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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
FOR FOOD SERVICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for  
2 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4           SECTION 2. The legislature finds that the department of  
5 education is required to provide meal service for its students  
6 and staff. The department provides approximately twenty  
7 thousand school breakfasts and eighty thousand school lunches on  
8 a daily basis to students and staff across the State. However,  
9 the department of education has accumulated a deficit of more  
10 than \$20,000,000 for its food service operations, which is  
11 largely due to inflationary cost increases. In the 2022-2023  
12 school year, more than eighty per cent of the department's food  
13 costs increased by forty-two per cent, resulting in the need for  
14 additional funds.

15           For many students, a school meal is their only regular  
16 source of food for their growing bodies and minds. School meals



1 are required to follow strict federal food safety and nutrition  
2 guidelines, which ensure quality meals. The department of  
3 education plays a vital role in the health and well-being of  
4 youth in the State's communities.

5 While students and staff are required to pay for their  
6 meals, Title I students are provided meals free of charge.  
7 However, because school meals are critical for student  
8 development, students are not denied meals due to a lack of  
9 payment.

10 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to make an emergency  
11 appropriation to the department of education for its food  
12 service fiscal deficit and to continue to provide public school  
13 students with high-quality, nutritious meals.

14 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
15 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and  
16 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined  
17 that the general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-  
18 2024 has already been exceeded by \$                    or                    per cent.  
19 The appropriations contained in this Act will cause the state  
20 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be  
21 further exceeded by \$                    or                    per cent. This



1 declaration takes into account the additional general fund  
2 appropriation authorized for fiscal year 2023-2024 in this Act  
3 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
4 ceiling are that:

- 5 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
6 serve the public interest; and
- 7 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
8 addressed by this Act.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 to  
12 provide funding for the department of education to cover its  
13 food service operations.

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

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

DOE; Emergency Appropriation; Food Service Operations; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded

**Description:**

Makes an emergency appropriation to the Department of Education for its food service operations. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

