

MAR 10 2008

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP NUTRITIONALLY-  
SOUND PUBLIC SCHOOL MENU PLANS THAT GIVE STUDENTS THE  
OPTION OF A VEGETARIAN SCHOOL LUNCH MEAL.

1       WHEREAS, during the extensive period of time they spend at  
2 school, students should be provided with nutritious food and  
3 drinks to help them mature in developmentally-appropriate ways;  
4 and  
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6       WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American  
7 Cancer Society, American Dietetic Association, American Heart  
8 Association, and National Institutes of Health now recommend  
9 that there be greater emphasis in the American diet on fruits,  
10 vegetables, and whole grains; and  
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12       WHEREAS, fruits and vegetables promote good health because  
13 they contain fiber and essential nutrients including vitamins  
14 and minerals, are low in fat and calories, contain  
15 phytochemicals that may provide additional protection to reduce  
16 the risk of cancer and heart disease, and contain no  
17 cholesterol; and  
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19       WHEREAS, all the essential organic nutrients in the human  
20 diet are synthesized by plants and microorganisms; and  
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22       WHEREAS, increasing awareness of the importance of eating  
23 five or more servings of fruits and vegetables a day for better  
24 health should begin in the schools; and  
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26       WHEREAS, a significant minority of Hawaii school children  
27 identify themselves as vegetarian or vegan - they use no animal  
28 products - or come from vegetarian or vegan families; and  
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30       WHEREAS, these children are at a disadvantage if no  
31 vegetarian school lunches are offered at their schools; and  
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1 WHEREAS, all students should be assured nutritionally-  
2 balanced diets regardless of their food preferences and  
3 avoidances; now, therefore,  
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
8 Health is requested to work in collaboration with the Department  
9 of Agriculture, the Department of Education, and Hawaii's school  
10 food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu  
11 plans that give students the option of a vegetarian school lunch  
12 meal; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health, in  
15 cooperation with the Department of Education, is requested to  
16 submit to the Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to  
17 the convening of the Regular Session of 2009, a report on the  
18 public school menu plans that have been developed and  
19 implemented to provide nutritionally-sound public school menu  
20 plans including the option of vegetarian school lunch meals; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
24 the Chair of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of  
25 Education, and the Chair of the Board of Agriculture.  
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27  
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