

JAN 23 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that during the extensive
2 period of time they spend at school, students should be provided
3 with nutritious food and beverages to help them mature in
4 developmentally-appropriate ways.

5 The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Cancer
6 Society, American Dietetic Association, American Heart
7 Association, and National Institutes of Health now recommend
8 that there be greater emphasis in the American diet on fruits,
9 vegetables, and whole grains. Fruits and vegetables promote
10 good health because they contain fiber and essential nutrients
11 including vitamins and minerals, are low in fat and calories,
12 contain phytochemicals that may provide additional protection to
13 reduce the risk of cancer and heart disease, and contain no
14 cholesterol. Also, all the essential organic nutrients in the
15 human diet are synthesized by plants and microorganisms.

16 The legislature finds that increasing awareness of the
17 importance of eating five or more servings of fruits and
18 vegetables a day for better health should begin in the schools.



1 In addition, a significant minority of Hawaii school
2 children identify themselves as vegetarian or vegan - consuming
3 no animal products - or come from vegetarian or vegan families.
4 The legislature finds that these children are at a disadvantage
5 if no vegetarian school lunches are offered at their schools.
6 All students should be assured nutritionally-balanced diets
7 regardless of their food preferences and avoidances.

8 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
9 health to develop nutritionally-sound public school menu plans
10 that give students the option of a vegetarian school lunch meal.

11 SECTION 2. The department of health shall work in
12 collaboration with the department of agriculture, department of
13 education, and the Hawaii school food service office to develop
14 nutritionally-sound public school menu plans that give students
15 the option of a vegetarian school lunch meal.

16 SECTION 3. The department of health, in cooperation with
17 the department of education, shall submit to the legislature, no
18 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
19 session of 2010, a report on the public school menu plans that
20 have been developed and implemented to provide nutritionally-
21 sound public school menu plans including the option of
22 vegetarian school lunch meals.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Erinanne Chinn Cleveland

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Report Title:

Public School Menu Plans; Optional Vegetarian School Lunch Meals

Description:

Requires 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.

