

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2296  
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 Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 2296 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to reduce the minimum revenue requirement for the Department of Education from the sale of school meals from no less than one-half to no less than one-quarter of the cost of preparing the meals.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Governor; Department of Education; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that access to nutritious meals is necessary for students' academic success and overall well-being. However, the rising cost of school meals places an undue burden on families, which decreases student participation in school meal programs. This measure will reduce the required meal cost offset collection and increase affordability for school meals in Department of Education schools.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that the price for school meals shall be set by the Department of Education to ensure that monies received from the sale of the meals shall be no more than one-quarter of the cost of preparing meals;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2296, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2296, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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

  
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JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair



*Jtsce 316-26*

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Education**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> <i>HB 2296</i>	<b>Committee Referral:</b> <i>EDN, FIN</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>2/10/26</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EDN Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WOODSON, Justin H. (C)	<i>/</i>			
2. LA CHICA, Trish (VC)	<i>/</i>			
3. AMATO, Terez	<i>/</i>			
4. EVSLIN, Luke A.	<i>/</i>			
5. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya	<i>/</i>			
6. KAPELA, Jeanne	<i>/</i>			
7. KILA, Darius K.	<i>/</i>			
8. OLDS, Ikaika	<i>/</i>			
9. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	<i>/</i>			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	<i>/</i>			
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	<i>10</i>			
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> <i>Trish La Chica</i>				
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