

JAN 19 2018

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL LUNCHTIME.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that having a sufficient
2 amount of time to eat lunch is critical to students' health and
3 academic performance. According to the American Academy of
4 Pediatrics, students should have at least twenty minutes to eat
5 lunch, starting from when they sit down to eat and not from when
6 they enter the cafeteria to get their food. Sufficient time to
7 eat lunch is linked to a better nutritional status; healthy
8 foods tend to take more time for students to consume. In turn,
9 better nutritional status directly affects academic achievement,
10 conduct, and overall school performance. Sufficient time to eat
11 lunch also allows students to socialize with friends, which is
12 an important aspect of healthy eating at school. Moreover, high
13 food waste is associated with not having enough time to eat.

14 The purpose of this Act is to ensure students have
15 sufficient time to eat lunch.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§302A- School lunchtime period. Notwithstanding any
5 law to the contrary, schools shall provide students with a
6 lunchtime period that is no less than thirty minutes long."

7 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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S.B. NO. 2386

Report Title:

Schools; Lunchtime Period

Description:

Requires schools to provide a lunchtime period of at least thirty minutes in length.

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