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



1 did not participate, in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
2 Program; and  
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4 WHEREAS, if additional eligible individuals in Hawaii  
5 participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,  
6 the State could receive an estimated \$247,000,000 in additional  
7 federal funding, which could ultimately be injected into the  
8 economy without negatively impacting the state budget; and  
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10 WHEREAS, Moody's Analytics estimates that for every \$1  
11 given in supplemental nutrition assistance program funds, \$1.70  
12 can be generated in the local economy; and  
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14 WHEREAS, many individuals who are eligible to participate  
15 in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program do not  
16 participate because they are unaware of their eligibility or of  
17 the program's existence; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the  
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is  
22 requested to conduct a management audit of the State of Hawaii  
23 Department of Human Services' implementation of the Supplemental  
24 Nutrition Assistance Program; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as a component of the audit,  
27 the Auditor is requested to examine the Department of Human  
28 Services' process for identifying and enrolling qualified  
29 persons in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in light of the fact that the  
32 State of Hawaii has the nation's fourth-lowest participation  
33 rate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program among  
34 individuals who qualify for the program, the Auditor is  
35 requested to identify ways to increase program participation  
36 among qualified individuals in Hawaii; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
39 examine the total utilization and total capacity of the  
40 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in the State; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
2 examine ways to maximize the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
3 program in the State; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
6 submit a report of the Auditor's findings and recommendations,  
7 including proposed legislation, if any, to the Legislature no  
8 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2018  
9 Regular Session; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and the  
13 Director of Human Services.  
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