

# HMSA



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March 25, 2009

The Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair  
The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair  
House Committees on Education and Health

**Re: HR 47 & HCR 59 – Requesting the Board of Education to develop a policy to include vegetarian and vegan meal options in all school menu plans.**

Dear Chair Takumi, Chair Yamane, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HR 47 and HCR 59 which would require the Department of Education to develop a policy to include vegetarian and vegan meal options in all school menu plans.

HMSA is committed to improving the health and well-being of all HMSA members and the community, vegetarians, vegans, and meat eaters alike. To achieve this goal, HMSA has launched various health education, promotion, and prevention programs to encourage people to make smarter eating choices.

We believe that healthy, nutritious meal choices should always be offered, especially to children so that they can develop health eating habits at a young age. Providing vegetarian and vegan choices during school lunch time would not only expose children who are not vegetarian or vegan to new foods, but would also ensure that children who are vegetarian and vegan are able to eat a nutritious meal at any sitting.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HR 47 and HCR 59.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JD' followed by a flourish.

Jennifer Diesman  
Assistant Vice President  
Government Relations

**Jennifer Wilbur**

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**From:** daveraatz@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2009 10:46 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HR 47 and HCR 59

Dear Committee on Education and Committee on Health:

I support HR 47 and HCR 59.

Kids deserve meal choices that are consistent with their and their parents' health and ethical standards.

Thank you.

David Raatz  
Resident of Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i  
Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

## Jennifer Wilbur

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**From:** Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2009 12:01 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HR47;EDN;3/25/09;2PM;Rm309

**Importance:** High

HR47,HCR59, Requesting the BOD..Vegetarian Policy  
EDN; Chair, Rep Takumi.

### **STRONG SUPPORT FOR THESE RESOS!**

It's time that our state works to increase healthier choices for students in the food we are responsible for serving. Apart from the fact that many students are vegetarians and are being forced to scrounge for foods they can eat, all students deserve our best efforts to increase their health and decrease the obesity epidemic.

Thank you for supporting this reso.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW  
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