



American Heart Association® | American Stroke Association®

Learn and Live™

American Heart Association
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March 12, 2012

The Honorable Representative Stoltze, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Thomas, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 519
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Stoltze and Representative Thomas,

On behalf of the American Heart Association (AHA), I respectfully request your support of House Concurrent Resolution 24 (HCR 24). This resolution asks the Governor to establish a state food resource development working group to coordinate with the Alaska Food Policy Council to identify resources and set policies which will build a strong, sustainable healthy food system for the state. The resolution further charges the working group to collaborate with state agencies to increase economic development; encourage policies that increase the use of locally grown food in schools and other state operated institutions; establish educational programs about the nutritional value of locally harvested seafood and produce; and create a sustainable agriculture and fisheries system in Alaska.

Heart disease and stroke are the number one and four killers, respectively. Maintaining a healthy diet is critical to reducing the risk of cardiovascular diseases, stroke and other chronic diseases and conditions.

The AHA advocates for policies that will raise public awareness about the importance of a healthy, balanced diet and lifestyle and increase the availability and consumption of fruits, vegetables, and other nutritious foods, particularly in our nation's schools.

HCR 24 seeks to improve access to healthy and nutritious foods and promotes programs that will empower Alaskans to live a heart healthy life. The AHA is pleased to support this resolution.

Respectfully,

Jamie Morgan
Senior Government Relations Director
American Heart Association, Western States Affiliate

Cc: Members, House Finance Committee