
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 Hawaii's working
2 families face significant economic challenges, including the
3 rising cost of living, inflationary pressures, and limited
4 affordable options for basic needs. Access to nutritious meals
5 is essential for students' academic success and overall well-
6 being. However, the increasing cost of school meals may place
7 an undue burden on families, leading to reduced student
8 participation in school meal programs.

9 The legislature further finds that encouraging more
10 students to participate in school meal programs is crucial for
11 promoting equity, ensuring students have access to healthy food,
12 and fostering an environment conducive to learning. By reducing
13 the financial burden on families, the State can help mitigate
14 the impacts of economic hardship and support the health and
15 academic achievement of Hawaii's keiki.

16 The purpose of this Act is to amend the revenue requirement
17 from the sale of school meals from no less than one-half to no



1 more than one-quarter of the cost of preparing the meals,
2 thereby making school meals more affordable for families and
3 increasing student participation in school meal programs.

4 SECTION 2. Section 302A-405(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes,
5 is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

6 "(a) The price for school meals shall be set by the
7 department to ensure that moneys received from the sale of the
8 meals shall be [~~not less~~] no more than [~~one-half~~] one-quarter of
9 the cost of preparing the meals. The prices for school meals
10 may be adjusted annually based on the previous year's costs
11 rounded to the nearest five cents; provided that the department
12 by rule shall provide a lower rate or free meals to children
13 based on their economic need."

14 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

DOE; School Meals; Cost

Description:

Reduces the amount the Department of Education is authorized to charge for school meals to all students enrolled in department schools to no more than one-quarter of the cost of preparing the meals. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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