

LATE
Testimony

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Date: 03/19/2010

Committee: House Agriculture

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HR 236(HCR289) REQUESTING STATE PUBLIC ENTITIES TO COMMIT TO HEALTHIER AND MORE NUTRITIOUS MEALS IN THEIR PROGRAMS BY SPENDING TEN PER CENT OF THEIR FOOD DOLLARS FOR LOCALLY-PRODUCED PRODUCE OR OTHER HAWAII AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Purpose of Resolution: REQUESTING STATE PUBLIC ENTITIES TO COMMIT TO HEALTHIER AND MORE NUTRITIOUS MEALS IN THEIR PROGRAMS BY SPENDING TEN PER CENT OF THEIR FOOD DOLLARS FOR LOCALLY-PRODUCED PRODUCE OR OTHER HAWAII AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Department's Position: The Department of Education cannot commit to using ten percent of federally funded food dollars to purchase local produce exclusively. Federal monies must be used with the "best buy" requirement, if a local orange is more expensive than a California orange, we are obligated to purchase the mainland product.

Ten percent of the federal food expenditure represents approximately three million dollars. The department cannot guarantee locally grown produce can fulfill the needs of the statewide National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs, which serves 100,000 meals per day.

The Department of Education's food service program provides healthy,

nutritious meals, which exceed the nutrition goals established by USDA.

We request amending H.R. No. 236 by deleting the Department of Education as a participating agency, or, deleting the ten percent requirement as written.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.