

MAR 12 2009

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A POLICY TO INCLUDE  
VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN MEAL OPTIONS IN ALL SCHOOL MENU PLANS.

1           WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Cancer  
2 Society, American Dietetic Association, American Heart  
3 Association, and National Institutes of Health recommend that  
4 there be greater emphasis in the American diet on fruits,  
5 vegetables, and whole grains; and  
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7           WHEREAS, according to the Physicians Committee for  
8 Responsible Medicine, individuals following healthy plant-based  
9 diets are less likely to be overweight or obese, and they have a  
10 reduced risk of diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, high  
11 cholesterol, and some cancers; and  
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13           WHEREAS, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine  
14 has also found that vegetarian teens have higher intakes of  
15 essential vitamins and minerals; and  
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17           WHEREAS, fruits and vegetables promote good health because  
18 they contain fiber and essential nutrients, including vitamins  
19 and minerals, are low in fat and calories, contain  
20 phytochemicals that may provide additional protection to reduce  
21 the risk of cancer and heart disease, and contain no  
22 cholesterol; and  
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24           WHEREAS, all students should have access to nutritionally-  
25 balanced diets to ensure they become healthy adults who do not  
26 suffer from the effects of obesity and malnutrition; and  
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28           WHEREAS, a significant minority of Hawaii school children  
29 identify themselves as vegetarian or vegan; and  
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31           WHEREAS, students who identify themselves as vegetarian or  
32 vegan, or come from vegetarian or vegan families, desire access  
33 to vegetarian and vegan meals in the public schools; and are at



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1 a disadvantage if no vegetarian or vegan options are offered;  
2 and

3  
4 WHEREAS, some public schools are able to provide vegetarian  
5 and vegan meals; now, therefore,  
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the  
9 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education  
10 is requested to develop a policy to include vegetarian and vegan  
11 meal options in all school menu plans; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
14 requested to post on its website a list of schools that have  
15 vegetarian and vegan menu options; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
19 Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.  
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21  
22

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