
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO THE STUDENT COUNCILS OF EACH PUBLIC INTERMEDIATE AND HIGH SCHOOL, TO CONDUCT A SURVEY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE STUDENT BODIES REGARDING SCHOOL LUNCH MENU OPTIONS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL, PLANNED MEALS.

1 WHEREAS, research has shown that eating three square meals
2 a day boosts a child's performance in school, and the mission of
3 the National School Lunch Program is to ensure that every
4 student has a healthy breakfast and lunch; and
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6 WHEREAS, fewer Hawaii public school students are eating
7 school lunch: in the 2006-2007 school year, only 102,243
8 students participated in the school lunch program, or 6.6
9 percent fewer students than in the previous school year; and
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11 WHEREAS, the number of students in the free and reduced-
12 price lunch program has also decreased: in the 2006-2007 school
13 year, only 68,850 students participated in the program, or 4.5
14 percent fewer students than in the previous year; and
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16 WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of the few states where
17 participation in the school lunch program is decreasing
18 continuously; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Department of Education (DOE) remains
21 concerned even though there are many factors that account for
22 the decrease, including more accurate reporting of school lunch
23 participation, higher scrutiny of applications for free and
24 reduced-price lunch, and a small drop in student enrollment; and
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26 WHEREAS, some elementary schools have implemented their own
27 policies to increase school lunch participation, including
28 requiring students to have a note from a parent if they won't be
29 eating in the cafeteria; and



1 WHEREAS, such policies are more difficult to implement at
2 the high school level; and

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4 WHEREAS, many high school students tend to eat school lunch
5 at a lower rate than elementary or middle school students,
6 especially because they have the choice to skip lunch and eat
7 elsewhere when classes end, but they may be more interested in
8 buying school lunch if offered options other than traditional,
9 planned meals, such as salad, sandwich, and soup bars that are
10 popular at mainstream eateries; now, therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
14 Session of 2008, that DOE is requested to provide guidance to
15 the student councils of each public intermediate and high
16 school, to conduct a survey of their respective student bodies
17 regarding school lunch menu options as an alternative to
18 traditional, planned meals, including options such as salad,
19 sandwich, and soup bars; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOE is requested to report its
22 findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than 20
23 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
27 Education and the Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signatures: James Iann, Paul, Tom Bern, Bill G. Keatts, J...]

[Handwritten signatures: Karen Luana, John M. ...]

