
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 section 9 of article VII 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 about twenty thousand school
7 breakfasts and eighty thousand school lunches on a daily basis
8 to students and staff across the State. However, the department
9 of education has accumulated a deficit of over \$20,000,000 for
10 its food service operations, which is largely due to
11 inflationary cost increases. In the 2022-2023 school year, more
12 than eighty per cent of the department's food costs increased by
13 forty-two per cent, resulting in the need for additional funds.

14 For many students, a school meal is their only regular
15 source of food for their growing bodies and minds. School meals
16 are required to follow strict federal food safety and nutrition



1 guidelines, which ensures a quality meal. The department of
2 education plays a vital role in the health and well-being of
3 youth in the State's communities.

4 While students and staff are required to pay for their
5 meals, Title I students are provided meals free of charge.
6 However, because school meals are critical for student
7 development, students are not denied a meal due to a lack of
8 payment.

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

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



1 appropriation authorized for fiscal year 2023-2024 in this Act
2 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
3 ceiling are that:

4 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
5 serve the public interest; and

6 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
7 addressed by this Act.

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

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

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



Report Title:

DOE; Emergency Appropriation; 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. (SD1)

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