

SCR28

Date: 02/24/2010

Committee: Senate Education and Housing

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 28 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.