

**Date:** 03/24/2008

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** HCR 222(HR 189) 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.

**Purpose of 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.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education (Department) opposes HCR 222 (HR189). The opportunity already exists for high school students to select their food components from the meal pattern. The USDA requirement is the Offer versus Serve method for secondary students. Middle schools have this same option, although it is not a requirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

P.O. Box 1169  
Waianae, HI 96792  
E-mail [kananikb@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kananikb@hawaii.rr.com)

Phone (808) 696-1654  
Cellular: (808) 783-9302  
Fax (808) 696-1654

*Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan*

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**To: Rep. R. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. L. Berg, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Education**

**Fr: Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan,  
Parent, Kupuna and Private Citizen**

**Re: Hearing Date: March 24, 2008  
Time of Hearing: 2:00pm  
Place of Hearing: Rm 309**

**FULL SUPPORT OF HCR222 / HR189  
Survey of Students regarding School Lunch Menu Options as an Alternate to  
Traditional planned meals**

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the committee:

I'm Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan, a parent of 3 children who graduated from Private School education, a Kupuna of 7 with students attending public schools and a very concerned private citizen of Hawaii. I am also a staff member of Rep. Karen Awana. However, my views, opinions and statements are of my own personal experience and preference. I'm testifying in **Full Support of HCR 222 and HR189** requesting DOE with guidance to the Student Councils of public middle and high schools conduct a survey of the student bodies regarding school lunch menu options as an alternative to pre-planned meals offered by the schools.

As a parent of children who attended private schools not very long ago, I had the opportunity to assure my children were able to eat the lunches they preferred making sure that they ate as well as not waste resources. In the public school setting we not only offer "non-choice" lunches but have a long standing experience of wastefulness. Students aren't participating in lunches for varies reasons. A few to mention is the cost of these lunches. Although there are "free or reduced" lunch programs. Another is the menu and the choices they have for lunch. Many of these students are seeking alternative choices such as salads, sandwiches, soups. If we were to offer them this alternative, the cost and waste would be minimized. Let's allow our youth the ability to make choices and demonstrate they have the ability to make good sound decisions that will affect their health and lives. We give them the right to choice in other areas of life that do affect them long-term, why not the food they get?

Thank you for allowing me this time to submit my testimony and **request your favor to support this measure.** For more information I can be contacted at 696-1654.

Mahalo,