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

Date: 02/05/2021

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1287 RELATING TO THE FOOD SERVICES BRANCH.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of education food services branch to coordinate with the principals and vice principals of department schools to determine which school meal program offered by the USDA is the best fit for the student body and campus of each school.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) would like to provide comments for SB 1287.

The Department's School Food Services Branch currently consults with Complex Area Superintendents and their respective schools' leadership to determine which federal meal program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) best fits their schools' needs. School food service is a critical safety net for many of our students; thus, the Department aims to take advantage of the flexibility offered by the USDA Child Nutrition Program to best meet the unique needs of each school and its student body.

The School Food Services Branch does not consider prior participation in a program as a limiting factor when assessing the implementation of a meal program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

