

**Date:** 03/31/2008

**Committee:** Senate Commerce; Consumer Protection; and Affordable Housing

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 134, SD 1 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO "BUY LOCAL" TO ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABILITY.

**Purpose of Resolution:** URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO "BUY LOCAL" TO ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABILITY.

**Department's Position:** The DOE supports S.C.R. No. 134, S.D. 1.

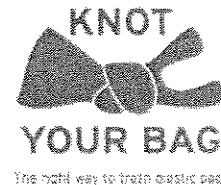
The DOE supports this measure and its underlying principle: sustainability. As a major purchaser of goods and services for our state, we are always happy to do business with local companies. Currently, we proudly partner with scores of local vendors who provide the goods and services that help us to create a safe, positive, and stimulating learning environment for the children of our state. And just as we work hard every day to prepare our children for a future full of adventure and opportunity, we support this effort to create a prosperous and sustainable future for our island state and its people. To that end, we wholeheartedly support this measure and will, to the maximum extent possible, support our Hawaii economy and buy local.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this worthy measure.



## HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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March 31, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Consumer Protection & Affordable Housing  
 Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Chair / Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

By: Lauren Zirbel, Gov't. Affairs or Richard C. Botti, Pres.

Re: SCR 134, SD1 URGING THE DOE AND DOH TO "BUY LOCA" TO ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABILITY

Chairs & Committee Members:

While we support the intent and purpose of HCR 134, it misses the target in one area, which is recycling for sustainability which ties into the "Buy Local" theme.

We need the State's help in jumpstarting two new industries in Hawaii that fit right in to the sustainability theme. The following two WHEREAS cover an important need and we request that they be included in the resolution as being a perfect fit.

"WHEREAS because recycling has been a main theme of this Legislature, the State must create partnerships with the private sector to help overcome obstacles which include the lack of commercial composting facilities, which will open opportunities for the purchase of locally produced products that are compostable, and the recycling of polystyrene food ware that can be utilized locally to produce new food ware or related products; and

WHEREAS while Hawaii currently has one manufacturer of polystyrene food-ware that meets with the Legislature's goals of sustainability and the creation of local jobs in manufacturing, the opportunity however is that all polystyrene food-ware being utilized in Hawaii food service facilities, which includes the Department of Education, the Department of Health, as well as hotels and fast food restaurants can be recycled creating more jobs and more sustainability, if a program such as the one that has been implemented in the state of Massachusetts where both food waste and polystyrene food trays are being separated in cafeterias and sent to their respective locations for recycling."

We would guess that this addition to the resolution would complete the circle, in that local food leftovers and compostable bags would become locally composted into compost, that would in turn be used to grow more local food. Then locally manufactured polystyrene food trays would be recycled into new polystyrene food trays or related products manufactured locally, creating more jobs. Now that's competing the circle, while reducing the need of imports.