
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. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
5 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
6 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
7 that the general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-
8 2024 has already been exceeded by \$ or per cent.
9 The appropriations contained in this Act will cause the state
10 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be
11 further exceeded by \$ or per cent. This declaration
12 takes into account the additional general fund appropriation
13 authorized for fiscal year 2023-2024 in this Act only. The
14 reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are
15 that:

16 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
17 serve the public interest; and

H.B. NO. 2402

1 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
2 addressed by this Act.

3 SECTION 3. The department of education is required to
4 provide meal service for its students and staff. The department
5 provides about twenty thousand school breakfasts and eighty
6 thousand school lunches on a daily basis to students and staff
7 across the State.

8 The department of education has accumulated a deficit of
9 over \$20,000,000 for its food service operations. This is
10 largely due to inflationary cost increases. In school year 2022
11 to 2023, more than eighty per cent of the department's food
12 costs increased by forty-two per cent, resulting in the need for
13 additional funds.

14 For many students, a school meal is their only regular
15 source of food for their growing bodies and minds. School meals
16 must follow strict federal food safety and nutrition guidelines,
17 which ensures a quality meal. The department of education plays
18 a vital role in the health and well-being of youth in our
19 communities.

20 While students and staff must pay for their meals, Title I
21 students are provided meals free of charge. Also, because
22 feeding students is important for their development, students

H.B. NO. 2402

1 are not denied a meal due to a lack of payment, all of which has
2 contributed to this accumulated deficit.

3 The purpose of this Act is to make an emergency
4 appropriation to provide moneys for the department of education
5 to cover its food service fiscal deficit and to continue to
6 provide public school students with high-quality, nutritious
7 meals at an affordable price.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$20,000,000 or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 to
11 provide funding for the department of education to cover its
12 food service operations.

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

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

18

BY REQUEST
JAN 22 2024

H.B. NO. 2402

Report Title:

Emergency Appropriation; DOE

Description:

Makes an emergency appropriation to provide moneys for the Department of Education for its food service operations.

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

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Education

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

PURPOSE: To appropriate funds for the Department's food service operations.

MEANS: Make an emergency appropriation of general funds to the Department.

JUSTIFICATION: This emergency appropriation will provide the Department with funding for its school food service operations.

The Department is required to provide meal service for its students and staff. The Department provides about 20,000 school breakfasts and 80,000 school lunches on a daily basis to students and staff across the State.

The Department has accumulated a deficit of over \$20 million dollars for its school food service operations. This is largely due to inflationary cost increases. In school year 2022 to 2023, more than eighty percent of the department's food costs increased by forty-two percent, resulting in the need for additional funds.

For many students, a school meal is their only regular source of food for their growing bodies and minds. School meals must follow strict federal food safety and nutrition guidelines, which ensures a quality meal. The Department plays a vital role in the health and well-being of youth in our community.

Impact on the public: The funding in this emergency appropriation will provide the resources needed to ensure continued school food operations, which feeds the students in our public schools. For many youth, school

H.B.No. 2402

food serves as their most nutritious and affordable meal of the day.

Impact on the department and other agencies:

Serving school meals is a core function of the Department and is an expected service from the public. If the Department would no longer have the financial resources to serve student meals, it would severely impact the Department's ability to provide a quality education for its students.

GENERAL FUND: \$20,000,000.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: EDN 100.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.