

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a diet that consists
2 of fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts and seeds, and herbs and
3 spices has been shown to reduce the chance of developing
4 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and various forms of cancer,
5 among other chronic diseases. Many students, including a large
6 majority of Asian-American students, are lactose-intolerant and
7 should have an option to avoid dairy products. Offering meal
8 options to students that consist of fruits, vegetables, whole
9 grains, legumes, nuts and seeds, herbs and spices, and non-dairy
10 beverages can promote a healthy lifestyle for the State's youth
11 and provide broader choices for students.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
13 three-year healthy school meals option pilot program to require
14 at least one high school in each school complex area to offer an
15 option under the school meals program that consists of fruits,
16 vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts and speeds, herbs and
17 spices, and non-dairy beverages.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart C, to be
3 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

4 "§302A- School meals option pilot program. (a) There
5 is established a school meals option pilot program within the
6 department to offer a healthy meal option to students.

7 (b) Meals offered in accordance with the school meals
8 option pilot program shall consist of fruits, vegetables,
9 legumes, nuts and seeds, herbs and seeds, and non-dairy
10 beverages that meet the United States Department of
11 Agriculture's nutrition standards for dairy milk substitutes.

12 (c) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the
13 department shall require at least one high school in each school
14 complex area to provide a meal in accordance with subsection (b)
15 at least once every other week under the school meals program.

16 (d) For the 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 school years, the
17 department shall require at least one high school in each school
18 complex area to provide an option in accordance with subsection
19 (b) at least once per week under the school meals program.

20 (e) Department high schools shall establish guidelines,
21 with the approval of the department, that incorporate



1 nutritional guidelines, menu planning, and staffing requirements
2 to carry out the purposes of this section. Schools that
3 participate in the school meals option pilot program shall not
4 be subject to the same rules of meals count in the determination
5 of staffing requirements.

6 (f) The department shall submit progress reports the
7 school meals option pilot program to the legislature no later
8 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions
9 of 2027, 2028, and 2029. The report shall include student
10 feedback to determine acceptable options that are popular with
11 students."

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval
14 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2029.

15

INTRODUCED BY:

Karl Rhoads



S.B. NO. 940

Report Title:

DOE; School Meals Option Pilot Program; School Meals; Reports

Description:

Establishes the School Meals Option Pilot Program within the Department of Education to provide healthy meal options to students. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, requires at least one high school in each school complex area to offer a meal in accordance with the School Meals Option Pilot Program every other week. Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, requires at least one high school in each school complex area to offer a meal in accordance with the School Meals Option Pilot Program every week. Requires each individual high school to develop guidelines to implement the School Meals Option Pilot Program, subject to Department of Education approval. Requires reports to the Legislature. Repeals 6/30/2029.

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

