

MAR 11 2022

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
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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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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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'DKA' followed by a long horizontal stroke.