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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 302A-404, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

**"§302A-404 School meals[-]; free school breakfast and lunch.** (a) School meals shall be made available under the

school meals program in every school where the students are required to eat meals at school.

(b) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, free school breakfast shall be provided to every student enrolled in a department school who:

(1) Qualifies based on the student's household eligibility for reduced price breakfast under the federal school breakfast program or any other federal program for free and reduced price school meals;

(2) Submits an application to the department; and

(3) Has their application approved by the department.



1 Free school breakfast shall meet the meal requirements for  
2 breakfasts established pursuant to title 7 Code of Federal  
3 Regulations section 220.8.

4 (c) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, free school  
5 lunch shall be provided to any student enrolled in a department  
6 school who:

7 (1) Qualifies based on the student's household eligibility  
8 for reduced price lunch under the federal National  
9 School Lunch Program;

10 (2) Submits an application to the department; and

11 (3) Has their application approved by the department.

12 Free school lunch shall meet the meal requirements for lunches  
13 established pursuant to title 7 Code of Federal Regulations  
14 section 210.10.

15 ~~[(b)]~~ (d) No student shall be denied a meal solely for  
16 failure to pay:

17 (1) Within the first twenty-one days of the first semester  
18 of a school year while the student's application for  
19 free or reduced lunch is being processed; or

20 (2) Within seven days after a student's meal fund account  
21 reaches a zero or negative balance.



1        [~~(e)~~] (e) The department may adopt rules or policies  
2 governing the collection of funds for student meal accounts with  
3 a negative fund balance; provided that no rule or policy shall  
4 prohibit feeding a student as required pursuant to subsection  
5 (b) .

6        (f) It is the intent of this section not to jeopardize the  
7 receipt of any federal aid and to the extent, and only to the  
8 extent necessary to effectuate this intent, the governor may  
9 modify the strict provisions of this section, but shall promptly  
10 report any modification with the governor's reasons therefor to  
11 the next succeeding session of the legislature for review."

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

14        "(a) [~~The~~] Except as provided in section 302A-404(b) and  
15 (c), the price for school meals shall be set by the department  
16 to ensure that moneys received from the sale of the meals shall  
17 be [~~not less~~] no more than [~~one-half~~] \_\_\_\_\_ of the cost of  
18 preparing the meals. The prices for school meals may be  
19 adjusted annually based on the previous year's costs rounded to  
20 the nearest five cents; provided that the department by rule



1 shall provide a lower rate or free meals to children based on  
2 their economic need."

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
7 year 2026-2027 for the total plate costs associated with  
8 providing free school breakfasts and lunches in department of  
9 education schools as required by this Act after federal funding  
10 has been accounted.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
12 of education for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Free School Breakfasts and Lunches;  
Cost; Appropriation

**Description:**

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, requires the Department of Education to provide free breakfast and lunch to students enrolled in a public school who meet certain requirements. 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 an unspecified portion of the cost of preparing the meals. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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

