MAR 0 8 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HAWAII FOODBANK TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A VITAMIN SUPPLEMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, sufficient nutrition for children during key developmental years is important for growth and long-term health; and

WHEREAS, as recently as 2021, peer-reviewed studies of school-aged children using vitamin supplements show improvement in physical growth and academic performance; and

WHEREAS, vitamins and minerals are essential nutrients that play an important role in key body functions such as cell growth and immune function, calcium absorption, and bone growth; and

WHEREAS, vitamins and minerals are key to the development of children as deficiencies may cause long-term health impacts such as osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, multiple sclerosis, hypertension, diabetes, and other diseases that may pose significant health risks; and

WHEREAS, vitamin supplements may fill in gaps for schoolaged children who may not receive a sufficient daily intake of key vitamins; and

WHEREAS, school-aged children who have access to vitamin supplements in schools can receive nutrition needed to grow at healthy rates and succeed academically; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education is requested to develop and implement a vitamin supplement distribution program in partnership with the Hawaii Foodbank; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of the Department of Education, Chairperson of the Board of Education, and President of the Hawaii Foodbank.

OFFERED BY: Bennette Mislal