



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 29, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2095, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL  
NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 29, 2012; 9:15 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to appropriate 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.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates and supports the intent of this bill to fund the SNAP program. The DHS is unable to support this measure, however, to the extent that it seeks to appropriate additional funds to the DHS, outside the Governor's Supplement Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org](mailto:hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2095 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 9:02:29 AM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2095

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Hardy Spoehr  
Organization: Papa Ola Lokahi  
E-mail: [hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org](mailto:hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org)  
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:  
Aloha. Papa Ola Lokahi strongly supports this measure. mahalo.



1315 Kalanianaʻole Avenue Hilo, HI 96720  
Phone: 808-933-6017 Fax: 934-0904

**SENATOR DAVID Y, IGE, CHAIR**  
**SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI, VICE CHAIR**

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 2095, RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

**BEFORE THE:** SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, 2012

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012

**TIME:** 9:15 a.m.      **LOCATION:** State Capitol, Conference Room 215

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My name is Kate Nawahine. I currently serve as the Shelter Programs Manager for Hope Services Hawaii, Inc. (Hope). Hope provides SNAP Outreach, Homeless Outreach, Housing Placement as well as emergency and transitional housing assistance to vulnerable individuals and families residing on Hawaii Island. Please accept this written correspondence as my testimony on S.B. NO. 2095. I am testifying in support of S.B. NO. 2095

SNAP is a cornerstone of America's food safety net. According to the USDA's most current information, there are approximately 160,000 individuals receiving SNAP benefits in the state of Hawaii. This is a 56% increase in individuals served since the 2007 fiscal year. The increase can be largely attributed to the rise in unemployment and the fall of the housing market. Increasing the income limit to 200% of the federal poverty level increased access to essential food supplies for vulnerable families and individuals.

In closing, I humbly request that the Senate Ways and Means Committee vote in favor of measure S.B. No. 2095 and appropriate the necessary funds to maintain SNAP benefits for individuals and families with a combined income at or below 200 percentile of the federal poverty level.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katherine Nawahine", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Katherine Nawahine, BA  
Shelter Programs Manager

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [babyjean@hotmail.com](mailto:babyjean@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2095 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:09:43 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2095

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ronnie Perry  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [babyjean@hotmail.com](mailto:babyjean@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

To eligibility requirements to participate in SNAP are unrealistically low. The Federal Poverty Level is also unrealistically too low. Therefore, because of these facts, I support raising the eligibility rate of SNAP from 130% of the FPL to a more reasonable 200% above the Federal Poverty Level.

This is a very good idea and will insure that people do not go hungry and have to decide between food, rent or medicine.