

MAR 10 2015

---

## SENATE RESOLUTION

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

17  
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

22  
23 WHEREAS, the federal subsidy provides free or reduced-price  
24 lunches to school children; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, the cost of food for meals is higher in Hawaii  
27 than on the mainland United States and in Alaska; and

28  
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  
33



# S.R. NO. 26

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

4  
5 Breakfast: free breakfast at \$2.25 compared to Alaska at  
6 \$3.10, reduced rate breakfast at \$1.95 compared to Alaska  
7 at \$2.80; and paid breakfast at 32 cents compared to Alaska  
8 at 42 cents;

9  
10 Lunch: free lunch at \$3.74 compared to Alaska at \$5.15,  
11 reduced rate lunches at \$3.34 compared to Alaska at \$4.75,  
12 and paid lunches at 47 cents compared to Alaska at 63  
13 cents;

14  
15 Afterschool Snacks: free snack at 96 cents compared to  
16 Alaska at \$1.33, reduced rate snack at 48 cents compared to  
17 Alaska at 66 cents, and paid snack at 8 cents compared to  
18 Alaska at 12 cents; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the Legislature appropriates funds each year to  
21 offset the cost remaining after federal reimbursement for  
22 breakfast, lunch, and afterschool snacks, which is intended to  
23 make meals and afterschool snacks prices affordable; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the Secretary of the United States Department of  
26 Agriculture is authorized to establish appropriate adjustments  
27 for each state's rate to the national average rate, to reflect  
28 the differences between the costs of providing meals and  
29 supplements in that state and the costs of providing meals and  
30 supplements in all other states; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, an increase in the federal reimbursement rate to  
33 coincide with the higher cost of food in Hawaii would allow the  
34 expansion of Child Nutrition Programs to reach more school  
35 children in Hawaii; and

36  
37 WHEREAS, an increase in the reimbursement rate will allow  
38 the expansion of other United States Department of Education  
39 Child Nutrition Programs such as the Farm to School Program,  
40 which encourages schools to purchase foods locally; now,  
41 therefore,



# S.R. NO. 26

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
 2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,  
 3 that the Secretary of Agriculture is requested to increase the  
 4 breakfast, lunch, and afterschool snack reimbursement rate for  
 5 Hawaii to 15 percent over the Alaskan reimbursement rates for  
 6 breakfast, lunch, and afterschool snack, respectively; and  
 7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 9 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of  
 10 Agriculture, Hawaii's congressional delegation, Governor,  
 11 Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the Board of  
 12 Education.  
 13  
 14  
 15

OFFERED BY:

Shoanne Chun Akland

Michelle Sudani

Rose E. Padua

Breene Hart

Kamuela

AC Keith Agana

Randy de Pau  
Jessica L. Inoué

