not be required to perform chores or
9 activities that are not required of students generally, or
10 dispose of food after it has been served to the child.

11 [~~(e)~~] (d) The department may adopt rules or policies
12 governing the collection of funds for student meal accounts with
13 a negative fund balance; provided that no rule or policy shall
14 prohibit feeding a student as required pursuant to subsection
15 (b).

16 (e) Any communication related to outstanding credit must
17 be directed to the student's parent or guardian. A student may
18 be required to deliver a letter regarding outstanding credit
19 that is addressed to a parent or guardian if the letter is not
20 distributed to the student in a manner that stigmatizes the
21 student.



1 (f) The department of education shall submit a report to
2 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
3 of the regular session of each year on the prevalence of
4 students being denied a school meal solely for failure to pay
5 and any actions taken by the department of education or
6 individual schools to address this issue. The report shall
7 include:

8 (1) The number of meals that have been denied because of a
9 zero or negative balance in a student's meal fund
10 account;

11 (2) The number of students who have been denied a meal
12 because of a zero or negative balance;

13 (3) The reasons for the zero or negative balance and
14 subsequent meal denial;

15 (4) Steps the department is taking to make the process of
16 paying for meals easier;

17 (5) Procedures for notifying parents of low or negative
18 balances, including when and how they are notified;
19 and

20 (6) The standard operating procedure for low or negative
21 balance notification and subsequent meal denial.



S.B. NO. 2264

AC. Ruth Cogan



S.B. NO. 2264

Report Title:

Department of Education; School Meals; Free or Reduced Lunch;
Students; Appropriation

Description:

Increases the number of days by which students have to apply for free or reduced lunch and to replenish the student's meal fund. Requires the department of education to report to the legislature regarding the number of students who are denied meals based on the inability to pay. Appropriates funds to the special school lunch fund.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

