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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
FOR UTILITIES AND SCHOOL 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 article VII, section 9, of  
3 the Hawaii State Constitution.

4           SECTION 2. The legislature finds that rising record  
5 inflation and other macroeconomic factors have driven energy and  
6 food prices beyond previous forecasts. In the wake of Russia's  
7 invasion of Ukraine, oil prices soared to more than one hundred  
8 twenty dollars per barrel. Additionally, the recent closure of  
9 Oahu's last coal-burning power plant further increased the cost  
10 of electricity.

11           The legislature notes that eighty-one per cent of food  
12 commodities prices increased by forty-two per cent for the 2022-  
13 2023 school year. Disposable products used by schools for  
14 school food services have increased across all island districts:  
15 on Oahu by thirty-three per cent; on Maui by thirty-one per  
16 cent; on Molokai by ten per cent; on Lanai by thirty-one per



1 cent; on Hawaii island by twenty-two per cent; and on Kauai by  
2 thirty-eight per cent. The sudden and dramatic increases have  
3 created a budget shortfall within the department of education.  
4 Additionally, the department of education anticipates a budget  
5 shortfall of \$39,297,429 based on current prices, which may  
6 increase if utility bills go unpaid and late fees are assessed.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to make an  
8 emergency appropriation to provide funds to the department of  
9 education to cover the costs of utilities and school food  
10 services.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$39,297,429 or so  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 to  
14 pay for utility expenses and school food services at department  
15 of education schools.

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

18 SECTION 4. Any provision of this Act to the contrary  
19 notwithstanding, the appropriation authorized under this Act  
20 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the  
21 appropriation is made; provided that any unexpended and



1 unencumbered balance of the appropriation made in this Act as of  
2 the close of business on June 30, 2024, shall lapse.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Michelle N. Sedani



# S.B. NO. 700

**Report Title:**

Department of Education; School Food Services; Utilities;  
Emergency Appropriation

**Description:**

Provides an emergency appropriation to the Department of Education to address the anticipated budget shortfall in utilities and school food services.

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

