

SB813

Date: 02/13/2009

Committee: Senate Education and Housing

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0813 RELATING TO SCHOOL LUNCHES.

Purpose of Bill: Requires public school cafeterias to serve fresh local produce at lunch at least once each week.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) **does not support this bill.** Section 4302 of P.L. 110-246 amended section 9(j) of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) to allow federally funded institutions (such as the DOE) to apply geographic preference to the maximum extent where practical and appropriate. The statute "permits" but does not "require" such preferences.

Federal law prohibits the states from mandating through law or policy that institutions participating in the National School Lunch Program apply a geographic preference when soliciting agricultural products. Operators (such as the DOE) under USDA Child Nutrition Programs have the discretion to determine whether and how a geographic preference meets its needs. NSLA grants this authority directly to the DOE. Geographic preference may be used to encourage the purchase of locally grown and raised products, but the provision does not eliminate the requirement that allows free and open competition, consistent with the responsibility to be prudent stewards of federal funds.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tennyson Andrew Lee

Island Pacific Academy

Response to SB No. 813

February 12, 2009

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Tennyson Andrew Lee and I am a junior at Island Pacific Academy High School. I am testifying on SB No. 813, Relating to School Lunches. I am strongly supportive of this Bill because it is healthier for the students and supports local farms and environment.

According to National Resources Defence Council (NRDC), most of the produce grown in the United States travels an average of 1,500 miles before it is sold. Grapes, for example, that are grown and sent to California are mostly shipped from Chile to Los Angeles. The distance of travel for the grapes before it is sold is about 5,900 miles. There are many other variables, such as fossil fuel and the amount of packages used to transport the produce, which help to show that fresh local produce is important because they help the environment. Fresh local produce is eaten the day it is picked so you know it is going to be fresh.

In support of fresh local produce, food that travels long distances lose vitamin. Also, in trying to keep the food fresh during the long journey, the produce must be preserved. Depending on the season, fresh produce becomes limited and therefore, need to be frozen or preserved. According to Capers Community Market of Vancouver, produce is preserved using waxes and chemicals. These materials can be hazardous to human health.

Buying and eating local produce supports neighboring farms and allows them to continue growing more produce for the local. By supporting these farms, you support yourself by staying healthy and help the environment.

Eating healthy to keep you from getting sick has a higher prevention if local fresh produce is consumed. The majority of students around the world do not get the right amount of nutrition each day. According to GirlsHealth.gov, girls should have 2 cups of fruit, 2 and a half cups of vegetables, 3 cups of milk for calcium, 6 ounces of grain, and 5 and a half ounces of protein each day.

I strongly believe that serving fresh local produce to public schools will help students to be healthier, farmers to continue producing locally grown foods, and the environment.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Cc: jmdehoff@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB813 on 2/13/2009 2:30:00 PM
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 11:21:25 AM

Testimony for EDH 2/13/2009 2:30:00 PM SB813

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Julia DeHoff
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: jmdehoff@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

I support this bill for the following reasons:

*Children should be exposed to healthy food and proper nutrition. Based on the food pyramid, fresh produce is necessary for proper development.

*Local produce would reduce the obesity rate in children, as children would then be inclined to make better decisions about food.

*Local produce would also support local farms/ farmers

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Cc: ryan@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB813 on 2/13/2009 2:30:00 PM
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 11:39:35 AM

Testimony for EDH 2/13/2009 2:30:00 PM SB813

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ryan Matthews
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ryan@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

Children should be introduced to healthy food at an early age. Local produce could help reduce Obesity in the future.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Cc: sota.japan1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB813 on 2/13/2009 2:30:00 PM
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 11:30:40 AM

Testimony for EDH 2/13/2009 2:30:00 PM SB813

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: **comments only**
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mushi
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED] honolulu
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: sota.japan1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

I support this bill the following reason; children should eat more healthy food. Local produce would reduce the obesity rate, as children ate them inclined to make healthier choice about food.

From: [Rae Tamaribuchi](#)
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 813, Relating to School Lunches (requires fresh local produce at public school lunch at least once a week)
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:19:13 PM

Dylan Tamaribuchi
Pd.2 (AP LANG.)

WHY AREN'T WE GETTING THESE PRODUCE?

SB NUMBER 813

Title: Why Arent We Getting These Products?

Good Afternoon, Senators. My Name is Dylan Tamaribuchi and I am a Junior at Moanalua High School. I am testifying on SB No. 813, RELATING TO SCHOOL LUNCHES.

I am strongly support the Senate Bill No. 813 for the following reasons. The first reason is why can't we get our produce from here in Oahu when we have wonderful climate and a great place to produce our own. Also, do you know how much extra sugar is added to the canned fruits that many dislike. These two reasons do affect our school lunches poorly which is how the Bill came up.

Produce grown here is well produced and is not made with preservatives (in cans) because it's all natural. It's also not grown with steroids creating for example a 15lbs pineapple. The bananas here are also well grown.

All of us know that canned fruit is not always the best way to go and I know for a fact that we should all do what we can to get our kids here in school the best that we can offer no matter what because with an education, you must fuel the students to prepare them for the everyday learning that they need to do. And what better way to do that by passing this Bill and seeing those every-week deliveries of local produce at our doorstep.

With all of this there will definitely be a big price change because of the transportation of the produce and as well as the more man power/ labor that will be needed to cut, serve etc. all of the produce. BUT this will all be worth it because we will all know that

all of our children will get the best that Oahu should always offer.

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School: Moanalua High School

Public School

Teacher's Name: Ms. Voss -AP Language

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