

MAR 09 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REEXAMINE THE MENU SCHEDULES FOR SCHOOL MEALS TO GIVE LOCAL PRODUCE SUPPLIERS THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE IN EACH MEAL, IN KEEPING WITH UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STANDARDS.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is a large purchaser
2 of food products for child nutrition programs, including the
3 school breakfast program, national school lunch program,
4 afterschool snack program, and summer food service program; and
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6 WHEREAS, as a large purchaser of food products, the
7 Department of Education can make a significant impact on the
8 local economy by purchasing produce from local farms; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii's school children will benefit from the
11 purchase of local produce by consuming fresher, better tasting,
12 and more nutritious food; and
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14 WHEREAS, the procurement of produce from local farms can
15 also serve as a "market primer" by representing a stable source
16 of demand for local farmers, thereby creating the security
17 required for these farmers to invest in the capital necessary to
18 expand production capacity and access additional markets; and
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20 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture sets
21 forth nutritional requirements for school meals; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Department of Education creates menus for
24 school meals with specific food items that schools must all
25 produce; and
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27 WHEREAS, while creating this type of strict menu is
28 beneficial when ordering food in bulk, if the specific product
29 is not produced or manufactured in Hawaii in sufficient and
30 available quantities or, through competitive bids, the costs of
31 a locally produced food are significantly higher, and the
32 Department of Education purchases the food from mainland
33 providers; and



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1
2 WHEREAS, flexibility is needed in the menu schedules to
3 allow local produce suppliers the opportunity to meet the
4 Department of Education's needs; and
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6 WHEREAS, for example, rather than a menu specifying "one
7 cup of broccoli", the menu could require "one cup of fresh
8 vegetables" instead; and
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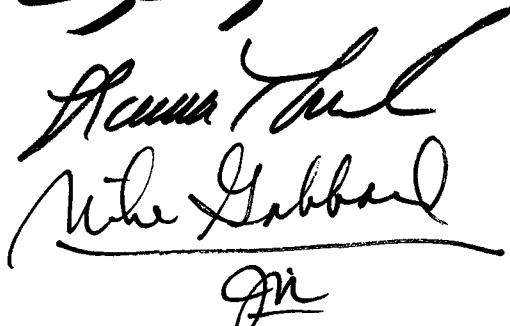
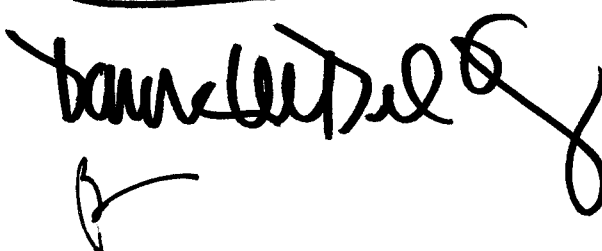

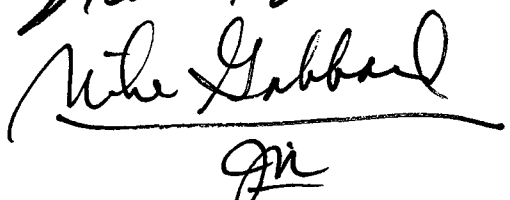

10 WHEREAS, allowing flexibility in school menus that meet
11 United States Department of Agriculture standards will further
12 promote purchasing from and supporting local farms, while
13 providing schoolchildren with healthy meals; now, therefore,
14

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
17 that the Department of Education is requested to reexamine the
18 menu schedules for school meals to give local produce suppliers
19 the ability to provide locally grown produce in each meal, in
20 keeping with United States Department of Agriculture standards;
21 and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
24 requested to look at incorporating more flexible menu
25 requirements that specify food groups, rather than specific
26 foods, especially in fresh produce requirements; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Education
30 and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

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A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clarence K. Fisk

