

MAR 10 2015

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO  
INCREASE THE FEDERAL BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND AFTERSCHOOL  
SNACK REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, it is essential that all children receive  
2 affordable and nutritional meals to encourage proper health and  
3 nutrition; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, children who do receive nutritional meals have  
6 higher academic performance in the classroom including improved  
7 standardized test scores, attendance, and classroom behavior;  
8 and  
9

10           WHEREAS, Child Nutrition Programs in Hawaii provide our  
11 children with a model of what constitutes a balanced diet and  
12 introduces them to new and nutritious foods that contribute to a  
13 healthy diet; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, a hungry child is distracted in the classroom,  
16 which is an impediment to learning; and  
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18           WHEREAS, the Child Nutrition Programs of the United States  
19 Department of Agriculture provide a subsidy for breakfast and  
20 lunch meals and afterschool snacks to the children in Hawaii;  
21 and  
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23           WHEREAS, the federal subsidy provides free or reduced-price  
24 lunches to school children; and  
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26           WHEREAS, the cost of food for meals is higher in Hawaii  
27 than on the mainland United States and in Alaska; and  
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29           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture  
30 determined in February 2014 that the cost of food prepared at  
31 home for a family of four in Hawaii is 70 percent higher in  
32 Hawaii at \$1,066.20 monthly compared to Alaska at \$741.90; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the maximum federal reimbursement rates for Hawaii  
3 and Alaska for every lunch, breakfast, and afterschool snack are  
4 as follows:

5  
6 Breakfast: free breakfast at \$2.25 compared to Alaska at  
7 \$3.10, reduced rate breakfast at \$1.95 compared to Alaska  
8 at \$2.80, and paid breakfast at 32 cents compared to Alaska  
9 at 42 cents;

10  
11 Lunch: free lunch at \$3.74 compared to Alaska at \$5.15,  
12 reduced rate lunches at \$3.34 compared to Alaska at \$4.75,  
13 and paid lunches at 47 cents compared to Alaska at 63  
14 cents;

15  
16 Afterschool Snacks: free snack at 96 cents compared to  
17 Alaska at \$1.33, reduced rate snack at 48 cents compared to  
18 Alaska at 66 cents, and paid snack at 8 cents compared to  
19 Alaska at 12 cents; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, the Legislature appropriates funds each year to  
22 offset the cost remaining after federal reimbursement for  
23 breakfast, lunch, and afterschool snacks, which is intended to  
24 make meals and afterschool snacks prices affordable; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, the Secretary of the United States Department of  
27 Agriculture is authorized to establish appropriate adjustments  
28 for each state's rate to the national average rate, to reflect  
29 the differences between the costs of providing meals and  
30 supplements in that state and the costs of providing meals and  
31 supplements in all other states; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, an increase in the federal reimbursement rate to  
34 coincide with the higher cost of food in Hawaii would allow the  
35 expansion of Child Nutrition Programs to reach more school  
36 children in Hawaii; and

37  
38 WHEREAS, an increase in the reimbursement rate will allow  
39 the expansion of other United States Department of Education  
40 Child Nutrition Programs such as the Farm to School Program,  
41 which encourages schools to purchase foods locally; now,  
42 therefore,



# S.C.R. NO. 62

1  
 2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
 3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the  
 4 House of Representatives concurring, that the Secretary of  
 5 Agriculture is requested to increase the breakfast, lunch, and  
 6 afterschool snack reimbursement rate for Hawaii to 15 percent  
 7 over the Alaskan reimbursement rates for breakfast, lunch, and  
 8 afterschool snack, respectively; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States  
 12 Secretary of Agriculture, Hawaii's congressional delegation,  
 13 Governor, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the  
 14 Board of Education.  
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 16  
 17

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