

JAN 25 2017

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE
STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES'
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, due to Hawaii's high cost of living and food
2 prices, many low-income individuals and families struggle to
3 purchase food; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
6 Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is a crucial
7 means of providing necessary assistance in the purchase of food
8 for some of Hawaii's most disadvantaged citizens; and
9

10 WHEREAS, in October 2015, 182,226 people in Hawaii
11 participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
12 which is 7.2 per cent less than the number of people who
13 participated in October 2014; and
14

15 WHEREAS, while Hawaii secures over \$500,000,000 annually in
16 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funds, a 2012 report
17 by the United States Department of Agriculture ranked Hawaii
18 above only Nevada, California, and Wyoming in the percentage of
19 eligible individuals who participate in the Supplemental
20 Nutrition Assistance Program; and
21

22 WHEREAS, individuals who receive assistance through the
23 state Medicaid program are likely eligible to participate in the
24 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, since eligibility for
25 both programs is based on income; and
26

27 WHEREAS, in October 2015, 341,829 people in Hawaii were
28 enrolled in Medicaid, which means 159,603 people who were
29 enrolled in Medicaid were likely eligible to participate, but
30 did not participate, in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
31 Program; and



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1
2 WHEREAS, if additional eligible individuals in Hawaii
3 participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
4 the State could receive an estimated \$247,000,000 in additional
5 federal funding, which could ultimately be injected into the
6 economy without negatively impacting the state budget; and
7

8 WHEREAS, Moody's Analytics estimates that for every dollar
9 given in supplemental nutrition assistance program funds, one
10 dollar and seventy cents can be generated in the local economy;
11 and
12

13 WHEREAS, many individuals who are eligible to participate
14 in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program do not
15 participate because they are unaware of their eligibility or of
16 the program's existence; now, therefore,
17

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
20 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
21 requested to conduct a management audit of the State of Hawaii
22 Department of Human Services' implementation of the Supplemental
23 Nutrition Assistance Program; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as a component of the audit,
26 the Auditor is requested to examine the Department of Human
27 Services' process for identifying and enrolling qualified
28 persons in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in light of the fact that the
31 State of Hawaii has the nation's fourth-lowest participation
32 rate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program among
33 individuals who qualify for the program, the Auditor is
34 requested to identify ways to increase program participation
35 among qualified individuals in Hawaii; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
38 submit a report of the Auditor's findings and recommendations,
39 including proposed legislation, if any, to the Legislature not
40 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2018
41 Regular Session; and
42



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and the
3 Director of Human Services.
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OFFERED BY:

Josh [Signature]

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[Signature]

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