
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FOR FOOD SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for
2 immediate passage in accordance with article VII, section 9, of
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that the department of
5 education is required to provide meal service for its students
6 and staff. The department provides approximately twenty
7 thousand school breakfasts and eighty thousand school lunches on
8 a daily basis to students and staff across the State. However,
9 the department of education has accumulated a deficit of more
10 than \$20,000,000 for its food service operations, which is
11 largely due to inflationary cost increases. In the 2022-2023
12 school year, more than eighty per cent of the department's food
13 costs increased by forty-two per cent, resulting in the need for
14 additional funds.

15 The legislature further finds that for many students, a
16 school meal is their only regular source of food for their
17 growing bodies and minds. School meals are required to follow



1 strict federal food safety and nutrition guidelines, which
2 ensure quality meals. The department of education plays a vital
3 role in the health and well-being of youth in the State's
4 communities.

5 The legislature also finds that while students and staff
6 are required to pay for their meals, Title I students are
7 provided meals free of charge. However, because school meals
8 are critical for student development, students are not denied
9 meals due to a lack of payment.

10 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to make an emergency
11 appropriation to the department of education for its food
12 service fiscal deficit and to continue to provide public school
13 students with high-quality, nutritious meals.

14 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
15 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
16 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
17 that the general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-
18 2024 has already been exceeded by \$1,033,839,854 or ten per
19 cent. The appropriations contained in this Act will cause the
20 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-2024
21 to be further exceeded by \$20,000,000 or one per cent. This



1 declaration takes into account the additional general fund
2 appropriation(s) authorized for fiscal year 2023-2024 in this
3 Act only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund
4 expenditure ceiling are that:

- 5 (1) The appropriations made in this Act are necessary to
6 serve the public interest; and
- 7 (2) The appropriations made in this Act meet the needs
8 addressed by this Act.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$20,000,000 or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 to
12 provide funding for the department of education to cover its
13 food service operations.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 education for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

DOE; Emergency Appropriation; Food Service Operations;
Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Makes an emergency appropriation to the Department of Education for its food service operations. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. (CD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

