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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

**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 September 2016, 173,669 people in Hawaii  
8 participated in the supplemental nutrition assistance program,  
9 which is 5.1 per cent less participation than in September 2015.  
10 While Hawaii secures over \$500,000,000 annually in supplemental  
11 nutrition assistance program moneys, a 2014 report by the United  
12 States Department of Agriculture ranked Hawaii thirty-fourth  
13 among states in the percentage of eligible individuals that  
14 participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

15           The legislature also finds that if additional eligible  
16 individuals participated in the supplemental nutrition  
17 assistance program, the State could receive increased federal



1 funding. Additionally, Moody's Analytics estimates that every  
2 dollar given in supplemental nutrition assistance program funds  
3 can generate one dollar and seventy cents in the local economy.

4 The legislature further finds that many individuals who are  
5 eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance  
6 program do not participate because they are unaware of the  
7 supplemental nutrition assistance program's existence or of  
8 their eligibility. Authorizing health care providers, non-  
9 profit organizations, businesses, and faith-based organizations  
10 to distribute supplemental nutrition assistance program  
11 applications to those in need may increase participation in the  
12 supplemental nutrition assistance program. Furthermore,  
13 authorizing health care providers to report to the department of  
14 human services an aggregate collection of data about state  
15 supplemental nutrition assistance program participation would  
16 allow the department of human services to aid policy makers in  
17 establishing plans to maximize federal funding and increase  
18 access to nutritious foods. Each of these outcomes would result  
19 in the State having more supplemental nutrition assistance  
20 program participants, which in turn would result in heightened



1 food security for low-income individuals and families, and more  
2 money flowing into the State's economy.

3 The purpose of this Act is to authorize health care  
4 providers, non-profit organizations, businesses, and faith-based  
5 organizations to distribute supplemental nutrition assistance  
6 program applications.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately  
9 designated and to read as follows:

10 "§346- Supplemental nutrition assistance program  
11 participation. Health care providers, non-profit organizations,  
12 businesses, and faith-based organizations may distribute  
13 supplemental nutrition assistance program applications to  
14 prospective applicants."

15 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2059.



**Report Title:**

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; DHS; Applications;  
Records

**Description:**

Authorizes health care providers, non-profit organizations,  
businesses, and faith-based organizations to distribute  
supplemental nutrition assistance program applications to  
prospective applicants. (HB40 HD1)

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

