
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. According to the department of
6 human services, Hawaii secures over \$500,000,000 annually and
7 ranks thirty-seventh for supplemental nutrition assistance
8 program participation per capita. In 2010, the federal
9 government increased funding to the supplemental nutrition
10 assistance program and changed the rules to allow more families
11 to qualify. Because many families' receipt of unemployment
12 checks caused their gross income to exceed the one hundred
13 thirty per cent threshold, the federal government increased the
14 gross income limit to two hundred per cent.

15 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
16 department of human services to respond to the United States
17 Department of Agriculture's mandate to amend supplemental



1 nutrition assistance program income eligibility requirements,
2 thereby increasing the number of potential beneficiaries of the
3 program.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
7 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
8 2016-2017 for the department of human services:

- 9 (1) To increase staff, as needed;
- 10 (2) To improve the department of human service's
11 electronic system's capacity to streamline the
12 supplemental nutrition assistance program processing
13 system, as needed; and
- 14 (3) To contract for services to provide outreach
15 awareness, assist in the filing of applications for
16 those who may be eligible for the supplemental
17 nutrition assistance program, and respond to Hawaii's
18 low rank among states who participate in the
19 supplemental nutrition assistance program.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to increase staff, improve systems, and contract for necessary services relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (HB 1347 HD1)

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