
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 to
2 establish a link between poverty, obesity, and poor nutrition.
3 Within Hawaii's low-income population, a meager income often
4 dictates a choice between daily expenses and food. Choosing a
5 healthy diet can be a costly course of action. This issue
6 becomes especially salient when it comes to the specific
7 nutritional needs of low-income pregnant women and young
8 children. It falls upon the social safety net provided by the
9 State to help address this pressing need.

10 Intimately connected to the social safety net is the health
11 of the state economy. The legislature finds that
12 diversification of the state economy is key to building a stable
13 economic base. By expanding the State's industrial base, Hawaii
14 can best draw upon its diverse occupational talent pool, create
15 career paths and products that capitalize on Hawaii's unique
16 location and needs, and develop a local economy able to
17 withstand fluctuations in both national and international



1 markets. Given the State's location and heritage, nowhere is
2 the opportunity for economic growth more prevalent than in
3 diversified agriculture.

4 The legislature also finds that the United States
5 Department of Agriculture's Women and Infant Children Farmers'
6 Market Nutrition Program is an ideal way to address the
7 nutritional concerns of pregnant women and young children in a
8 cost-effective and efficient manner, at minimal cost to the
9 State. The program awarded \$19,300,000 nationwide in 2009 to
10 provide recipients of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program
11 for Women, Infants, and Children the opportunity to purchase
12 fresh fruits and vegetables at locally registered farmer's
13 markets. The current structure of this grant program requires
14 state agencies operating the program to match the federal grant
15 with at least thirty per cent of the administrative cost of the
16 program, which typically amounts to between six and ten per cent
17 of the total award.

18 The economic effect of implementing this federal
19 partnership program would be two-fold. First, it would
20 supplement the social safety net by securing federal funds to
21 ensure low-income pregnant women and children greater variety
22 and nutritional value in their food. Second, it would support



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

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate state matching
4 funds for the Women and Infant Children Farmers' Market
5 Nutrition 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, 2009.



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. Effecting 7/1/2099. (SD2)

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