



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**SB2466 SD1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE WOMEN AND
INFANT CHILDREN FARMER'S MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM**

**Comments of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

**February 23, 2010
10:00AM**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department respectfully opposes this measure and requests a resolution as
2 a vehicle to encourage the implementation of this new program.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** \$10,000 from tobacco settlement special fund.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure originated as a request from the Department of Labor and
5 Industrial Relations (DLIR), Office of Community Services (OCS). In the meantime, the managers of
6 the OCS and the Department of Health (DOH), Healthy Hawaii Initiative (HHI) discussed the funding
7 and implementation of SB2466 SD1 and reached a verbal agreement: 1) implementation of the WIC
8 Farmer's Market Nutrition Program does not require a statutory mandate; 2) OCS will implement the
9 program as part of the DLIR programmatic services to low income seniors; and 3) HHI will provide the
10 \$10,000 state match required from the tobacco settlement special fund portion to OCS since this
11 improves access to fresh fruits and vegetables to those with health disparities. OCS and HHI are
12 members of the YMCA sponsored Pioneering Healthy Communities and the WIC program is now one
13 of several activities planned through the new collaboration.

1 The Department of Health respectfully requests that this measure be changed in form to a
2 concurrent resolution. The suggested SCR is included as Attachment 1. Thank you for the opportunity
3 to provide comments.

4

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WOMEN AND INFANT CHILDREN
FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

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

1 WHEREAS, 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; and

11 WHEREAS, intimately connected to the social safety net is
12 the health 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

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1 products that capitalize on Hawaii's unique location and needs,
2 and shape a profile able to withstand economic fluctuation in
3 both national and international economies. Given the state's
4 location and heritage, nowhere is this opportunity more present
5 than in diversified agriculture; and

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

19 WHEREAS, The economic effect of implementing this federal
20 partnership program would be two-fold. First, it would
21 supplement the social safety net by drawing down federal funds
22 to assure low-income pregnant women and children greater variety

1 and nutritive value in their food, and second, it would support
2 the agricultural sector of Hawaii's economy since all funds
3 awarded through the program go straight to local farmers; now,
4 therefore,

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
7 House of Representatives concurring,

8 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to encourage the
9 establishment and administration of the WIC program as a
10 partnership between the Department of Labor and Industrial
11 Relations, Office of Community Services and the Department of
12 Health, Healthy Hawaii Initiatives programs; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Community
14 Services as part of function to provide services to low income
15 seniors will develop and implement this WIC Farmer's Market
16 Nutrition Program; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Healthy Hawaii Initiative
18 as part of the program goal to decrease health disparity and to
19 increase access to and consumption of fruits and vegetables for
20 health promotion, has agreed to fund the \$10,000 state match
21 from the tobacco settlement special fund for the fiscal year
22 2010-2011 to the Office of Community Services; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Community
2 Services and the Healthy Hawaii Initiative shall provide a
3 report to the Legislature to be submitted twenty days in advance
4 of the opening of the twenty-sixth Legislature; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Labor
7 and Industrial Relations and the Department of Health.

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OFFERED BY: _____