
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 eight-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 including the emergency food
13 assistance program of the Food and Nutrition Service
14 of 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 COVID-19 pandemic. During
7 fiscal year 2020-2021, the four food banks operated by the
8 emergency food assistance program and their partner network
9 collectively distributed 16,500,000 pounds of food, or more than
10 twice as much food distributed prior to the pandemic. In fiscal
11 year 2021-2022, these food banks and their partner network
12 distributed more than twenty-seven million pounds of food,
13 representing more than a sixty per cent increase from pre-
14 pandemic distribution levels.

15 Food banks and their partners provide a critical safety net
16 in response to ongoing food insecurity caused by natural
17 disasters, economic pressures, and the high cost of living in
18 Hawaii. Rising inflation rates have driven up food prices
19 twenty-five per cent in three years, and Hawaii's food banks
20 have simultaneously experienced growing demand and decreased
21 purchasing power. The federal emergency food assistance program



1 administered by the office of community services provides food
2 banks and their partners with critical resources for purchasing
3 food and distributing it to those in need, combatting hunger on
4 a daily basis across the State.

5 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
6 supplement the emergency food assistance program to ensure that
7 Hawaii's food banks and their partners can continue to meet the
8 ongoing food security needs of the people of Hawaii.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
13 year 2024-2025 to fund the purchase, storage, and transportation
14 costs of food for distribution to those in need; provided that
15 no more than fifteen per cent of the appropriation may be used
16 for administrative costs; provided further that the funds shall
17 be distributed using the emergency food assistance program's
18 methodology to determine the allocation to each of the four
19 counties.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
2 community services of the department of labor and industrial
3 relations for the purposes of this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

5

INTRODUCED BY: 
JAN 19 2023



H.B. NO. 314

Report Title:

Food Banks; Emergency Food Assistance Program; USDA; Office of Community Services; DLIR; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the office of community services for the purchase, storage, and transportation costs of food for distribution to those in need in accordance with the emergency food assistance program's methodology to determine allocations to each of the four counties.

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