

Date: 04/16/2008

Committee: House Education; House Health

Department: Education

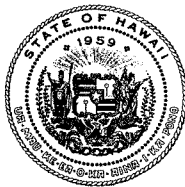
Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 134,SD2,SSCR3287 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO "BUY LOCAL" AND TO IMPLEMENT AND DEVELOP FOOD WARE AND FOOD WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAMS 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 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. The DOE also supports the types of recycling efforts contemplated in this measure, and will explore such opportunities as they become available, although we are concerned that it could cost the DOE more if we have to pay for collection of the food ware and food waste separately. The Department supports these efforts to create a prosperous and sustainable future for our island state. To that end, the DOE will, to the maximum extent possible, buy local. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SCR134 SD2, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO “BUY LOCAL” AND TO IMPLEMENT AND
DEVELOP FOOD WARE AND FOOD WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAMS
TO ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABILITY

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

April 16, 2008
11:35 AM

1 **Department’s Position:** Supports.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This concurrent resolution urges the Department of Education and
4 Department of Health to buy locally grown or produced food stuffs and goods and to implement
5 polystyrene food ware and food waste recycling programs.

6 The Department of Health complies with Chapter 103D-1002 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to
7 purchase Hawaii products. The Department is also aware that the Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter
8 3-120-4 exempts the purchase of fresh meats and produce from HRS §103D. While the Department is
9 not in the regular business of purchasing large quantities of agricultural products the agency will “buy
10 local” to the maximum extent possible as requested in this measure.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

mizuno1-Edgar

From: Rosa & Hugh & Zane & Lex [rosa.hugh@usa.net]

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2008 8:29 PM

To: HLTtestimony

Subject: testimony in support of SCR 134

testomony in support of SCR 134

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

TIME: 11:35 a.m.

Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Rosa Russell

BOD Kilauea School PTSA
organic farmer,
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**TESTIMONY- IN SUPPORT
of SCR 134**

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
"BUY LOCAL" AND TO IMPLEMENT AND DEVELOP FOOD WARE AND FOOD WASTE
RECYCLING PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABILITY.**

I am so excited by this bill! Thank you so much for taking the time to connect to the vision that many of us want for our islands.

As a farmer, I cannot tell you how much food goes in the compost because there still is not enough of a market for local produce...It is slowly changing, yet this market you propose will drastically shift the demand. I look forward to that!

As a mother I know the value of fresh food. Once an orange is picked, it begins to loose its vitamin C content by the hour! The sooner the food goes from tree to the mouth, the better! It

4/15/2008

disturbs me that children are being fed food that has such mileage!

In closing, I strongly urge you to support SCR 134.

Rosa Russell

P O Box 336, Kilauea, HI 96754

808 635 3991

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Wednesday, April 16, 2008 - 11:35 A.M. – State Capitol Room 229

Re: Support w/ suggested amendments for SCR134 SD2 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO “BUY LOCAL” AND TO IMPLEMENT AND DEVELOP FOOD WARE AND FOOD WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABILITY

Aloha Chairs Takumi & Green, Vice-Chairs Berg & Mizuno, & Members of the Committee:

My name is George White, a second year-law student at the University of Hawaii, and creator of stopstyrofoamhawaii.org. I am writing in support of SCR134 SD2 but feel certain amendments should be suggested and additional information be provided to this Committee should this Resolution be adopted by this Legislature.

The intent behind this resolution, encouraging food waste and food ware recycling, is without question a step in the right direction towards a more sustainable Hawaii and is in line with the recommendations of the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Report.

The recommendations of the Hawaii Food Industry Association, however, in their testimony before the Senate CPH Committee, concerning the recyclability of polystyrene is misguided at best, and the Resolution should be amended to redact some of their misleading assertions.

While it is correct that the Massachusetts public school system, at this time, is engaged in separating organic waste from styrofoam food ware, this is viewed strictly as an intermediate step. Massachusetts is actively pursuing and encouraging composting programs across the State, not polystyrene recycling. (See:

http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/departments/recycle/compost_that_stuff.html)

The recycling information sheets provided to the public schools emphasize a desire to eventually use compostable products as opposed to styrofoam products to reduce disposal costs and achieve greater sustainability. (See:

http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/departments/recycle/pdffiles/school_recycling_procedures.pdf)

In fact, the State of Massachusetts’ Solid Waste Master Plan (June 2006) doesn’t even mention polystyrene once, whereas the word compost appears fifty-nine times. (See:

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/priorities/dswmpu01.htm#swmp>).

This information was not provided to the members of Senate CPH Committee, who were misled to believe that polystyrene can be feasibly recycled here in Hawaii. The likelihood of this occurring is slim to none, and the efforts and resources of DOH & DOE would be better spent pursuing and encouraging alternative options to recycling polystyrene, such as composting and the use of styrofoam alternative products.

Styrofoam plays an adversarial role to sustainability and is inherently non-compostable. Similarly, styrofoam is not feasibly recycled anywhere in the Country. The plastics industry themselves acknowledge that recycling of polystyrene is a losing proposition, and has been for well over two decades. (See:

http://www.americanchemistry.com/s_plastics/sec_pfpfg.asp?CID=1436&DID=5228).

This Legislature should not be encouraging or promoting further dependence and use of polystyrene food ware products. In fact, one of the immediate recommendations of the 2050 Sustainability Report, encourages all government agencies to adopt sustainable practices, including buying biodegradable products.

I respectfully request that this Committee consider amending the Resolution to remove references to polystyrene food ware recycling in WHEREAS' 12, 13 & 14, and that the second BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED is amended to encourage the use of compostable products as opposed to urging DOE & DOH to waste time developing and implementing pointless and inefficient, non-sustainable polystyrene recycling programs.

Finally, I'd like to share with this Committee the voices of hundreds of individuals from across the State who recognize the threats posed by polystyrene food ware and the need to encourage and promote the use of alternative products. Over the last two weeks, over 950 people have signed an online petition and provided numerous comments, urging a reduction in the use of styrofoam food ware products in the State and encouraging this Legislature to support the use of compostable alternatives. Please hear these voices. (See: <http://stopstyrofoamhawaii.org/signers/show>)

SCR134 SD2 is a step in the right direction towards a more environmentally-conscious and sustainable Hawaii. Though gradual, with efforts such as those urged in SCR134, we can move our vision of sustainability forward and make a huge difference for our Hawaii, for today, and for all of our tomorrows. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony and for your support of this important issue.

Mahalo nui loa –

George White