
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF USING REUSABLE CUTLERY
AND FLATWARE AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is committed to sustainability
2 and the preservation of our natural environment and resources;
3 and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is committed to
6 fostering values in Hawaii's students consistent with the State
7 of Hawaii's goals regarding preservation and sustainability; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the Department of Education strives to make cost-
10 conscious decisions when considering improving student learning
11 environments; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the Department of Education schools currently use
14 single-use plates and single-use plastic eating utensils; and
15

16 WHEREAS, utilizing reusable cutlery can result in
17 environmental benefits such as reduced waste and greenhouse gas
18 emissions; and
19

20 WHEREAS, utilizing reusable cutlery as opposed to
21 disposable cutlery reduces overall cost to schools and removes
22 the need for disposables to be regularly transported to and
23 unpacked at schools; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the environmental impact of utilizing reusable
26 cutlery at two middle schools in Minnetonka, Minnesota included
27 the prevention of approximately 6,000 pounds of on-site solid
28 waste in the first year, and the schools collectively saved
29 approximately \$3,000 by buying reusable utensils and bowls,
30 lowering the annual per student costs for food-ware from \$6.89
31 to \$4.83; and



H.C.R. NO. 155

1
2 WHEREAS, a study of the feasibility of switching to
3 reusable cutlery and flatware could potentially result in long-
4 term cost savings for Department of Education schools; now,
5 therefore,

6
7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference
10 Bureau is requested to conduct a feasibility study on switching
11 from single-use plastic eating utensils to reusable cutlery at
12 Department of Education schools, including the costs and
13 potential savings for using reusable food-ware; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
16 requested to cooperate with the Legislative Reference Bureau and
17 to provide whatever information, assistance, and support may be
18 requested by the Bureau; and
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
21 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and
22 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
23 Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of
24 the Regular Session of 2019; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
28 Legislative Reference Bureau, the Chairperson of the Board of
29 Education, and the Superintendent of Education.
30
31
32

OFFERED BY:

John M. McKeon
John M. McKeon
James S. King
Richard H. Lee
Cindy Evans
John

