
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD BANKS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that food security in
2 Hawaii is a significant challenge for many individuals and
3 families. Currently, one in six Hawaii residents faces food
4 insecurity, including nearly one in four children. More than
5 eighty-two thousand children in the State will struggle with
6 hunger this year, and Hawaii is projected to have the second
7 highest rate of child food insecurity in the nation.

8 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's food banks and
9 their partners ensure that those who are food insecure do not go
10 hungry by:

11 (1) Sourcing food through donations, purchases, and
12 federal programs such as The Emergency Food Assistance
13 Program (TEFAP) of the Food and Nutrition Service of
14 the United States Department of Agriculture;

15 (2) Inspecting donated food and following the highest
16 standards of food safety and strict standards of food
17 distribution and recordkeeping; and



1 (3) Distributing food to those in need through a network
2 of food pantries, community programs, soup kitchens,
3 homeless shelters, and other eligible recipient
4 agencies across the State.

5 The legislature additionally finds that food insecurity
6 levels remain elevated after the coronavirus disease 2019
7 pandemic. During fiscal year 2020-2021, the four TEFAP food
8 banks and their partner network collectively distributed
9 36,500,000 pounds of food, more than twice as much food as prior
10 to the pandemic. In fiscal year 2021-2022, they distributed
11 more than twenty-seven million pounds of food, representing more
12 than sixty per cent increase from pre-pandemic distribution.

13 Food banks and their partners provide a critical safety net
14 in response to ongoing food insecurity caused by natural
15 disasters, economic pressures, and the high cost of living in
16 Hawaii. Rising inflation rates have driven up food prices
17 twenty-five per cent in the past three years, and Hawaii's food
18 banks have experienced growing demand and decreased purchasing
19 power. In Hawaii, the TEFAP program is administered by the
20 department of labor and industrial relations' office of
21 community services and provides food banks and partners with



1 critical resources for purchasing food and distributing it to
2 those in need, combatting hunger on a daily basis across the
3 State.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
5 funds to ensure that Hawaii's food banks and their partners can
6 continue to meet the ongoing food security needs of the people
7 of Hawaii.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
12 year 2024-2025 to fund the purchase, storage, and transportation
13 costs of food for distribution to food banks in the State;
14 provided that:

15 (1) Funds shall be distributed pursuant to the same
16 methodology used by The Emergency Food Assistance
17 Program of the Food and Nutrition Service of the
18 United States Department of Agriculture pursuant to
19 title 7 Code of Federal Regulations section 250 to
20 determine the allocation to food banks as defined in



1 title 7 Code of Federal Regulations section 251.3(f)
2 and agencies that function as food banks; and
3 (2) Administering agencies shall use no more than fifteen
4 per cent of their allocation on administrative costs
5 of the program.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
7 community services of the department of labor and industrial
8 relations for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Food Security; Food Banks; Office of Community Services;
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Emergency Food
Assistance Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Office of Community Services of the
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to fund the
purchase, storage, and transportation costs of food for
distribution to food banks in the State. Effective 1/1/2050.
(HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

