

**Date:** 02/17/2010

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

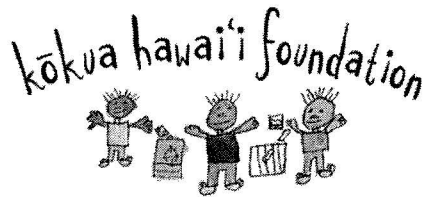
**Title of Resolution:** HCR 52(HR14) REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE WASTE OF MILK DISTRIBUTED WITH SCHOOL LUNCHES.

**Purpose of Resolution:** REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE WASTE OF MILK DISTRIBUTED WITH SCHOOL LUNCHES.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education (DOE) has taken steps to minimize milk and food waste through the USDA Offer Versus Serve (OVS) provision that allows students to choose a minimum of three of the five required meal components. This provision was initiated to reduce food waste, and program costs, while still maintaining the consumption of a wide variety of nutritious foods. Senior high schools participating in the National School Lunch Program were mandated to participate in the OVS program under Public Law 94-105. Encouraged by the success of the OVS provision, Congress authorized OVS for middle schools, and further expanded to elementary and preschools. SY 2008-2009, the DOE Information on School Food Services Memo included the OVS provision, prompting all middle and elementary schools to participate. The department goal is to have all schools participating by the end of SY 2010-2011.

A measure to provide information on milk waste is not necessary, as a plan to reduce food and milk waste has been in place since 2008.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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February 16, 2010

House Education Committee

Submitted to <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony/>

Re: Support of HR 14, Hearing on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 Conference room 309

Aloha House Education Committee,

We support House Resolution 14, measuring and eliminating milk waste in the Department of Education. Consider the fact that we import over 80% of our milk, and each 8 oz. carton ranges in cost from \$0.28-\$0.33 a carton. I have personally seen gallons of milk in the trash after a lunch period. Reducing milk waste in schools can significantly reduce purchasing costs for the DOE.

The other savings are in the form of reduced waste. Less milk and carton waste will lessen the burden on our landfills and further reduce disposal costs for the DOE.

Most of our elementary schools are currently serving all five meal components to children, whether they drink milk or not. If an "offer vs. serve" policy were adopted there would be a savings in food cost because only three out of five components are necessary for a meal to be considered reimbursable by the USDA. Children that do not drink milk and do not have doctor's notes can choose any three other components. While calcium is an important part of a child's diet, milk is not its sole source.

The Kokua Hawaii'i Foundation is a non-profit supporting environmental education in Hawaii's schools and communities. Reducing waste in schools is a priority for both our 'AINA In Schools and 3R's programs. We can help by providing information on student-run waste audits, and other reduce, reuse, recycle initiatives.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dexter Kishida  
School Food Coordinator  
'AINA In Schools Program  
Kokua Hawaii'i Foundation