

MAR 07 2025

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE A DETAILED REPORT  
TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE TRUE COST OF PRODUCING SCHOOL  
MEALS TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND AVOID UNNECESSARY PRICE  
INCREASES.

1           WHEREAS, the Department of Education is responsible for  
2 ensuring that students have access to nutritious and affordable  
3 meals; and

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5           WHEREAS, the State receives federal reimbursement for  
6 school meals through participation in the School Breakfast  
7 Program, National School Lunch Program, and other school meal  
8 reimbursement programs; and

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10           WHEREAS, the Department of Education has proposed an  
11 increase in school meal prices, which would lead to an increase  
12 in the price of student lunch from \$2.50 to \$4.75 for grades K-8  
13 and from \$2.75 to \$5.00 for grades 9-12 by the 2028-2029 school  
14 year; and

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16           WHEREAS, the Department of Education cites the current cost  
17 of producing a student lunch at \$9.00; and

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19           WHEREAS, section 302A-405, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
20 requires the Department of Education to ensure that monies  
21 received from the sale of school meals are at least one-half the  
22 cost of preparing the meals; and

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24           WHEREAS, there is currently no reporting system in the  
25 Department of Education's budgeting process to provide itemized  
26 cost breakdowns for school meals; and  
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1           WHEREAS, increasing prices for school meals negatively  
2 impacts Hawaii's working families and students that receive free  
3 or reduced-price meals; and

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5           WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State to address  
6 food insecurity and provide access to free and reduced-price  
7 school meals; and

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9           WHEREAS, it is essential to ensure that proper reporting  
10 processes are in place to provide transparency as to the costs  
11 of producing school meals; now, therefore,

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13           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the  
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
16 Education is urged to provide a detailed report to the  
17 Legislature on the true cost of producing school meals to ensure  
18 transparency and avoid unnecessary price increases; and

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20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
21 requested to include the current cost breakdown to produce  
22 school meals for the 2024-2025 school year and projected cost  
23 breakdown for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years in the  
24 report, including:

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26           (1) The costs of ingredients, including an indication of  
27 whether each ingredient is locally sourced;  
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29           (2) Operational costs;  
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31           (3) Beverage costs;  
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33           (4) Material and supply costs; and  
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35           (5) Logistical and distribution costs; and  
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37           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
38 requested to include data on the number of school meals provided  
39 to students for each school year in the report, including the  
40 number of:

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42           (1) Full-price meals;



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- (2) Reduced-price meals;
- (3) Free meals;
- (4) Total meals subject to federal reimbursement;
- (5) Total meals not subject to federal reimbursement;
- (6) The total number of all student meals; and
- (7) The total cost of all student meals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.

OFFERED BY:


