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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE WOMEN AND INFANT CHILDREN  
FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. A wealth of research has been conducted  
2     establishing a link between poverty, obesity, and poor  
3     nutrition. Among the low-income population, allocating meager  
4     funds often represents a choice between equally necessary  
5     expenses, and while a healthy diet is a noble goal, choosing  
6     healthful food can be a costly course of action. This issue  
7     becomes especially salient when it comes to the specific  
8     nutritional needs of low-income pregnant women and young  
9     children, and it falls upon the social safety net provided by  
10    the State to help address this pressing need.

11           Intimately connected to the social safety net is the health  
12    of the state economy. The legislature finds that  
13    diversification of the state economy is key to building a stable  
14    commercial base. By varying industry, Hawaii can best draw upon  
15    its diverse occupational talent pool, create career paths and  
16    products that capitalize on Hawaii's unique location and needs,  
17    and shape a profile able to withstand economic fluctuation in



1 both national and international economies. Given the state's  
2 location and heritage, nowhere is this opportunity more present  
3 than in diversified agriculture.

4 The United States Department of Agriculture's Women and  
5 Infant Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (Program) is  
6 an ideal way to address each issue in a cost-effective,  
7 efficient manner, at minimal cost to the State. The Program  
8 awarded \$19,300,000 nationwide in 2009, to provide recipients of  
9 the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants,  
10 and Children the opportunity to purchase fresh fruits and  
11 vegetables at local registered farmer's markets. The current  
12 structure of this grant program requires that State agencies  
13 operating the Program must match the federal administrative  
14 funds allocated to them by contributing at least thirty per cent  
15 of the administrative cost of the program, which typically  
16 amounts to between six and ten per cent of the total award.

17 The economic effect of implementing this federal  
18 partnership program would be two-fold. First, it would  
19 supplement the social safety net by drawing down federal funds  
20 to assure low-income pregnant women and children greater variety  
21 and nutritive value in their food, and second, it would support



1 the agricultural sector of Hawaii's economy since all funds  
2 awarded through the Program go straight to local farmers.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds  
4 as a State match for the establishment and administration of the  
5 Program.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$10,000 or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the  
9 department of health to develop and administer the Women and  
10 Infant Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program; provided that  
11 the department of health shall develop and submit to the Food  
12 and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of  
13 Agriculture a state plan describing the manner in which it  
14 intends to implement, operate, and administer all aspects of the  
15 Women and Infant Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
17 of health for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds as a state match toward the development and administration of the Women and Infant Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

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