

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1779
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred H.B. No. 1779, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to expand free school meal coverage beginning with the 2029-2030 school year to all public school students, including public charter school students, regardless of eligibility to participate in a federal school meals program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education; State Public Charter School Commission; Hawai'i State Youth Commission; one member of the Hawai'i County Council; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Healthy Eating + Active Living Coalition; Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus; Early Childhood Action Strategy; American Heart Association; Hawai'i State Teachers Association; Parents and Children Together; Hawai'i Foodbank; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; Catholic Charities Hawai'i; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Green Party of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; Hawai'i Hunger Action Network; Aloha United Way; Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice; Hawai'i Good Food Alliance; Hawai'i Climate



Future Forum; Hawai'i Youth Food Council; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Health.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1779, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Finance,



CHRIS TODD, Chair



