STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2897

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 0 6 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2615

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 2615 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL CAFETERIA MEAL COSTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to support the provision of affordable meals in the State's schools.

More specifically, this measure reduces the amount that the Department of Education is required to charge for school meals from an amount not less than one-half of the cost of preparing the meals, to an amount not less than one-quarter of the cost of preparing the meals.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Office of the Governor, Department of Education, Hawaii Public Health Institute, and Hawaii Food+ Policy.

Your Committee finds that, according to the written comments provided by the Department of Education, the cost of producing a school lunch in fiscal year 2024-2025 was $9.05, while the student meal price was $2.50, or approximately twenty-eight percent of the cost. Your Committee notes that, to comply with the existing law, school meal prices would need to be raised, which would likely result in fewer students purchasing the schools meals. Accordingly, your Committee believes that reducing the statutory cost-recovery threshold to one-fourth of the meal preparation

costs, as provided by this measure, is necessary to prevent this outcome and to ensure that school meals remain affordable for the State's families.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2615 and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB2615	EDV, WAM	3/3/2026

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☒ Pass, unamended 2312 ☐ Pass, with amendments 2311 ☐ Hold 2310 ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt				X
TOTAL	12	0	0	1

Recommendation: ☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

Distribution: Original — File with Committee Report; Yellow — Committee; Pink — Drafting Agency

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 01/02/26