

MAR 10 2023

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ISSUE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE GUS SCHUMACHER NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE STATE DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS PROGRAM TO ALL APPROVED SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RETAIL OUTLETS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables is  
2 an integral part of a healthy diet and central to the prevention  
3 of obesity and chronic disease; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, every community should have access to fresh and  
6 healthy dietary options, but the high cost of fresh produce  
7 often makes that difficult; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, participants in the federal Supplemental Nutrition  
10 Assistance Program (SNAP) struggle to afford healthy food; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, created the  
13 Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program, also known as the DA BUX  
14 Double Up Food Bucks Program; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the Double Up Food Bucks Program provides a  
17 dollar-for-dollar match to SNAP beneficiaries who purchase  
18 locally grown fruits and vegetables at participating farmers'  
19 markets, grocery stores, food hubs, and community-supported  
20 agriculture projects; and  
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22 WHEREAS, through the Double Up Food Bucks Program, low-  
23 income SNAP households are able to afford more healthy local  
24 produce, local farmers increase their sales to food retailers,  
25 and more federal SNAP dollars remain in circulation in Hawaii's  
26 economy; and  
27



# S.R. NO. 171

1           WHEREAS, in 2020 and 2021, participating food retailers  
 2 issued a total of \$978,467 and \$1,662,900, respectively, of  
 3 discounts through the Double Up Food Bucks Program to SNAP  
 4 shoppers; and

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 6           WHEREAS, by the end of 2021, the Double Up Food Bucks  
 7 Program was available at fifty-seven food retailers across  
 8 ninety-eight market sites and pick-up locations statewide; and

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 10           WHEREAS, the Double Up Food Bucks Program seeks to expand  
 11 to retailers in rural areas and assist more low-income SNAP  
 12 beneficiaries struggling with economic hardship and food  
 13 insecurity; now, therefore,

14  
 15           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
 16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,  
 17 that the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the  
 18 United States Department of Agriculture is urged to issue  
 19 additional funding for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive  
 20 Program to provide matching funds for the expansion of the state  
 21 Double Up Food Bucks Program to all approved Supplemental  
 22 Nutrition Assistance Program retail outlets throughout the  
 23 State; and

24  
 25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 26 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of  
 27 Agriculture, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation,  
 28 Governor, and Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

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OFFERED BY: 

