

MAR 11 2022

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND STATE PUBLIC CHARTER  
SCHOOL COMMISSION TO PRIORITIZE THE HIRING OF DEDICATED  
STAFF TO MANAGE FEDERAL SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, access to school meals are an important part of a  
2 child's health and well-being at school; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, certain federal programs provide aid for the  
5 provision of free and reduced meals for students, such as the  
6 United States Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch  
7 Program; and

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9 WHEREAS, it is therefore imperative that the Department of  
10 Education and State Public Charter School Commission fully  
11 utilize every federal program that provides free and reduced  
12 meals for students; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's school foods  
15 services branch, which manages the National School Lunch  
16 Program, provides administrative and operational meal support  
17 for public schools but not state charter schools; and

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19 WHEREAS, recent experiences have demonstrated that public  
20 and state charter schools in rural areas and on the neighbor  
21 islands require additional staff to support the National School  
22 Lunch Program initiatives, promote effectiveness at the local  
23 level with parents and teachers, and improve efficiency by  
24 eliminating the delay in communication with pertinent school  
25 personnel; and

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27 WHEREAS, as an example, schools such as Kahakai Elementary  
28 School, Kealakehe Intermediate School, and Konawaena High School  
29 in the County of Hawai'i were unable to sufficiently utilize  
30 federal school meal program benefits due to staffing shortages  
31 and considerable physical distance between school campuses; and  
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# S.C.R. NO. 171

1           WHEREAS, the staffing and logistical challenges faced by  
2 these schools in the administration of federal school meal  
3 programs have been exacerbated by federal rules that disallow or  
4 limit the use of volunteers and other mitigation efforts pursued  
5 by schools that lack dedicated staff to manage federal school  
6 meal programs; now, therefore,  
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8           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
10 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
11 Education and State Public Charter School Commission are urged  
12 to prioritize the hiring of dedicated staff for each school  
13 campus to manage federal school meal programs, including the  
14 National School Lunch Program; and  
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16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
17 requested to seek federal funding, from sources including the  
18 United States Department of Agriculture, for purposes of hiring  
19 dedicated staff for each public school campus to manage federal  
20 meal programs; and  
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22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
23 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
24 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
25 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
26 the Regular Session of 2023; and  
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28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of  
30 Education and Executive Director of the State Public Charter  
31 School Commission.  
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OFFERED BY:

