
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAID PROVIDERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that because of Hawaii's
2 high cost of living and food prices, many low-income individuals
3 and families struggle to purchase food. The supplemental
4 nutrition assistance program, formerly known as the food stamp
5 program, is a crucial means of providing necessary assistance in
6 the purchasing of food for some of Hawaii's most disadvantaged
7 citizens. In October 2015, 182,226 people in Hawaii
8 participated in the supplemental nutrition assistance program,
9 which is 7.3 per cent less participation than in October 2014.
10 While Hawaii secures over \$500,000,000 annually in supplemental
11 nutrition assistance program moneys, a 2012 report by the United
12 States Department of Agriculture ranked Hawaii above only
13 Nevada, California, and Wyoming in the percentage of eligible
14 individuals that participate in the supplemental nutrition
15 assistance program.

16 The legislature also finds that individuals that receive
17 assistance through the state medicaid program are likely
18 eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance



1 program as eligibility for both programs is based on income. In
2 October 2015, 341,829 people in Hawaii were enrolled in
3 medicaid, leaving 159,603 people enrolled in medicaid who are
4 likely eligible to, but do not, participate in the supplemental
5 nutrition assistance program. If additional eligible
6 individuals participated in the supplemental nutrition
7 assistance program, the State could receive more federal
8 funding, an estimated \$247,000,000, which is ultimately injected
9 into the economy without negatively impacting the state budget.
10 Moody's Analytics estimates that for every \$1 given in
11 supplemental nutrition assistance program funds, \$1.75 can be
12 generated in the local economy.

13 The legislature further finds that many individuals that
14 are eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition
15 assistance program do not participate because they are unaware
16 of their eligibility or of the supplemental nutrition assistance
17 program's existence. Authorizing health care providers to
18 question those applying to receive or currently receiving
19 medicaid about their participation in the supplemental nutrition
20 assistance program can help health care providers reach out to
21 and educate clients about the benefits available through



1 participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.
2 Furthermore, authorizing health care providers to report to the
3 legislature an aggregate collection of data about state
4 supplemental nutrition assistance program participation creates
5 a mechanism in which policy makers can better establish plans to
6 maximize federal funding and fight hunger. Each of these
7 outcomes will result in the State having more supplemental
8 nutrition assistance program participants, which in turn will
9 result in heightened food security for low-income individuals
10 and families, and more money flowing into the State's economy.

11 The purpose of this Act is to authorize health care
12 providers to ask clients, and subsequently report aggregate
13 responses to the legislature, about participation in the
14 supplemental nutrition assistance program.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
17 and to read as follows:

18 "§346- Supplemental nutrition assistance program
19 participation. (a) Each provider of health care under the
20 state medicaid program may place on medicaid certification and
21 re-certification forms the following question: "Are you



1 currently participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
2 Program (SNAP)?"

3 (b) Each provider of health care under the state medicaid
4 may collect and release to the legislature aggregate
5 supplemental nutrition assistance program participation
6 information; provided that the release of information shall not
7 include the name of any individual and shall be subject to
8 applicable privacy standards established under federal medicaid
9 regulations and the administrative simplification provisions of
10 the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996,
11 P.L. 104-191."

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

14



Report Title:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Medicaid

Description:

Authorizes health care providers under the state medicaid program to ask about supplemental nutrition assistance program (food stamp) participation on medicaid certification and re-certification forms. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

