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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the supplemental  
2 nutrition assistance program, formerly known as the food stamp  
3 program, is a federal and state program to help low-income  
4 families buy the food they need to stay healthy and be  
5 productive members of society. In 2010, the federal government  
6 increased funding to the supplemental nutrition assistance  
7 program and changed the rules to allow more families to qualify.  
8 Since unemployment checks caused many to gross more than the one  
9 hundred thirty per cent threshold, the federal government  
10 increased the gross income limit to two hundred per cent.

11           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
12 department of human services to respond to the United States  
13 Department of Agriculture's mandate to amend supplemental  
14 nutrition assistance program income eligibility requirements,  
15 thereby increasing the number of potential beneficiaries of the  
16 program.

17           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the  
2 department of human services to increase staff and the  
3 department's electronic system's capacity to respond to the  
4 United States Department of Agriculture's mandate to amend  
5 supplemental nutrition assistance program eligibility  
6 requirement from one hundred thirty per cent of the income  
7 poverty guidelines prescribed by the United States Department of  
8 Health and Human Services to two hundred per cent of the income  
9 poverty guidelines.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
11 human services for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*John M. ...*  
*John M. ...*  
*Karen ...*

JAN 20 2012



# H.B. NO. 2286

**Report Title:**

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Food Stamp Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of human services to respond to the United States Department of Agriculture's mandate to amend supplemental nutrition assistance program eligibility requirements.

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