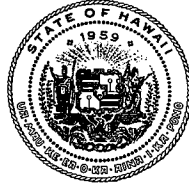


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



L A T E

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:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**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**

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

**March 12, 2008
2:00PM**

1 **Department's Position:** Oppose

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health respectfully opposes this measure, although we
4 appreciate the over-all concept of this bill because it seeks to improve the nutritional opportunities for
5 children and youth in Hawaii's public schools. The Department has an existing partnership with the
6 Department of Education (DOE), School Food Service Branch and has participated in their menu
7 planning committee. It is this committee within the DOE which is responsible for the development of
8 public school lunch and breakfast menus as well as ensuring the meals and meal patterns meet the
9 stringent United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirements.

10 The Department in conjunction with the DOE created the comprehensive Local Wellness Policy
11 and Guidelines (LWP) which sets healthy meal requirements and nutrition standards for foods sold or
12 provided on campus. This includes fundraisers, school concessions, and classroom rewards. From a
13 public health perspective, the Department proposes to continue the collaboration with the DOE on the

1 four year implementation of the LWP so menu plans meet the rigorous United States Department of
2 Agriculture requirements with meals that appeal to the overall student population and to promote healthy
3 food options throughout the school environment.

4 Neither the Department nor DOE has data to support that a significant number of students are
5 vegetarian and vegan students in the public school system. The Department respectfully offers that there
6 is not sufficient evidence to require developing alternative menu options. Implementing such options
7 throughout the entire public school system would be costly, and could undermine the ability to
8 participate in the USDA school meals programs and could endanger the ability to provide what for some
9 children may be the only predictable daily meal.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.