

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 03 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 328
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 328 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Education to authorize and facilitate complex areas or individual department schools to form their own Farm to School Meal Programs; and
- (2) Authorize the Department of Education to establish a plant-based meal program to provide a plant-based meal as an option under the school meals program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; one member of the Hawai'i County Council; Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Green Party of Hawai'i; Climate Protectors Hawai'i; Down to Earth Organic and Natural; 350Hawaii.org; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; Chamber of Sustainable Commerce; Hawai'i Youth Food Council; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Strata Farms LLC; Hawai'i State Teachers Association; Hawaii Government



Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General and Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that setting a target goal of food served in public schools to consist of locally sourced products is of great benefit for the health of Hawaii's students. Establishing a partnership between schools and nonprofit organizations or private entities to meet these target goals will increase student meal participation, reduce food waste, increase cost savings, and significantly increase the amount of locally sourced food served in school cafeterias. Additionally, offering plant-based meals in public schools can also greatly increase demand for local greens and encourage students to engage in healthy nutrition. This measure promotes local farming jobs and agriculture through incentives for public schools and expanding meal options for students.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

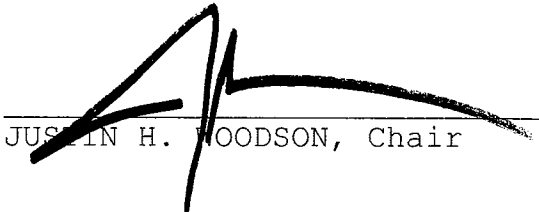
- (1) Deleting language that would have authorized the Department of Education to accept public or private donations or grants from individuals and other agencies to support the Farm to School Meal Programs;
- (2) Inserting language that authorizes public schools to accept donations or contributions from individuals, nonprofit organizations, or private entities to support the farm to school meal program, subject to approval of the Superintendent of Education;
- (3) Clarifying the applicability of the farm to school programs to the Department of Education and public schools;
- (4) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No.



328, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 328, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,


JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair



HSCR 45

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 328		Committee Referral: EDN, AGIR, FIN		Date: 1/28/25	
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
EDN Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WOODSON, Justin H. (C)		/			
2. LA CHICA, Trish (VC)		/			
3. AMATO, Terez		/			
4. EVSLIN, Luke A.		/			
5. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya		/			
6. KAPELA, Jeanne		/			
7. KILA, Darius K.		/			
8. OLDS, Ikaika		/			
9. SAYAMA, Jackson D.		/			
10. MURAOKA, Christopher L.		/			
11. SOUZA, Kanani		/			
TOTAL (11)		11			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u><i>Trish La Chica</i></u>					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					