

Date: 03/12/2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 084 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE HAWAII PUBLIC SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE TO DEVELOP NUTRITIONALLY-SOUND PUBLIC SCHOOL MENU PLANS THAT INCLUDE VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN MEALS

Purpose of Resolution: Urging the department of education and the hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports SCR84 with suggested modifications to the resolution as currently presented. The Department of Education will move forward with implementation of their Wellness Policy which addresses nutritionally-sound menu choices that promote the benefits of eating fresh fruits and vegetables; and School Food Service Managers will have an option to provide an alternate protein item in accordance with the USDA meal pattern requirement for the National School Lunch Program. Language that references "need" should be changed to prefer. The Department is required by USDA to provide modified or supplemental foods to special needs children with a physician's medical order form. The Department does not have personnel or funding to develop and maintain a website to post vegetarian and vegan recipes and menus. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

testimony

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 1:12 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SCR84; SEDU; 3/12; 2PM; Rm 225

Importance: High

Attachments: Card for Joel Fischer <jfischer@hawaii.edu>



jfischer.vcf (343 B)

SCR84, School Vegetarian Lunches
EDU; Chair, Sen Sakamoto

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION.

This may turn out to be the most important "sleeper" reso of the session. Given the enormous concern about the spreading obesity epidemic among our keiki, it seems critical to address it in as many ways as we can. Offering students a vegetarian lunch will show how important our state thinks it is to try to be proactive. We have to start somewhere; offering the healthy, lower fat option of a vegetarian meal is a great place to start.

Thank you.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
President, 19-3, Democratic Party

Professor
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work Henke Hall Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill

HMSA



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March 12, 2008

The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair
The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Re: SCR 84 – Requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals.

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 84 which would require the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, and Hawaii School Food Service, to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that give students the option of a vegetarian school lunch meal.

HMSA is committed to improving the health and well-being of all HMSA members and the community, vegetarians and meat eaters alike, through a variety of health education, promotion and prevention programs and other community services. To meet this goal, HMSA launched a new campaign in January of 2008 to promote healthy eating. The **eat healthy** campaign is designed to encourage people to make smarter eating choices.

We believe that healthy choices should always be offered at meals and that children should be presented early in life with nutritious options. Providing vegetarian choices during school lunch time would expose children who are not vegetarian to new foods, while ensuring that children who are vegetarian are able to eat a nutritious meal at any sitting. Additionally, we would add that The American Dietetic Association has proclaimed that “appropriately planned vegetarian diets are healthful, are nutritionally adequate and provide health benefits in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 84.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President, Government Relations

testimony

From: Rosa & Hugh & Zane & Lex [rosa.hugh@usa.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 3:00 PM
To: testimony
Subject: EDU - SCR no. 84

Please submit testimony for hearing

The committee(s) on EDU has scheduled a public hearing on 03-12-08 at 2:00 pm in conference room 225.

Re SCR no. 84

March 11, 2008

Rosa Russell

Kilauea School PTSA

member or Co-op ownership of Blossoming Lotus Vegan Restaurant

PO Box 336, Kilauea, Kauai

I am in support of SCR no. 84. I am very excited. I support healthier food for kids, the education that a vegan diet can bring about nutrition and food, and respect for the variety of food choices that so many families on Kauai have chosen.

I am not sure if you know about our restaurant, yet it has received the prestigious Ilima award, chosen as the best restaurant on Kauai. The restaurant and juice bar/bakery remain very popular and more and more citizens are choosing a plant based diet.

Every day I make home lunches for my child who attends Kilauea School, not because he is vegan, but because I believe in him eating more vegetables and fruit.

Thank you for the introduction of this idea. I am thrilled.

Rosa Russell

3/11/2008

From: Bill Harris [mailto:harrismdw001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 6:00 PM
Subject: Support SCR84

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals to be heard by EDU on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225.

1. Currently, other legislative proposals (e.g. HB2993 http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2008/Bills/HB2993_.htm) are targeting the rising rate of childhood obesity in Hawaii. Numerous peer-reviewed studies show that vegetarians (particularly vegans) have lower BMI (Body Mass Index) than omnivores, and lower risk for most of the diseases resulting in later life from childhood obesity.
2. National surveys have shown that 2%-5% of the US population identify themselves as vegetarian. Translated to Hawaii, that means that 5000-13,000 (<http://www.fedstats.gov/qf/states/15000.html>) of our school children would benefit from passage of SB2136.
3. The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Cancer Society, American Dietetic Association, American Heart Association, and National Institutes of Health now recommend that there be greater emphasis in the American diet on fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
4. Although only a fraction of Hawaii school children are likely to adopt a vegetarian diet if they are not already vegetarians, exposure to the information that it's possible to be healthy, vigorous, and active without the use of animal foods and processed foods would be an important education for future use.
5. Vegetarian options in the schools, utilizing locally grown produce would be a shot in the arm for Hawaii farmers, at the same time reducing our dependence on imports and environmentally destructive animal agriculture.

Sincerely,

William Harris, M.D.
1765 Ala Moana Blvd. #1880
Honolulu, HI 96815
HARRISMDW001@hawaii.rr.com
Vegetarian Society of Hawaii (VSH) TV Coordinator
Vegetarian Society of Hawaii (VSH) Board Secretary

From: Miriam Abrin [mailto:midwife@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 6:25 PM
Subject: Bill SCR84

I urge you to support Bill SCR 84.

My children attended the public school system in Hawaii in the 1970's and 1980's and were served nutritionally deficient meals. At that time I was a single mother of 5 children and my children were eligible for free lunch and they chose a vegetarian lifestyle. They were served bread and vegetables and would not eat the food that had "gravy" on it. They attended Manoa Elementary, Sunset Elementary and later Wailaua High School. John Leopold called the DOE and helped me get the lunches.

Please give children the option of nonviolent lunches.
Sincerely,
Miriam Abrin (McLean)

From: sarah Indaco [mailto:sarahindaco@hotmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 7:49 PM

Subject: Time for change and healthier children

To whom it may concern,

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

Yours faithfully

Sarah Patters

From: James Bango [mailto:james.bango@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 6:48 PM
Subject: Support SCR84

Chair EDU,

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally- sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

1. Currently, other legislative proposals (e.g. HB2993 are targeting the rising rate of childhood obesity in Hawaii. Numerous peer-reviewed studies show that vegetarians (particularly vegans) have lower BMI (Body Mass Index) than omnivores, and lower risk for most of the diseases resulting in later life from childhood obesity.
2. National surveys have shown that 2%-5% of the US population identify themselves as vegetarian. Translated to Hawaii, that means that 5000-13,000 of our school children would benefit from passage of SB2136.
3. The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Cancer Society, American Dietetic Association, American Heart Association, and National Institutes of Health now recommend that there be greater emphasis in the American diet on fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
4. Although only a fraction of Hawaii school children are likely to adopt a vegetarian diet if they are not already vegetarians, exposure to the information that it's possible to be healthy, vigorous, and active without the use of animal foods and processed foods would be an important education for future use.
5. Vegetarian options in the schools, utilizing locally grown produce would be a shot in the arm for Hawaii farmers, at the same time reducing our dependence on imports and environmentally destructive animal agriculture.
6. Examples of athletics who are vegetarians:
 - ✓ Ruth Heidrich - Ironman competitor, marathon runner, holds record in her age group, President Veg. Soc. of Honolulu).
 - ✓ Carl Lewis - 9 time Olympic Gold Medalist (1 time Silver)
 - ✓ Edwin Moses - Olympic Gold Medalist, undefeated over 8 year period in 400 meter hurdles
 - ✓ Martina Navrotolova - Tennis player
 - ✓ Dave Scott - best Triathlete, 6 times IronMan Triathlon winner

From: Denise Snyder [mailto:scott101@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 8:22 PM
Subject: Support SCR84

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

For all the right reasons. We need to give our keiki vegan options for school options- it is right for their health and right for our planet.

Denise Snyder
4952 Mana Place,
Honolulu, HI 96816

Denise Snyder
scott101@hawaii.rr.com

From: Velma Akinaka [mailto:kimoment2@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 8:16 PM
To: Sen. Norman Sakamoto
Subject: SCR84

Dear Senator Sakamoto,

I am for the passage of SCR84. I believe we need to teach our children the option that being a vegetarian is okay and healthy. There have been countless studies which have proven that a vegetarian diet is desirable. Let's help our children learn to be healthy and show them there are alternatives to a meat diet.

Velma Akinaka
2804 Park St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

-----Original Message-----

From: Awning [mailto:ticklish@perform.inbox5.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 8:03 PM

Subject: Support SCR84

Chair and Vice Chair of EDU

Vegetarianism is known to my myself through scientific research and self participation for twenty years. The problem is simple to explain to non-vegetarians, as too little is known about the subject. I am an active recreational tennis player (since age nine), participating in tournaments at the Kailua Racquet Club and Recreational Centers. Therefore, having scientific knowledge has been a life long pursuit BUT ONLY ONE BOOK can be found on the subject and it was published last year. In other words, for non vegetarians the basis in our (vegetarians) position is difficult to discover or support. Nevertheless, the findings of the book are that sports and vegetarianism are not contradictory terms. That means for our children and kids the topic vegetarianism is not strange, weird, or uncomfortable but rather, is humane and supportive of life long personal behavior and earth awareness.

The best source for books about sports is: www.HumanKinetics.com

The best source book for nutrition is: ADVANCED SPORTS NUTRITION, fine tune your fluid and food intake for optimal training and performance, Dan Benardot, PhD, RD, FACSM 2006

The best source book for sports and vegetarians is: VEGETARIAN SPORTS NUTRITION, food choices and eating plans for fitness and performance, D. Enette Larson-Meyer, PhD, RD. 2007

Kenneth Pollock

PMB 740

Kailua, Hawaii 96734

From: Bob Leitch [mailto:seeker44442000@yahoo.ca]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 8:36 PM

Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally- sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

In making your decision re the passage of the above resolution, I am asking to consider the following 5 salient points/observations. If you truly do believe in the sacrosanct value of having optimally healthy Hawaiian keiki, and if you accept the nutritional science which has proven in numerous studies the excellent health benefits plant-based diets, then you must promote and pass Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84.

1. Currently, other legislative proposals (e.g. HB2993 http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2008/Bills/HB2993_.htm) are targeting the rising rate of childhood obesity in Hawaii. Numerous peer-reviewed studies show that vegetarians particularly vegans) have lower BMI (Body Mass Index) than omnivores, and lower risk for most of the diseases resulting in later life from childhood obesity.

2. National surveys have shown that 2%-5% of the US population identify themselves as vegetarian. Translated to Hawaii, that means that 5000-13,000 (<http://www.fedstats.gov/qf/states/15000.html>) of our school children would benefit from passage of SB2136.

3. The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Cancer Society, American Dietetic Association, American Heart Association, and National Institutes of Health now recommend that there be greater emphasis in the American diet on fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

4. Although only a fraction of Hawaii school children are likely to adopt a vegetarian diet if they are not already vegetarians, exposure to the information that it's possible to be healthy, vigorous, and active without the use of animal foods and processed foods would be an important education for future use.

5. Vegetarian options in the schools, utilizing locally grown produce would be a shot in the arm for Hawaii farmers, at the same time reducing our dependence on imports and environmentally destructive animal agriculture.

Thank you,
Bob Leitch
1415 Victoria St., #1106
Honolulu
536-4006

From: Annacarmen [mailto:xiezopoli001@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 9:55 PM

Subject: Support SCR84

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

**Ivona Xiezopolski
45-180 Mahalani Pl. 7
Kaneohe, HI 96744**

From: Leanne Logan [mailto:leannebeth54@hotmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 10:21 PM

Subject: please support SCR84

Please make vegetarian meals available for our Hawaii public school children. Our kids need to have the option to eat healthy meals in school that do not include meat, and to learn at an early age that such food choices are possible and tasty. As a nurse and an educator, I believe that receiving this message at an early age can help steer (no pun intended!) Hawaii's children towards a healthier life.

Thank you for your support of this bill!

Leanne Logan, RN

Assistant Professor of Nursing at Hawaii Pacific University

From: Eugene Schreiber [mailto:schreibee001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 10:48 PM
Subject: Support SCR84

Dear Honorable Sir:

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84:
"requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii
public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound
public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan
meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on
Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

As is well known child obesity is rising in Hawaii. Numerous peer-reviewed studies show that vegetarians (particularly vegans) have lower BMI (Body Mass Index) than omnivores, and lower risk for most of the diseases resulting in later life from childhood obesity.

National surveys show that 2-5% of the population identify themselves as being vegetarian, which means that 5000-13000 of our school children would benefit from passage of SB2136.

As you probably know, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Cancer Society, American Dietetic Association, American Heart Association, and National Institutes of Health now recommend that there be greater emphasis in the American diet on fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

Vegetarian options in the schools, utilizing locally grown produce, would be a shot in the arm for Hawaii farmers, at the same time reducing our dependence on imports and environmentally destructive animal agriculture.

Although only a fraction of Hawaii school children are likely to adopt a vegetarian diet if they are not already vegetarians, exposure to the information that it's possible to be healthy, vigorous, and active without the use of animal foods and processed foods would be an important education for future use.

Thanks for your attention and action.

Eugene Schreiber
A&E Electric

From: gretchen manzer [mailto:gretchenmanzer@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 10:48 PM
Subject: vegan lunch options

To whom it may concern,

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally- sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

I personally have a vegan son about to enter preschool and I am deeply concerned about the lack of school food options available for him. The food choices and eating patterns we teach our children in childhood, will certainly be the foundation for their food preferences throughout life. Please consider vegan and vegetarian families, we are putting great emphasis on raising healthy children and we need the help and support of Hawaii's public schools,

Thank you,
Gretchen Manzer

From: Katalina [mailto:katalina@lava.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 11:41 PM
Subject: Support SCR84

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

Vegetarian and vegan meals are better for the child's health and are better for the environment.

**Sincerely,
K. McGlone
Honolulu**

From: Kevin [mailto:stardustsparklin@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 12:06 AM
Subject: Support SCR84

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

How long will we sugar-coat our policies that effect our children's health and wellbeing? Well need powerful polices that enable change. How many mad cow disease scares will it take? How many childhood-diagnosed obesity and diabetes cases will it take? Our keiki need us now! We need strong and effective legislation that puts healthy food into our children's stomachs.

If you are inclined to site reason's why a planet-based diet is unhealthy, I urge you to ask, where did this information come from? You may be surprised to know that the U.S. meat and dairy industries fund our nation's school lunch and nutritional education programs. Check it out for yourselves! I urge you!!! Does it seem right to have these industries decide what a healthy meal consists of? Is it biased? Of course.

I'm certain in your due diligence you will discover that a plant-based diet is necessary for our species survival. Not only necessary, but natural and appropriate. Discover that the top three causes of death in the U.S. (Heart Disease, Cancer, and complications from Type II Diabetes) are 100% related to our diet. Our meat-based and junk food diet.

In the very least, our keiki should be given the CHOICE for a healthy diet in school. Does this cost more? Absolutely not! And is significantly cheaper than throwing thousands of pounds of beef into Waimanalo Gulch for fear it may be diseased? Insanity! Our children need us now. You have the power. Do the right thing.

Yours,

~ Kevin Nesnow
905 Spencer St., Apt. 601
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: P Hayashi [mailto:patbeagle2003@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 4:30 AM
Subject: vegetarian a vegan meals in schools

Dear Senator,

As a vegan and the aunt of a teen who is a vegetarian I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally- sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

Vegetarian meals would save on millions of dollars of health care and also lower the risk of diabetes and obesity in our young children. They need to have at least one healthy food option in their day in order to succeed.

Patricia Hayashi

From: brown pride [mailto:desi666@hindunet.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 4:27 AM
Subject: please Support SCR84

As someone who is vegetarian for religious and health reasons it was always a problem for me growing up to find nutritious vegetarian meals in the public school system. I am in full support of SB2136, the Vegetarian School Lunch Option bill, to provide a healthy alternative to kids who require or desire veg meals.

Thank you,
Ravi Grover

From: Suzin Eberz [mailto:suzineberz@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 4:43 AM
Subject: Giving our kids options

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally- sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

Our kids deserve the option to make healthful choices.

Thank you for listening.

**Suzin Rossin Eberz
Manoa Road
Honolulu, HI 96822**

Peace and Love,
Suzin

From: Lee Ann Buvinger [mailto:dolphinlife@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 6:56 AM
Subject: Support SCR84

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225.

National surveys have shown that 2%-5% of the US population identify themselves as vegetarian. Translated to Hawaii, that means that 5,000-13,000 (<http://www.fedstats.gov/qf/states/15000.html>) of our school children would benefit from passage of SB2136. In addition, The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Cancer Society, American Dietetic Association, American Heart Association, and National Institutes of Health now recommend that there be greater emphasis in the American diet on fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Buvinger

From: amy kimura [mailto:kimura968@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 7:30 AM

Subject: SCR84: requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally- sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and EDU Committee Members:

I strongly SUPPORT a vegan option in the school meal program.

1) It's much healthier and can be done within USDA guidelines, at no extra cost to the DOE. (Haiku Elementary School has done this.)

2) Omnivores may occasionally try the vegan option and discover accidentally, as I did years ago, that it eliminates or reduces that after-lunch sleepiness that makes it hard to stay awake during afternoon classes.

3) Omnivore athletes may discover it increases stamina.

4) Overweight students may discover it makes it easier to control weight gain.

It's a win-win situation for our children.

I ask your kokua.

Amy Y. Kimura

From: akr9@hawaii.rr.com [mailto:akr9@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 9:30 AM
Subject: SCR84: school nutrition- in favor of vegetarian & other healthy options

Dear Senator Sakamoto,

I urge you to support SCR84.

By now you likely know the benefits of a vegetarian or vegan diet as well as anyone, including the environmental pluses, but in addition to the health benefits themselves, making these options available sends the message to children and teenagers that a healthy body supports a healthy mind and the two cannot be separated in the long run.

Given the obesity numbers, the environmental numbers, and the heart attack and cancer numbers tied to a meat-eating diet, any effort to reduce the dependent-on-meat mindset will be a positive move.

Yours truly,
Alethea Rebman

From: Victoria B. Anderson [mailto:vanderso@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 10:38 AM
Subject: Please support SCR84

I write to urge you to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84, which asks that the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service provide nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals. This resolution is scheduled to be heard Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225). Especially in light of recent events with Hallmark beef, vegetarian meals should be an option for school kids.

Thank you,

--

Victoria Anderson
Assistant Professor of Linguistics
University of Hawai`i at Manoa
vanderso@hawaii.edu
Office: 808-956-5830
FAX: 808-956-9166

From: compassion for animals [mailto:cfora@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 11:38 AM

Subject: In Support of SCR84 to be heard by your EDU Committee on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM

Senator Norman Sakamoto
CHAIR OF SENATE COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION
Senator Jill Tokuda
VICE-CHAIR OF SENATE COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION

Christy Deutsch
5472 Kirkwood Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96821
808-542-9257

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

I have lived in Hawaii my whole life, and went to public school- Heeia Elementary, King Intermediate, and graduated in '96 from Castle High. When I was 13 years old and in the seventh grade I became a vegetarian for ethical reasons - I didn't think it was right to kill and eat animals for food. My parents were not very thrilled with my decision- and I ate whatever the "sides" of thier dinner were... vegetables and rice, noodles, or potatoes. They probably didn't worry too much about what I was eating because they assumed it was a "phase" and soon I'd be eating what everybody else did. Well, it wasn't a phase, and I'm still a vegetarian 'till this day. I would say one of the hardest things about being a vegetarian was finding food to eat at school. While we would be given a chioce of two options - 98% of the time it was something I couldn't eat. Breakfast was OK because usually the meat was the "side" and I would just give it to one of my friends and I would have the cinnamon bun, pancakes, or waffles to eat. But, for lunch I would usually get stuck with the bun (my friends would also give me thiers, so I would end up with 3), french fries and the cookie (my friends were usually not as generous with those items!). And even though the lunch usually comes with a vegetable it was served right along side the meat and the gravy would get all over it so I couldn't eat it. Sometimes I would get really lucky and one of the options would be cheese pizza and I could actually eat and feel satisfied. But if I were a vegan, (vegans eat absolutely no animal products), I would have been in real trouble. I don't think any vegan food was available... well, maybe the french fries, and that's not very healthy.

I urge you to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84, because it is important for vegetarians like me, vegans, and other people who would like to have healthier food choices, to be able to eat school lunch.

Thank you.

From: Stephanie M. [mailto:aloharunner@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 1:10 PM

Subject: SCR84 SUPPORT

My name is Stephanie McLaughlin and I am a public school teacher at Moanalua High School. I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84 requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals. I am the faculty advisor of our school's Vegetarian Club and we have twenty-plus students in our club. Everyday I hear complaints from my students about the food served in the school cafeteria. It is loaded with fat and sugar and students are not eating it. They want more fresh food options in the form of FRESH fruits and vegetables, rice, pasta, beans and tofu on the school buffet line. I personally never eat in the school cafeteria because the food is so unhealthy and overly processed. Thank you for passing this bill! Sincerely, Stephanie McLaughlin, Moanalua High School, phone (808)384-4764

From: Noyita Saravia [mailto:noyitas@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 1:06 PM
Subject: support SCR 84

Please, I urge that our young people have nutritionally sound meals that include vegetarian and vegan options.

I live in Kahuku and enjoy the Kahuku library and Olelo on the High School campus. I am shocked at the amount of obesity. I am shocked at what I see young people eating! Diabetes is huge in Hawaii and that is directly connected to diet. Please, do all of Hawaii and favor and support SCR 84. Thank you.

From: Willow [mailto:willowhi@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 1:32 PM
Subject: support SCR84

I wholeheartedly support this bill. We need to be more pro-active in schools to support children in making healthy choices. The vegetarian diet has been proven to be healthier than the standard American diet, as demonstrated by those organizations listed in the bill.

Please support SCR84.

Sincerely,

Willow Aureala, Ph.D.
P.O. Box 6306
Ocean View, HI 96737

From: caroline@azelski.net [mailto:caroline@azelski.net]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 2:12 PM
Subject: Please support SCR84

Dear Chair Sakamoto:

I urge passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR84: "requesting the Department of Education and the Hawaii public school food service to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that include vegetarian and vegan meals (to be heard by your EDU Committee) on Wednesday 03-12-08 at 2:00 PM in conference room 225).

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,
Caroline Azelski
PO Box 6718
Kamuela, HI 96743
808-895-1323

From: shanti108@hawaii.rr.com [mailto:shanti108@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 3:40 PM
Subject: Support SCR84

Testimony in strong support of SCR84

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2008
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Room: Conference room 225

Dear Senator Sakamoto,

I am writing in support of SCR84, regarding development of nutritionally-sound school lunches that include vegetarian and vegan meals. Several school districts around the country have successfully instituted policies such as this, with tasty and attractive vegetarian entrees. School lunches should not contribute to the growing epidemic of childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes in children. More and more people, including children, are choosing a vegetarian lifestyle, for ethical, health and environmental reasons. Please pass this resolution and give students a choice.

Aloha,

Roberta & William Bailey
2161 Puna St.
Honolulu 96817
447-9118