

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

565

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 757

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. 757 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Department of Education to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students enrolled in a Department school beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Mayor of Maui County; one member of the Hawai'i County Council; Maui County Department of Agriculture; Department of Research and Development of the County of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Youth Services Network; Malama Kaua'i; American Association of University Women of Hawai'i; Green Party of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Indivisible Hawai'i Working Families Team; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; Hawai'i State Teachers Association; Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Faith Action for Community Equity; Save Medicaid Hawaii; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Catholic Charities Hawai'i; Early Childhood Action Strategy; Hawai'i Foodbank; Maui Food Bank; Chamber of Sustainable Commerce; AlohaCare; Hawaii Appleseed

2025-1760 HB757 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Center for Law & Economic Justice; Hawai'i Hunger Action Network; Light of the Whirl Health Care LLC; HawaiiKidsCAN; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in support of the intent of this measure from the Department of Education. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Health.

Your Committee finds that food-insecure students are at higher risk of stress, depression, and chronic illness, all of which undermine their ability to focus, engage in the classroom, and reach their full academic potential. Your Committee further finds that the existing income eligibility threshold for free school meals, which requires a family of four to earn less than \$47,000 annually, is far too low, as around \$110,000 is needed to cover basic living costs in Hawaii.

Your Committee also finds that universal free school meal programs improve educational outcomes. Your Committee notes that eight states have adopted free school meals, with research showing that access to free meals can increase test scores at a rate equivalent to six additional weeks of school. This measure will provide universal free school breakfasts and lunches to students in public schools under the Department of Education to ensure each student's wellness through receiving a meal in school.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 3000.

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. 757, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 757, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



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



JUSTIN N. WOODSON, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Education

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 757	Committee Referral: EDN, FIN	Date: 2/11/20		
<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. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>Trish La Chica</u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				