

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2897

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 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.:* <i>SB 2615</i>	Committee Referral: <i>EDV, WAM</i>	Date: <i>3/3/2026</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
<b>Members</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye (WR)</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Excused</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>12</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink File with Committee Report     Committee     Drafting Agency				

**\*Only one measure per Record of Votes**