
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 is 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
8

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
13

14 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's School Food Services
15 Branch, which manages the National School Lunch Program,
16 provides administrative and operational meal support for public
17 schools but not state charter schools; and
18

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 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
26

27 WHEREAS, schools such as Kahakai Elementary School,
28 Kealakehe Intermediate School, and Konawaena High School in the
29 County of Hawai'i were unable to sufficiently utilize federal



1 school meal program benefits due to staffing shortages and
2 considerable physical distance between school campuses; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the staffing and logistical challenges faced by
5 these schools in the administration of federal school meal
6 programs have been exacerbated by federal rules that disallow or
7 limit the use of volunteers and other mitigation efforts pursued
8 by schools that lack dedicated staff to manage federal school
9 meal programs; now, therefore,
10

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
14 Education and State Public Charter School Commission are urged
15 to prioritize the hiring of dedicated staff for each school
16 campus to manage federal school meal programs, including the
17 National School Lunch Program; and
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
20 requested to seek federal funding from sources including the
21 United States Department of Agriculture, for the purpose of
22 hiring dedicated staff for each public school campus to manage
23 federal meal programs; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
26 requested to submit a report of its findings and
27 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
28 Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of
29 the Regular Session of 2023; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Interim
33 Superintendent of Education and Interim Executive Director of
34 the State Public Charter School Commission.
35
36
37

