

HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE EXPAND
THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES OF CHILD NUTRITION
PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, it is essential that children receive adequate and
2 sufficient meals to ensure proper health and nutrition; and
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4 WHEREAS, children who do receive proper meals have better
5 academic performance including improved standardized test
6 scores, attendance, and classroom behavior; and
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8 WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a
9 federally subsidized meal program that began in 1946 and
10 operates in over 100,000 public and non-profit private schools;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, the NSLP provides free or reduced-price lunches to
14 children each day - over 31.6 million children per day received
15 their lunch through the NSLP in fiscal year 2012, and since its
16 inception, the program has served over 224 billion lunches; and
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18 WHEREAS, the School Breakfast Program (SBP) is another
19 federally subsidized meal program that was formalized in 1975
20 and operates in over 89,000 public and non-profit private
21 schools; and
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23 WHEREAS, similar to the NSLP, the SBP helps provide
24 children with breakfast, often at no or reduced cost; in fiscal
25 year 2012, over 12.9 million children per day received breakfast
26 under the program with over 10.1 million receiving it for free
27 or at a reduced cost; and
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29 WHEREAS, these two child nutrition programs help provide
30 nutritionally balanced meals to children every day and
31 furthermore provide them with proper food habits, the knowledge



1 of what constitutes a balanced diet, and new and nutritious
2 foods that help contribute to a proper diet; and
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4 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture sets
5 annually adjusted Income Eligibility Guidelines that are used to
6 determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, these guidelines are 130 percent and 185 percent
10 of that year's Federal income poverty guidelines for free and
11 reduced-price meals, respectively; and
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13 WHEREAS, at the beginning of the 2012 school year in
14 Hawaii, there were 180,482 students enrolled in the Hawaii Child
15 Nutrition Program with 74,174 receiving free meals and 19,816
16 receiving reduced-cost meals; and
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18 WHEREAS, an increase in Income Eligibility Guidelines would
19 expand the nutrition programs to allow more children to be
20 eligible for free and reduced-cost meals; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Second
24 Special Session of 2013, that the United States Department of
25 Agriculture is requested to expand the Income Eligibility
26 Guidelines to 150 percent and 200 percent of Federal income
27 poverty guidelines for free and reduced-cost meals,
28 respectively; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; United States
32 Secretary of Agriculture; United States Secretary of Education;
33 Superintendent, Hawaii Department of Education; and Chairperson,
34 Hawaii Board of Education.
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OFFERED BY: 

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