

MAR 04 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO CONSIDER
AMENDING THE DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE FOOD IN THE
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE
VITAMINS AND NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or
2 SNAP, offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-
3 income individuals and families across the country; and
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5 WHEREAS, SNAP has served as the foundation of America's
6 national nutrition safety net for more than forty years; and
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8 WHEREAS, the federal farm bill is a comprehensive piece of
9 legislation that authorizes funding for most federal farm and
10 food policies, including SNAP; and
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12 WHEREAS, in the most recent farm bill, "eligible food" is
13 defined as any food or food product for home consumption, and
14 also includes seeds and plants which produce food for
15 consumption by SNAP households; and
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17 WHEREAS, under the farm bill, SNAP benefits cannot be used
18 to buy certain items, including alcoholic beverages or tobacco,
19 nonfood items, or vitamins and medicines; and
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21 WHEREAS, previous versions of the farm bill attempted to
22 allow vitamins and nutritional supplements to be purchased with
23 SNAP benefits, but these changes were not adopted in any final
24 version; and
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26 WHEREAS, since the current definition of eligible food is a
27 specific part of the farm bill, any change to this definition to
28 include vitamins and nutritional supplements would require
29 action by a member of Congress; now, therefore,
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S.C.R. NO. 66

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that members of Hawaii's
4 congressional delegation are urged to consider amending the
5 definition of "eligible food" for purchases with SNAP benefits
6 to include vitamins and nutritional supplements; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
10 congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY: Suzanne Chun Aarland

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