

MAR 11 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND STATE PUBLIC CHARTER
SCHOOL COMMISSION TO PRIORITIZE THE HIRING OF DEDICATED
STAFF TO MANAGE FEDERAL SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, access to school meals are an important part of a
2 child's health and well-being at school; and
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4 WHEREAS, certain federal programs provide aid for the
5 provision of free and reduced meals for students, such as the
6 United States Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch
7 Program; and
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9 WHEREAS, it is therefore imperative that the Department of
10 Education and State Public Charter School Commission fully
11 utilize every federal program that provides free and reduced
12 meals for students; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's school foods
15 services branch, which manages the National School Lunch
16 Program, provides administrative and operational meal support
17 for public schools but not state charter schools; and
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19 WHEREAS, recent experiences have demonstrated that public
20 and state charter schools in rural areas and on the neighbor
21 islands require additional staff to support the National School
22 Lunch Program initiatives, promote effectiveness at the local
23 level with parents and teachers, and improve efficiency by
24 eliminating the delay in communication with pertinent school
25 personnel; and
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27 WHEREAS, as an example, schools such as Kahakai Elementary
28 School, Kealakehe Intermediate School, and Konawaena High School
29 in the County of Hawai'i were unable to sufficiently utilize
30 federal school meal program benefits due to staffing shortages
31 and considerable physical distance between school campuses; and
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33 WHEREAS, the staffing and logistical challenges faced by
34 these schools in the administration of federal school meal
35 programs have been exacerbated by federal rules that disallow or



1 limit the use of volunteers and other mitigation efforts pursued
2 by schools that lack dedicated staff to manage federal school
3 meal programs; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
7 that the Department of Education and State Public Charter School
8 Commission are urged to prioritize the hiring of dedicated staff
9 for each school campus to manage federal school meal programs,
10 including the National School Lunch Program; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
13 requested to seek federal funding, from sources including the
14 United States Department of Agriculture, for purposes of hiring
15 dedicated staff for each public school campus to manage federal
16 meal programs; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
19 requested to submit a report of its findings and
20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
21 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
22 the Regular Session of 2023; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and
26 Executive Director of the State Public Charter School
27 Commission.
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. K. A.", written over a horizontal line.