

MAR 15 2006

S.R. NO. 121

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INTERNAL REVIEW OF "ALTERNATE LUNCH" SERVICE IN HAWAII SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the standard price of a school lunch in Hawaii
2 public schools is one dollar, and low-income students can
3 qualify for a reduced-lunch rate of twenty cents, or nothing at
4 all, depending upon reported household income; and
5

6 WHEREAS, qualifying for the reduced lunch rate requires
7 parental awareness of such a program, and the submission of a
8 written application, which may be lacking in the community; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the failure of parents to give their children
11 enough money for lunch can be expensive for schools that must
12 make up the difference, and one school has already accrued
13 \$5,000 in outstanding lunch-money loans, which may have to come
14 out of general funds, taking moneys away from education; and
15

16 WHEREAS, some schools facing lunch money deficits have
17 resorted to serving "alternate lunches" to students, which can
18 consist merely of a starch such as crackers, a piece of bread,
19 or a cinnamon roll, and either juice, milk, or water; and
20

21 WHEREAS, this "alternate lunch" practice is draconian and
22 highly unacceptable, falls far short of the balanced meal
23 guidelines set by the National School Lunch Program, punishes
24 the students, who are not at fault, and leaves students hungry
25 when they need proper nutrition to learn and prosper; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the "alternative lunch"
28 practice frustrating and disappointing, and calls on the
29 Department of Education to remedy the situation immediately; and
30

31 WHEREAS, the Legislature is in full support of advocacy
32 efforts to find proper remedy for this situation, including the
33 efforts of Maui Board of Education member Mary Cochran, who is
34 planning to raise the issue with Department of Education



