
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 match the federal administrative funds
14 allocated to them by contributing at least thirty per cent of
15 the administrative cost of the program, which typically amounts
16 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 healthy Hawaii
7 initiative 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 sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 health for the purposes of this Act.

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

19

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. (SD1)

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