
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD ASSISTANCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that one in six Hawaii
2 residents currently faces food insecurity, including nearly one
3 in four children. The legislature further finds that more than
4 eighty-two thousand children in the State are projected to
5 struggle with hunger in 2022, placing Hawaii as a state with the
6 second highest rate of child food insecurity in the country.

7 The legislature also finds that food banks in Hawaii have
8 been distributing food to persons in need in the State for
9 nearly forty years. Hawaii's food banks ensure that persons who
10 are food insecure are provided with food and nutrition
11 assistance by sourcing food through donations, purchases, and
12 federal programs including The Emergency Food Assistance
13 Program; inspecting the donated food to ensure its safety for
14 consumption; and distributing the food to those in need through
15 a network of eligible recipient agencies across the State,
16 including food pantries, community programs, soup kitchens, and
17 homeless shelters.



1 The legislature finds that The Emergency Food Assistance
2 Program in Hawaii is administered by the department of labor and
3 industrial relations' office of community services. The office
4 established a statewide operational system for the federal
5 program to provide food by entering into contracts with a food
6 bank for each of the State's four counties to establish,
7 maintain, and supervise a network of eligible recipient agencies
8 that distribute the donated food throughout designated areas of
9 the respective county.

10 The four Hawaii food banks currently administering The
11 Emergency Food Assistance Program at the county level are the
12 Hawaii Foodbank, Inc., which serves the city and county of
13 Honolulu; Maui Food Bank, Inc., which serves the county of Maui;
14 Hawaii Foodbank, Inc.'s Kauai branch, which serves the county of
15 Kauai; and The Food Basket, Inc., which serves the county of
16 Hawaii. All Hawaii food banks follow the highest standards of
17 food safety and maintain strict standards of food distribution
18 and recordkeeping.

19 The legislature acknowledges that the coronavirus disease
20 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic heavily impacted food security levels
21 in Hawaii. During fiscal year 2018-2019, the four Hawaii food



1 banks collectively distributed 16,800,000 pounds of food
2 statewide. The volume of food collectively distributed by the
3 banks in fiscal year 2020-2021 increased to 36,500,000 pounds,
4 which is more than double the volume distributed before the
5 pandemic. The level of food insecurity in Hawaii are expected
6 to remain elevated for at least another year following the
7 conclusion of the pandemic.

8 The Hawaii food banks administering The Emergency Food
9 Assistance Program were able to meet the State's increased need
10 for food during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic due to a
11 major increase in federal funds and philanthropy. However,
12 funding from these sources has declined considerably, and the
13 food banks do not have sufficient funds to continue to meet the
14 food security needs of Hawaii residents.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
16 funds to enable Hawaii's food banks administering The Emergency
17 Food Assistance Program to continue to meet the food security
18 needs of the people of Hawaii during this time of unprecedented
19 need due to disturbances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to fund
2 the operating expenses of Hawaii Foodbank, Inc.; Maui Food Bank,
3 Inc.; Hawaii Foodbank, Inc.'s Kauai branch; and The Food Basket,
4 Inc., including expenses for staffing, transportation, food
5 purchase, food storage, and food distribution.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
7 labor and industrial relations' office of community services for
8 the purposes of this Act; provided that of the sum appropriated:

9 (1) Five per cent shall be allocated to the office of
10 community services to administer the funds
11 appropriated pursuant to this Act;

12 (2) Ten per cent shall be allocated to the food bank in
13 each county as administrative funds, based on the
14 county's proportional share of the State's poverty
15 population as set forth in the latest small area
16 income and poverty estimates issued by the United
17 States Census Bureau (SAIPE formula); and

18 (3) The remainder shall be allocated to the food bank in
19 each county as food purchase funds using the SAIPE
20 formula.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
2 2050.



Report Title:

Food Banks; The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP); DLIR;
Office of Community Services; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys to fund the operating expenses of the four
Hawaii food banks contracted by the Office of Community Services
to administer The Emergency Food Assistance Program in each of
the State's counties. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD1)

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

