

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 03/02/2023

**Time:** 02:30 PM

**Location:** 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0540, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, requires the department of education and public charter schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 0540, HD1, but provides comments and concerns.

The school meal program operates in each of the Department's non-charter schools, offering meals to its students in elementary through high school. The Department has observed higher than normal negative balances across the state for School Year 2022 – 2023. As of December 2022, the negative balance is approximately \$100,000 statewide.

The Department understands the importance of child nutrition and its role in improving overall student health and agrees that children should have adequate meals provided to them, including lunch. It supports serving one school lunch to any requesting student at no cost each school day in every school where the students are required to eat meals at school if the Department receives funding to subsidize what is not received through Federal claim reimbursements.

The Department disagrees with directing the appropriation amount to the Hawaii Child Nutrition Programs. It should be appropriated to the Department's School Food Services Branch which manages the school food program operations and the state funding for the Department's non-charter schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
March 2, 2023

The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB540 HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB540 HD1**, which, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, requires the department of education and public charter schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students. Appropriates funds.

Malnutrition in children can cause a developmental delay and may worsen or cause a developmental disability. Members of the Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) community are disproportionately lower income, and any programs designed to relive financial pressure from families will also benefit our community. Families with parents or children who have I/DD but do not qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch can still have their financial need met through this program.

Children who attend schools under the Hawai'i Department of Education deserve access to healthy and filling lunches. This measure will ensure that all families who need aid, including I/DD community members, will be able to make sure their children get the food they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB540 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



CATHY K. IKEDA  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)**

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

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FOR: HB 540 HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION  
DATE: March 2, 2023  
TIME: 2:30 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Finance  
ROOM: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

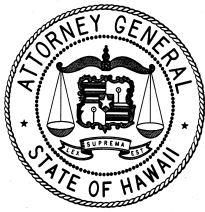
The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on **HB 1223 HD1** which requires the department of education and public charter schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. Appropriates funds.

The Commission deeply appreciates the support to provide free breakfast and lunch to all public school students including public charter school students. We agree that public charter school students should be provided the same as their fellow public school students in the Department public schools, however, unlike our Department public schools, not all public charter schools are participants in the National School Lunch program (NSLP). Due to operational and fiscal barriers of this federal program, many of our public charter schools do not have the personnel, nor facilities, or access to vendors that can meet the strict requirements of the NSLP. Currently only 21 of our 37 public charter schools participate in the NSLP.

Additionally, as the Commission is not structured like the Hawaii Department of Education, the Commission also does not have the capacity to manage such a program for all public charter schools. This is a fundamental difference in the way the public charter school system is structured. The Commission is more akin to a regulatory agency and not one that can duplicate the structures of the Hawaii Department of Education to support and manage such a program. We would ask that the Commission and its public charter schools be given additional time to

work with the Hawaii Department of Education and other associated agencies to find possible solutions to this problem of ensuring that all public charter schools students can be provided free breakfast and lunch.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 540, H.D. 1, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**DATE:** Thursday, March 2, 2023

**TIME:** 2:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 308

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Anne T. Horiuchi, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

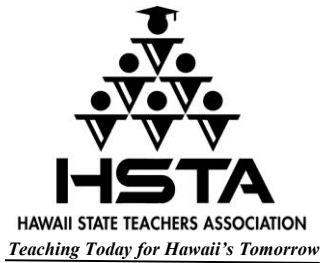
The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

The purposes of this bill are to require the Department of Education (DOE) and public charter schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, and to appropriate a yet unspecified amount of funds.

In four instances, the bill mistakenly refers to "lunch" in provisions concerning school breakfasts. Because different regulations apply to school breakfast and lunches, the Department respectfully recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

- (1) Page 1, line 12: replace "lunch" with "breakfast".
- (2) Page 1, line 13: replace "lunches" with "breakfasts".
- (3) Page 3, line 9: replace "lunch" with "breakfast".
- (4) Page 3, line 10: replace "lunches" with "breakfasts".

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



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
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## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 540, HD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 540, HD1**, relating to education. This bill, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, requires the department of education and public charter schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students. Appropriates funds.

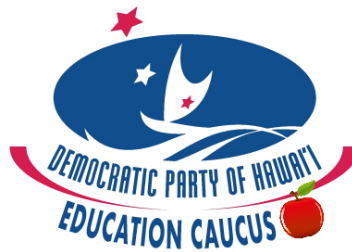
Student success demands a nourished body and mind. Too often, our children come to school hungry or without access to quality medical care, leaving them lurching through the school day, rather than learning instructional content.

In Hawai'i, food insecurity is one of the most pressing manifestations of overall socioeconomic inequality. Over 70,000 public school students eat free or reduced-price meals in our state, though only 40 percent eat school breakfasts. Hawai'i ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in school breakfast participation rates among qualifying students.

As noted in the bill, the Department of Education estimates that as many as 15,000 students each year are considered "gap" and come from gap families who do not qualify for the National School Lunch Program, but struggle with food insecurity nonetheless. **This bill seeks to help provide free lunches to all enrolled students, thus will prevent any child from not being able to eat lunch, or being stigmatized for not having enough funds on their account to pay for lunch as well.**

Cases of chronic hunger can lead to achievement gaps, concentration loss, illness, increased absenteeism, behavioral problems, depression, and misdiagnosed learning disabilities. Thus, providing a decent meal for our impoverished children is a moral and educational imperative.

For the sake of our students' wellness, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



## HOUSE BILL 540, HD1, RELATING TO EDUCATION

MARCH 2, 2023 · HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE ·  
CHAIR REP. KYLE YAMASHITA

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 540, HD1, relating to education, which, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, requires the Department of Education to provide free lunch to all enrolled students.

Hungry children can't learn.

A recent study released by the National Bureau of Economic Research focused on the federal National School Lunch Program's Community Eligibility Provision, which allows schools where many students qualified for free or reduced-price meals to provide a free meal to all students. The study examined whether the provision of schoolwide free meals through the Community Eligibility Provision impacted school suspension rates and **estimated that the chances of being suspended multiple times fell in both elementary school and in middle school.**

Moreover, a 2021 study by the Brookings Institute found that schoolwide free meals improve math performance. This is further bolstered by research conducted by the Food Research and Action Center, which has noted that **students who participate in school breakfast programs have improved attendance, behavior, academic performance, and achievement.** Studies have



clearly demonstrated the link between school meals and student success, which is especially important as schools and educators continue to strategize how to combat the loss of opportunity to learn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, providing free school meals will improve overall health outcomes, both now and in the future. Thirty million students rely on schools to provide them with breakfast and lunch every day in the United States. Those who participate in the school meal program consume breakfasts and lunches of higher nutritional quality than nonparticipants and are more likely to eat fruits and vegetables. **Participation in the school breakfast program is associated with lower body mass index (BMI), lower probability of being overweight, and a lower likelihood of obesity.**

More Americans are sick than they are healthy: half of adults have diabetes or prediabetes; more than half of adults have cardiovascular disease; and 3 in 4 adults are overweight or obese. Healthcare costs account for 29 percent of state budgets and 28 percent of the federal budget. As the National Education Association has stated, through universal free school meals programs, “We can grow generations of healthy eaters and save our country billions.”

Notably, school meals cost less per student when more students participate in a free meal program. An article entitled in *Nutrients* entitled “Universal Free Meals Associated with Lower Meal Costs While Maintaining Nutritional Quality” found that **schools that participated in a universal meal program spent 67 and 58 cents less per lunch and breakfast**, respectively, while maintaining the same nutritional quality. Cost savings are especially important as many schools may face continuing budget cuts.

Nutrition is essential to academic success. This bill will ensure that Hawai'i's keiki are healthy and ready to reach their full potential.

**Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · [kriscoffield@gmail.com](mailto:kriscoffield@gmail.com)**



Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: House Committee on Finance  
Re: **HB 540, HD1 - Relating to Education**  
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference  
March 2, 2023, 2:30 PM

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of HB 540, HD1, relating to the education**. This bill requires the department of education and public charter schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students beginning in the 2023-24 school year.

Currently, students qualify for free lunch in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) if their families earn up to 130% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and for reduced-price lunch if their income is between 130% and 185% of the FPL.

**HCAN Speaks! Board of Directors**

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Especially with the FPL underestimating the true extent of poverty in Hawaii,<sup>1</sup> many families that pay the full price for school meals can't make ends meet. For example, a family of four that makes \$60,000 per year doesn't qualify for free or reduced-price lunch,<sup>2</sup> while the "bare-minimum costs of basic necessities" for that same family is more than \$100,000, according to *ALICE in Hawai'i*.<sup>3</sup> If that family has two students eating breakfast and lunch at school, they must pay about \$1,300 per year for those meals.

The case for universal free school meals is strong.<sup>4</sup> Schools benefit from reduced administrative burdens because they no longer need to collect school meal applications or meal payments. Students see better academic performance and nutrition. Currently 92 DOE schools and 14 charter schools already provide universal free breakfast and lunch,<sup>5</sup> as did all schools earlier in the pandemic, thanks to federal COVID funding.

We estimate that it would cost about \$19.2 million per year to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students, if there's no increase in participation. That's based on the free, reduced-price and paid student participation in school meals in Hawai'i during the 2018-19 school year<sup>6</sup> and the current school meal prices.

Mahalo the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo  
Director of Research and Economic Policy

<sup>1</sup> <https://hiappleseed.org/blog/official-poverty-data-obscures-reality-in-hawaii>  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/HealthAndNutrition/StudentHealthResources/Pages/FreeReducedLunch.aspx>  
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.auw.org/sites/default/files/pictures/ALICE%20in%20Hawaii%20-%202022%20Facts%20and%20Figures%20Full%20Report.pdf>  
<sup>4</sup> <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/forefront.20220504.114330/>  
<sup>5</sup> <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/HealthAndNutrition/StudentHealthResources/Pages/CEP.aspx>  
<sup>6</sup> <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/SchoolMealsReport2022.pdf>



# Food+ Policy Internship 2023

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

February 28, 2023

To: Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance

Subject: **HB540**, Relating to Education

Aloha,

Food+ Policy supports HB540, which would require the DOE *and* public charter schools to provide free lunch *and* breakfast.

This bill is critical because:

- 1 in 4 kids in Hawai'i go without enough nutritious meals at home.
- The federal requirement for free lunch is an income of \$44,850 for a family of 4--but we know that in Hawai'i our cost of living means families making far more than that also struggle.
- ALICE (asset limited, income constrained) households also struggle with paying for school lunch.
- No child should have to face stigma or bullying for accessing free lunch and breakfast.
- Universal free meals relieves schools' administrative burden of having to do school meal applications.

And most important: ALL KIDS deserve healthy, locally sourced, culturally appropriate meals!

Mahalo,

Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Policy Team

#fixourfoodsystem

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 1:07:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Megan Fox	Malama Kaua'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In the myriad of issues we choose to allocate funding to this time of year, there are few that seem more important to our future than ensuring the physical, emotional, mental, and educational well being of our keiki.

The current free and reduced income caps are not high enough to care for needy children in working class families. If we require them to be in school, than it is our kuleana to ensure they do not go hungry while they are there.

Additionally, the lessened administrative and operations burdens of operating a universal meals program (versus tracking paid meals and managing student financial accounts) will offset some of the increased costs, thus it is a worthwhile investment. This is one of the easiest things we can do to increase student performance and overall health.

Please consider making this vote for our keiki. Mahalo.



## HIPHI Board

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*Medical-Legal Partnership*  
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*Kaiser Permanente*

May Okihiro, MD, MS  
*John A. Burns School of Medicine,*  
*Department of Pediatrics*

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD  
*State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender*

## HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a  
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health  
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: March 1, 2023

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: Support for HB540 HD1, Relating to Education

Hrg: Wednesday, March 2, 2023, at 2:30 PM, Conf Rm 308

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The Obesity Prevention Task Force (OPTF), a program of Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> (HIPHI), is in **strong support of HB 540 HD1**, which would provide free school meals for all students.

### Everyone Deserves Access to an Education and Food

Access to free public education is not given only to those who can least afford it. All students, regardless of income, are given the opportunity to attend school. The same should be true of the food served at school. Food is an absolute necessity for families and students regardless of income.

Discriminating against those whose income is just above the threshold or who have not successfully filled out the paperwork creates many adverse outcomes. Students are hungry, families miss or cannot afford lunch payments, or they must budget away from other areas of their life. Hawai'i needs to support all students, regardless of income, in receiving free meals.

### Current Subsidies Are Not Enough

Families with incomes above 133% of the federal poverty line require support but are not getting it.<sup>ii</sup> Families of 4 earning just \$42,000 per year are not eligible for free school meals but earn less than half of what is needed to be self-sufficient.<sup>iii</sup> These ALICE families do not qualify for free lunches despite having significant needs. 1 in 3 Hawai'i households are part of the ALICE population who need increased support.<sup>iv</sup> The arbitrary cut-off at 133% of the federal poverty line hurts children and does not accurately reflect the needs of our local families.

Ending the benefits cliff is necessary to stop penalizing families earning slightly more than the maximum benefits threshold. A family with two children loses thousands of dollars in benefits simply because their income is slightly more than the allowable amount.

### **Creating a Culture for All**

The stigma that exists for students and families who participate in the free and reduced lunch program is real and can lead to increased bullying, among other negative outcomes. It is not something that should exist. Judgment should not be placed upon parents or their children due to their financial situation.

In addition, running out of lunch money happens far too often to many families. The angst that is felt by a student whose balance is low is not something that any child should experience. Freeing all of our families from the burden of maintaining a lunch fund is a benefit to all of Hawai'i. This program will support all students to feel welcomed. Students cannot be ready to learn unless their basic needs are met. Ensuring that all children are being fed helps to meet those needs.

Please pass this bill to create a Hawai'i where all students have access to school meals.

Mahalo,



Nate Hix  
Food Access Policy and Advocacy Coordinator  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

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<sup>i</sup> Created by the legislature in 2012, the Obesity Prevention Task Force comprises over 60 statewide organizations and makes recommendations to reshape Hawai'i's school, work, community, and healthcare environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents. The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) convenes the Task Force and supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i.

Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

<sup>ii</sup>

<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/HealthAndNutrition/StudentHealthResources/Pages/FreeReducedLunch.aspx>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/annuals/2021/2021-read-self-sufficiency.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/forefront.20220504.114330/>



# HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Support for H.B. 540 – Relating to Education  
House Committee on Education  
Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 2:30PM

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Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support (with amendments) of **H.B. 540**, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Education (HIDOE) to cover the costs of school meals for all students.

Adequate nutrition is essential for children’s health, learning, and long-term development. However, there are still up to one in four children in Hawai‘i that regularly go without enough nutritious meals at home.<sup>1</sup> This means that for many children in Hawai‘i, school breakfast and lunch are the most nutritious meals they get in a day.

Federal eligibility for free or reduced price meals require that households earn below 130% of the federal poverty level (\$44,850 annually for a family of four in 2023). However, Hawai‘i’s costs of living require that a family with two adults and two school age children make between \$70,000 and \$80,000 to survive.<sup>2</sup>

The federal government covered the full cost of all school meals during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing much needed relief for families that were struggling in an unstable economy. In prior years, school meal debt would still occasionally reach as high as \$60,000 - \$70,000 by the end of the year. However, once meal fees returned post-pandemic, the Hawai‘i Department of Education (HIDOE) saw a rise in school meal debt unlike they had ever seen before, reaching approximately \$100,000 by December of 2022.

While we support the intent of this bill, we would like to encourage the committee to consider the following amendments to ensure that the policy has the greatest impact:

1. **Include DOE public schools.** Right now, the bill only applies to public charter schools, which excludes the 256 public schools run by HIDOE. We recommend changing the phrase “public charter school” in sections 1(a), 1(b), and 1(c) to either “Hawai‘i school participating in the USDA’s National School Lunch program,” or “Department of Education **and** public charter schools,” depending on the intent of the bill.
2. **Maximize federal reimbursements.** The USDA child nutrition programs offer provisions for certain eligible schools to receive larger reimbursements if they meet certain criteria, which would minimize the costs to the state. We offer the following suggestion, which could replace the text in section 1(f):

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<sup>1</sup> Feeding America estimates of Food Insecurity among the Child (<18 years) Population in Hawai‘i (2020)

<sup>2</sup> Aloha United Way. Hawai‘i Household Budgets for each county (2018)

*“It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Education and participating schools use all of the federal funds, federal programs and federal provisions available in carrying out this program.”*

3. **Consider making the program permanent.** California, Colorado, and Maine have created permanent state-funded universal free meals programs, eliminating the need for the legislature to revisit this issue year after year.

Thank you for considering these comments and suggested amendments in your deliberation of H.B. 540. As shown in the attached one page brief, six states have already passed policies to fund universal free meals for students, and 22 others (Hawai‘i included) are deliberating policies this year. We are pleased that the Hawai‘i legislature is paying attention to this important issue at a time when it is clearly gaining momentum across the nation. Thank you for your consideration of this bill.



# Healthy School Meals for All

## Universal Free School Meals: Cost Estimates for the State of Hawai'i

Universal free school meals allow all enrolled children in a school that operates the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program to receive free breakfast and lunch, regardless of their family's income.

Six states have already passed policies to offer free meals, and many others are prepared to follow suit. The Hawai'i legislature is currently considering the following bills that would do the same: [S.B. 154](#) and [H.B. 540](#).

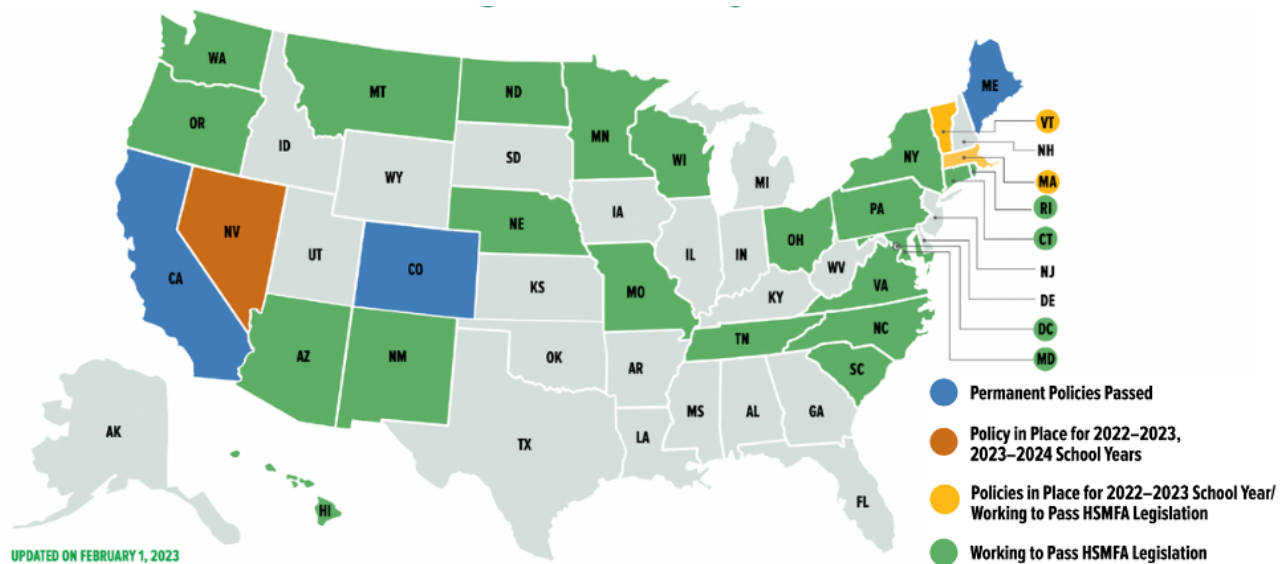


Image courtesy of the [Food Research & Action Center](#)

## Estimated State Costs<sup>3</sup>

	Pre-pandemic participation rates <sup>4</sup>	Projected participation rates <sup>5</sup>
<b>Breakfast only</b>	\$1,504,764.00	\$1,686,840.44
<b>Lunch only</b>	\$17,750,687.40	\$18,957,734.14
<b>Breakfast &amp; lunch</b>	<b>\$19,255,451.40</b>	<b>\$20,644,574.59</b>

<sup>3</sup> Lost revenue from co-pays only. Does not take into account any changes in administrative costs.

<sup>4</sup> Assumes SY 2018-19 average daily participation rates and SY2020-21 eligibility data for reduced price and paid students for all public and charter schools.

<sup>5</sup> Assumes a 6.8% increase for lunch and 12.1% increase for breakfast over SY18-19 average daily participation rates for reduced price, and paid students (USDA estimates).

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:57:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leanne Kami	Kohana Family Farms	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB540 which provides free breakfast and lunch at DOE and public charter schools. With 1 in 4 keiki experiencing food insecurity, we need to act now. It takes a village so let's work to ensure no child goes hungry.



To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Finance

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President  
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Thursday, March 2, 2023 2:30PM

RE: **HB540, HD1 Relating to Education- Support**

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB540, HD1**. This measure, as amended, requires the Department of Education and all public charter schools to provide breakfast and lunch, free of charge, to all enrolled students beginning school year 2023-2024 and appropriates funds.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity has grown exponentially negatively impacting our local families. With 1 in 6 keiki facing hunger<sup>i</sup> we need to invest in long-term solutions to support our most vulnerable populations. Providing free meals to Hawai'i's students is a step in the right direction.

Proper nutrition is vital for keiki growth and development and reduces the risk of various health conditions. This measure would ensure every student has access to healthy meals that they may otherwise be denied due to inability to pay or their household's income being even slightly over the income requirements to participate in the free or reduced lunch program. Providing meals for all students, regardless of household income, would create a sense of equality among students.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB540, HD1**.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hawaii>



**House Committee on Finance**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB540 HD1**

Thursday, March 2nd, 2023 2:30 p.m. Conference Room

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB540 HD1 which, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, requires the department of education and public charter schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students.

Nutrition is essential to all growing children and teenagers. It has been shown to vastly improve academic outcomes. However, there are still up to one in four children in Hawai'i that regularly go without enough nutritious meals at home. This means that for many children in Hawai'i, school breakfast and lunch are the most nutritious meals they get in a day. Being able to feed all students regardless of need at no cost to the students allows for us to remove the stigma of being on "Free/Reduced Lunch" programs, and also removes a huge burden from parents who will no longer have to worry about making sure their children are able to eat while at school.

Please support HB540 HD1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director

HAWAII  
**HUNGER  
ACTION**  
NETWORK

Aloha Harvest

County of Hawaii'i

Hawaii'i Alliance for Community-  
Based Economic Development

Hawaii'i Appleseed

Hawaii'i Children's Action Network

Hawaii'i Food Bank

Hawaii'i Good Food Alliance

Hawaii'i Public Health Institute

Kōkua Kalihi Valley  
Comprehensive Health Center

Lanakila Pacific

Malama Kaua'i

Maui Food Bank

The Hawaii'i Hunger Action Network is composed of advocates statewide dedicated to connecting communities and taking action to ensure all people in Hawaii'i have enough food to live healthy, dignified, productive lives.

**House Committee on Finance**  
**Thursday March 2, 2023 – 2:30 p.m.**  
**In Support: H.B. 540 – Relating to Education**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of H.B. 540 – Relating to Education, which would require the Department of Education's Hawaii Child Nutrition Program to provide free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

**School meals are one of the government's most powerful tools for delivering good nutrition to children.**

Ensuring all students have equal access to nutritious meals is one of the best ways to promote their educational and emotional development, reduce behavioral problems in the classroom, and increase positive academic outcomes in our schools. The National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program are the two largest child nutrition programs and a recent study found that U.S. children receive their healthiest meals at school through these programs.

**Universal free school meals are a lifeline to Hawaii's struggling families.**

For children specifically, Hawaii had the second highest-food insecurity rate in the nation in 2021, at about 25%. Offering universal free school meals is a lifeline to Hawaii's struggling families that make more than the income eligibility limit, but not enough to afford school meal prices. Federal eligibility requirements dictate that only students from households earning below 130% of the federal poverty level (\$44,850 annually for a family of four in 2023) are eligible for free school meals in Hawaii. Yet, a household survival budget for a family of four is more than \$90,000.

**A universal free school meals program is cost efficient and effective.**

Implementing universal free school meals:

- Alleviates a significant financial and administration burden for school nutrition staff which allows for more time to focus on preparing and serving healthy meals to students; and
- Means that schools no longer have to collect unpaid meal fees from families and no child is denied a meal based on the ability to pay.

**Local advocacy organizations estimate the cost of universal free school meals to be \$20.6M annually.**

**To lessen the cost of universal free school meals to the state** we encourage the Committee to amend sections 1 and 2 to include language that ensures that federal funds are leveraged as efficiently as possible. Such as: *"It is the intent of this section that the state and participating schools maximize the use of all available federal funds, federal programs and federal provisions (such as the Community Eligibility Provision) in carrying out this program."*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 1, 2023

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chairs  
House Committee on Finance

**RE: Testimony in support of HB 540, Relating to Education**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawaii Foodbank, **I support HB 540**, which would require the department of education and public charter schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students.

Hawai'i has the second highest rate of child food insecurity in the nation, with one in four children lacking comprehensive access to healthy, nutritious food. We also have the highest cost of living, and many families who struggle to make ends meet pay full price for their children's meals because they do not meet federal poverty limits. Universal school meals have been linked to improved student health and academic performance, and this bill would both improve keiki nutrition and take financial pressures off of Hawai'i families.

The Hawai'i Foodbank gathers donated, rescued, and purchased food and distribute it to those in need through our network of more than 200 agency partners. We are also committed to reducing child food insecurity, and we support 35+ school pantries as well as summer and after-school feeding programs. We strongly support this bill and its effort to ensure our keiki are healthy and ready to learn.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

Amy Miller Marvin  
President and CEO, Hawaii Foodbank



March 1, 2023

HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: SUPPORT of HB540 HD1

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee,

Nutrition is essential to all growing children and teenagers. It has been shown to vastly improve academic outcomes. However, **there are still up to one in four children in Hawai'i that regularly go without enough nutritious meals at home.** This means that for many children in Hawai'i, school breakfast and lunch are the most nutritious meals they get in a day.

Being able to feed all students regardless of need at no cost to the students allows for us to remove the stigma of being on "Free/Reduced Lunch" programs, and also removes a huge burden from parents who will no longer have to worry about making sure their children are able to eat while at school.

**Please support HB540** to provide free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Anna Camacho, co-founder



**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 9:54:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor



**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 7:16:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Kern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**March 1, 2023**

**Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,**

**My name is Sarah Kern and I am a resident of Lihue, Kauai and a teacher at Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School. I am testifying in strong support of HB540 to provide free lunch to all enrolled students beginning in the 2023-24 school year. Students should not have to worry about whether they have money in their lunch accounts each day. Teachers, administrators, and other school staff should not have to spend our own money providing meals for students when they don't have funds in their accounts. All students should have access to healthy meals at school every day so that they can have the nourishment they need to focus on their academic and personal growth. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.**

**Mahalo nui loa,**

**Sarah Kern**

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 8:11:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patrick Karjala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge our lawmakers to continue support for a free breakfast / lunch program for K-12 students! Learning should not be impeded by hunger, regardless of socioeconomic status. Let's feed our keiki for a better future!

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:52:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Hoang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent of three school age children in DOE schools, a former school baker, and currently employed at Hawai'i Foodbank, the state's Feeding America food bank partner.

One of the best, easiest, and most cost effective ways to ensure all our keiki arrive at school healthy and ready to learn is to provide universal school meals- breakfast and lunch. Not only does this eliminate any stigma associated with free/reduced price lunches, it helps families who are working hard to make ends meet ensure that their children get at least 2 hot meals Monday-Friday. As a single mom myself, I earn just more than the cutoff for reduced price lunch- yet far below the \$68,000 annually that is considered "low income" for a single person (my family falls below the "very low income" threshold).

How can working parents survive when the gap between benefits (in my case, the cutoff is approximately \$49,000 so my family does not qualify for any assistance) and the amount needed to actually live is so vast? I have a college degree, a good and stable job, and cannot afford the \$40/wk it takes to feed 3 children lunch at school daily. And there are far more parents without the advantages I have, who are also unable to access support services. 1 in 4 keiki in Hawai'i is at risk of hunger, and existing benefit programs are not sufficient to provide consistent access to meals for all families.

When I worked in a Title I school cafeteria, all keiki were able to access free meals due to pandemic era funding. It streamlined the feeding process and teachers reported fewer behavioral issues and found keiki were more awake, alert, and performing better in class. More keiki arrived early for breakfast, reducing the tardy rate. And nobody was turned away because their account balance was negative, and they were not held back from advancing to intermediate school because of unpaid lunch balances.

Children should never have to suffer because their parents cannot afford food. Current requirements for aid qualification are both woefully out of date and out of alignment with what the actual cost of living is for the majority of families, and we are harming an entire generation. Lack of proper nutrition now leads to poor school performance and attendance, damaging our keiki's chances of escaping poverty. It can stunt their physical growth, and increase the chances of developing chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, and hypertension. These consequences are known.

A failure on the part of the legislature to ensure a healthy future for our keiki has long and wide

reaching impacts. I implore you to give a voice to those who are not yet old enough to speak up on their own behalf, and to take this important step to protect and nurture them by providing free school meals to all.

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 9:58:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Here is a statement that all in Hawai'i should agree on: No keiki should go to bed hungry. Yet the shocking fact is that one out of every three children in the islands struggles with hunger. To put it another way, five children in an average classroom of 15 go to bed hungry each night in Hawai'i.

A hungry child can't learn. Sadly, many of Hawai'i's families can't afford to provide their children with a healthy breakfast and lunch each day. Students who skip breakfast or lunch have a harder time learning. Lack of access to nutritious food has been shown to lead to poorer educational attainment, poorer health outcomes and poorer future financial security.

Investing in universal, free school meals is an investment in our collective future. The keiki who grow up benefiting from this program are the next generation of leaders in the making. It's inexcusable that, each year, so many keiki go hungry in our state. Let's fix that. It's the right thing to do. Please support HB540 HD1.

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 10:46:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Samantha Zepeda Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is critical because 1 in 4 kids in Hawai'i go without enough nutritious meals at home. The federal requirement for free lunch is an income of \$44, 850 for a family of 4, however as a result of higher cost of living in the state of Hawai'i, this could exclude families that make a higher income but still struggle to make ends meet. Universal free meals relieves schools' administrative burden of having to do school meal applications. All kids deserve healthy, locally sources, culturally appropriate meals.

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 10:53:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing in SUPPORT of HB540 HD1.

Nutrition is essential to all growing children and teenagers. It has been shown to vastly improve academic outcomes. However, there are still up to one in four children in Hawai'i that regularly go without enough nutritious meals at home. This means that for many children in Hawai'i, school breakfast and lunch are the most nutritious meals they get in a day. Being able to feed all students regardless of need at no cost to the students allows for us to remove the stigma of being on "Free/Reduced Lunch" programs, and also removes a huge burden from parents who will no longer have to worry about making sure their children are able to eat while at school.

Please support HB540.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 11:42:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!



**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 11:56:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 12:42:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
brandi corpuz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Brandi Corpuz and I support HB 540 and I hope and pray you will too. Our economy is weak for most working families and providing free school lunches would help provide much needed nutrition for all of our children. It would also help many of our struggling families who dont recieve subsidies yet cant afford any extra expenses. As one of the most wealthy states with the highest cost of living our people deserve to have assistance in some way. This bill is well needed and it is on you to support this much needed help for our local families. If you dont pass this bill some of our children could go hungry and thats not ok.

Sincerely, Brandi Corpuz

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 1:16:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Nabeshima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this Bill. It's very important to our communities across this STATE. They way food, rent, and everything that's happening here COSTS are going up and it's not STOPPING. Even if you do have a good job we are still struggling. Remember that bill No Kids Left Behind this bill should have been in that too Please Kako'o OUR Commuities ALOHA

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 1:24:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
LaVada Beard-Holdener	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

Here is a statement that all in Hawai‘i should agree on: No keiki should go to bed hungry. Yet the shocking fact is that one out of every three children in the islands struggles with hunger. To put it another way, five children in an average classroom of 15 go to bed hungry each night in Hawai‘i.

A hungry child can’t learn. Sadly, many of Hawai‘i’s families can’t afford to provide their children with a healthy breakfast and lunch each day. Students who skip breakfast or lunch have a harder time learning. Lack of access to nutritious food has been shown to lead to poorer educational attainment, poorer health outcomes and poorer future financial security.

Investing in universal, free school meals is an investment in our collective future. The keiki who grow up benefiting from this program are the next generation of leaders in the making. It’s inexcusable that, each year, so many keiki go hungry in our state. Let’s fix that. It’s the right thing to do. Please support HB540 HD1.

Mahalo for your time,

LaVada Beard Holdener

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 1:34:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of HB 540, HD 1.

One out of every three children in Hawaii experiences food insecurity.

Lack of access to nutritious food has been shown to lead to poorer educational attainment, poorer health outcomes and poorer future financial security.

Investing in universal, free school meals is an investment in our collective future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 1:48:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou!

Nutrition is essential to all growing children and teenagers. It has been shown to improve academic outcomes vastly. However, up to one in four children in Hawai‘i regularly go without enough nutritious meals at home. This means that for many children in Hawai‘i, school breakfast and lunch are the most nutritious meals they get in a day. Being able to feed all students regardless of need at no cost to the students allows us to remove the stigma of being on "Free/Reduced Lunch" programs and also removes a considerable burden from parents who will no longer have to worry about making sure their children can eat while at school.

We can even start farming programs in school areas, where children can grow food as part of the curriculum.

Please support HB540.

I appreciate your consideration,

Ezgi Green, Waialua

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 2:24:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Amiot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e kakou,

My name is Shannon Amiot. I built a mala program at Kako`o `Oiwī over the pandemic and grew food and starter plants for both the foodbank as well as local schools. I helped a classroom clean a pig, cooked the gandule beans we ate in the chili of the processed kalua pork, and planted trees with the intention to restore the estuary, improve sediment retention, and practice/teach biocultural farming.

Universal free school breakfast and lunch are a necessity for focus and learning. Really for any living being, but especially for children. 1 in 4 kids in HI go without enough nutritious meals at home. Without healthy food, we are disadvantaging the next generation... and setting ourselves up for failure as a national, regional, and global collective. Food availability and security are a detriment to ALICE AND middle-income families (as the prices of groceries rise exorbitantly). I work as a cashier for Foodland - Kaneohe now and fundamentally understand how these prices vary from those of the food I grew for myself and the community between 2020 and 2022.

No child should have to face stigma or bullying for accessing free lunch and breakfast. **All children deserve healthy, locally sourced, culturally appropriate meals.** I believe this bill could initiate the expectation from an early age that all people have a right to the necessities of life. That creating an interconnected system of social institutions to enable the above stipulations should be the goal of their generation. We have attained the Utopia of our forefathers and now we must believe we can do even better; that **we can set the frameworks for our children to thrive together** instead of falling into the same class resentments which have fostered despair and separation. Food is the best place to begin.

I beg you to promote hope. I beg you to support our children. As a citizen of Hawai`i, I would much rather my tax dollars go to the HB540 program than the tourism industry or "defense" from those who have never paid their fair share.

**HB-540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 2:25:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tatum Okamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

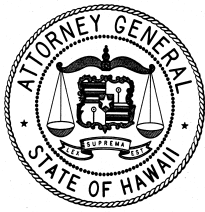
Aloha mai kakou,

My name is Tatum Okamoto, I am a student of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the eldest sister of three young girls, all of whom are currently attending DOE public schools. I fully support HB540 in supplying free school breakfast and lunches to students. In addition to providing healthy school lunch options. I'm sure many people within the legislature are aware that several families across the state are unable to afford nor provide consistent meals for their children. Growing up in Hawai'i I was made aware that some children were not as fortunate to come home to a meal everyday or a fridge full. Please make this a priority to help keep our children fed at least through the schools. I would even encourage an additional program to help households receive meals regularly when school is not in session. I want to see policymakers follow through with their jobs to support our keiki first in meeting their basic needs then, investing in our future through our children.

Mahalo,

Tatum Okamoto





**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 540, H.D. 1, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**DATE:** Thursday, March 2, 2023

**TIME:** 2:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 308

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Anne T. Horiuchi, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

The purposes of this bill are to require the Department of Education (DOE) and public charter schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, and to appropriate a yet unspecified amount of funds.

In four instances, the bill mistakenly refers to "lunch" in provisions concerning school breakfasts. Because different regulations apply to school breakfast and lunches, the Department respectfully recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

- (1) Page 1, line 12: replace "lunch" with "breakfast".
- (2) Page 1, line 13: replace "lunches" with "breakfasts".
- (3) Page 3, line 9: replace "lunch" with "breakfast".
- (4) Page 3, line 10: replace "lunches" with "breakfasts".

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