
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 302A-404, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "**§302A-404 School meals[-]; universal free school lunch.**

4 (a) School meals shall be made available under the school meals
5 program in every school where the students are required to eat
6 meals at school.

7 (b) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the
8 department shall serve one school lunch to any requesting
9 student at no cost to the student each school day, regardless of
10 a student's eligibility for participation in the federal
11 National School Lunch Program. Free school lunch shall meet the
12 meal requirements for lunches established pursuant to title 7
13 Code of Federal Regulations section 210.10.

14 ~~(b)~~ (c) No student shall be denied a meal solely for
15 failure to pay[÷



1 ~~(1) Within the first twenty one days of the first semester~~
2 ~~of a school year while the student's application for~~
3 ~~free or reduced lunch is being processed; or~~

4 ~~(2) Within~~ within seven days after a student's meal fund
5 account reaches a zero or negative balance.

6 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) The department may adopt rules or policies
7 governing the collection of funds for student meal accounts with
8 a negative fund balance; provided that no rule or policy shall
9 prohibit feeding a student as required pursuant to ~~[subsection]~~
10 subsections (b) [-] and (c).

11 (e) It is the intent of this section not to jeopardize the
12 receipt of any federal aid and to the extent, and only to the
13 extent necessary to effectuate this intent, the governor may
14 modify the strict provisions of this section, but shall promptly
15 report any such modification with the governor's reasons
16 therefor to the next succeeding session of the legislature for
17 review."

18 SECTION 2. Section 302A-405, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

20 "(a) [The] Except as provided in section 302A-404(b), the
21 price for school meals shall be set by the department to ensure



1 that moneys received from the sale of the meals shall be [~~not~~
2 no less than one-half of the cost of preparing the meals. The
3 prices for school meals may be adjusted annually based on the
4 previous year's costs rounded to the nearest five cents;
5 provided that the department by rule shall provide a lower rate
6 or free meals to children based on their economic need."

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
11 year 2024-2025 for the total plate costs associated with
12 providing universal free school lunches in department of
13 education schools as required by this Act after federal funding
14 has been accounted.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
16 of education for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

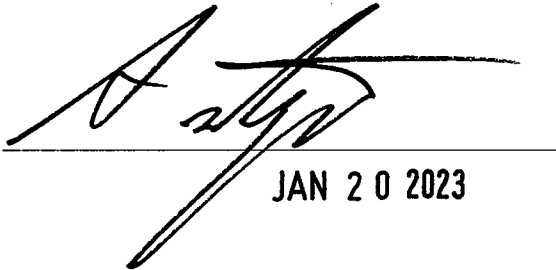
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H.B. NO. 540

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 20 2023



H.B. NO. 540

Report Title:

Universal Free School Lunches; DOE; Appropriation

Description:

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, requires the department of education to provide free lunch to all enrolled students. Appropriates funds.

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

