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GOVERNOR



LATE

KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/01/2015

Time: 01:15 PM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Education Senate
Agriculture

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 191 ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARY FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

**Purpose of
Resolution:**

Department's Position:

The Department of Education does not support SCR 191. Although the department acknowledges the importance of school gardens as an educational tool, agriculture as a career path, and student opportunities for farm visits to gain a better understanding of our food chain, there are regulatory and management limitations for a Complex Area Superintendent. A Complex Area Superintendent does not have the budget or authority to purchase produce and deviate from the statewide 5-week cycle USDA approved menu. A Complex Area Superintendent does not have the resources to seek out farmers that could provide a year's supply of produce, monitor food safety certification and required liability insurance.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.