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Child Welfare
FOR A SCHOOL KITCHEN

The following report of the weighing tests in the Lihue and Hanamaulu schools was prepared by Mrs. R. L. Wilcox and read at the public meeting at Lihue Friday evening in connection with the needs and plans of the Lihue school.

Mrs. R. L. Wilcox is local chairman of the child welfare, and she and her assistant ladies have given much time and effort to these weighing efforts. The report reads as follows:

Child welfare work in Hawaii is part of a nation-wide campaign for the physical and moral rehabilitation of the children and young people of the land. It emanates from federal headquarters in Washington, and is conducted along uniform lines throughout the whole country.

As a part of this campaign, preliminary weight tests are being conducted in a few of our schools to determine the physical condition of the children, since physical condition is the first pre-requisite to school efficiency. The figures which I present are from the initial tests made recently at the Lihue and Hanamaulu schools.

We are provided with classroom weight record charts, from Washington, giving standard normal weights, corresponding to heights. An 8 year old boy 48 inches in height ought to weigh 55 lbs. If he doesn't, and falls short 5 or 7 or 10 pounds it is a case of mal-nutrition calling for attention and remedy. Of course he may be a small boy for his age in which case his proper weight will be less. He is his height. From the tabulated figures which we have made up I condense the following results of these weighing tests.

Lihue School
 Grade 1. 30 per cent of the children are deficient in weight 5 pounds or more.
 Grade 2. 44 per cent.
 Grade 3. 42 per cent.
 Grade 4. 53 per cent.
 Grade 5. 44 per cent.
 Grade 6. 40 per cent.
 Grade 7. 71 per cent.
 Grade 8. 47 per cent—average number deficient 40 per cent.
 661 children in the school, 279 of whom are deficient in weight 5 pounds or more.

Hanamaulu School
 Grade 1. 13 per cent deficient in weight 5 pounds or more.
 Grade 2. 30 per cent.
 Grade 3. 40 per cent.
 Grade 4. 14 per cent.
 Grade 5. 35 per cent.
 Grade 6. 50 per cent.
 Grade 7. 25 per cent—average number deficient 23 per cent.
 Children in the school 331. Deficient in weight 74.

You will notice that the deficiency per centage of the Lihue school is much greater than that of the Hanamaulu school. This will probably come as a surprise to some as it has been generally supposed that Hanamaulu was in bad shape in the respect.

So it was,—at the beginning of the school year,—much worse probably figures which we have made up I condense the following results of these things had to be done. Private initiative came to the rescue of the school and for several months the mal-nutrition children have been receiving regular rations of rich milk, crackers etc.—and this remedial treatment has reduced the deficiency per centage from 40,—or much more than 40,—to 23.

The 40 per cent deficiency of Lihue is the mere demand for a kitchen, and the 23 per cent of Hanamaulu is the earnest of what a kitchen will do. And it will do much more. A snack in the middle of the morning to a few ravenous children, a blessing though it be, isn't a circumstance to the lunch that a proper kitchen will dispense to the whole horde of children that will line up every noon-time. Why you will see them fatten under your eyes.

Unfortunately we are not provided with weight statistics, running back into the past. It is a great pity that we haven't such statistics for Kapaa, before and since the inauguration of the kitchen there. They would tell a very convincing tale of the value of the kitchen. Hereafter we will have such statistics.

Every school, presumably, will keep such records—monthly tests—this coming year, and it will be very easy to prove or disprove the usefulness and efficiency of the school kitchen.

In the meantime we claim that the present deplorable condition of mal-nutrition in the Lihue school demands a school kitchen as its only adequate remedy.

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Tip Top Theatre Wednesday June 4	Eleele Hall Friday June 6	Makaweli Hall Monday June 9

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