

Date: 03/24/2010

Committee: House Agriculture
House Education

LATE TESTIMONY

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 290 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER LEASING OR RENTING PUBLIC SCHOOL CAFETERIAS TO VALUE-ADDED FOOD PROCESSORS TO PROMOTE THE USE OF LOCALLY-GROWN FRESH PRODUCE IN SCHOOL MEALS.

Purpose of Resolution: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER LEASING OR RENTING PUBLIC SCHOOL CAFETERIAS TO VALUE-ADDED FOOD PROCESSORS TO PROMOTE THE USE OF LOCALLY-GROWN FRESH PRODUCE IN SCHOOL MEALS.

Department's Position: The Department of Education cannot support this resolution. Use of public school kitchens to private entities for agricultural processing would require a change in Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 40, which currently limits the use of school kitchen facilities to school and community related organizations. The Rule does not currently contemplate the use of school kitchens by commercial organizations. Because the contemplated uses are non-commercial, the fees for the use of kitchen facilities are structured to recover costs, not to generate a profit that "could be invested in school infrastructure or healthier school lunches" as suggested in the resolution.

The DOE appreciates the intent of the Legislature, to support local agriculture, to improve the quality of school meals, and to generate financial resources for the support of the school breakfast and lunch

program, but our ability to dedicate staff time to the task force proposed in the resolution is very limited at this time.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.