

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

**House Committee on Finance**

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

**In Support**

**H.B. No. 2430, HD1, Relating to Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer  
for Children Program**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of the Governor supports H.B. No. 2430, HD1, Relating to Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program. This bill would establish the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) Program in Hawaii. Hawaii has opted into the program beginning this summer, and this bill will help the Department of Human Services develop and implement this new program, including providing DHS with additional funding to meet the federal program's required 50/50 match for administrative funds of roughly \$2 million.

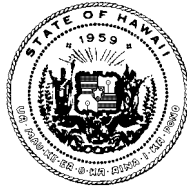
Passed into law by Congress and administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Summer EBT program will address food insecurities by providing families with financial support during the summer to buy food at grocery stores, farmers market or other authorized retailers, similar to how SNAP benefits are used. The Summer EBT program is intended to support children who lose access to free and reduced price meals through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program during the summer when school is not in session.

It was recently announced that beginning in the summer of 2024, Hawaii families will receive \$177 per eligible child through the Summer EBT program in order to provide more equitable resources for island communities compared to the benefit amount of \$120 per eligible children in the U.S. mainland.

According to the USDA, the Summer EBT program would provide nearly 100,000 Hawaii families with increased access to nutritious meals. This program is critical for these families, and helps to advance our Administration's work to address ongoing food insecurity issues in our State—especially through the expansion of local agriculture.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 26, 2024

To: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2430 HD1 – RELATING TO SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM.**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol & Video Conference

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this administration measure. The proposal establishes and clarifies the responsibilities of DHS and the Department of Education (DOE) to implement the State's Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT). Once implemented, the program aims to reduce hunger and food insecurity for children during summer breaks when they lose access to free and reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. DHS defers to DOE regarding its resource needs to implement the program.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill establishes the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1).

The Committee on Human Services amended the measure by:

- (1) Requiring the Department of Human Services to be in compliance, rather than exempt from, the State's procurement codes when contracting with providers;
- (2) Changing the appropriations to unspecified amounts;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and

- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-328, authorized a permanent, nationwide Summer EBT beginning in 2024. Summer EBT intends to reduce hunger and food insecurity for children who lose access to free and reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program during the summer when school is not in session. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics included in its September 2023 report that over the previous 12 months, food prices in Hawaii increased 5.3 percent.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress enacted a similar program, Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT), in response to the federal public health emergency that resulted in school closures that prevented students from receiving free and reduced-price meals at school. P-EBT proved to be effective in ensuring families of these students had the resources to address their children's food needs during the federal public health emergency. Through P-EBT, DHS issued \$18,256,166 in P-EBT benefits to 122,334 students just during the 2023 summer break.

For the Summer EBT program, the benefit of \$59 per summer month or \$177.00 for the entire summer period per child will be issued on a card and may be used at vendors that accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. This amount is significantly higher than other states participating in Summer EBT.

The benefits are 100% federally funded and will have an economic multiplier effect in the community, with values of up to \$2 of economic activity per dollar spent,<sup>1</sup> in addition to meeting students' food needs. This would mean, as an example, if 100,000 students each received the \$177.00 benefit, the \$17,700,000 in federal benefits paid would generate \$35,400,000 in economic activity for the State.

Hawaii's participation in the new federal Summer EBT program requires a 50/50 match of state funds to federal funds for administrative costs. To develop and implement this new and permanent program, the Departments of Education and Human Services will need

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<sup>1</sup> Patrick Canning and Brian Stacy, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Economy: New Estimates of the SNAP Multiplier, Economic Research Report No. (ERR-265), July 18, 2019, <https://ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=93528>

additional general funds to modify data systems and administrative processes and funds for one additional FTE program specialist position, with an appropriation request of \$50,000 A/\$50,000 N. DHS defers to DOE's human resource needs.

The balance of the Department's \$2,000,000 A/\$2,000,000 N funds request is a cost estimate based on the P-EBT implementation. DHS defers to DOE's administrative and IT resource needs.

For P-EBT, DHS conducted procurement pursuant to the presiding COVID-19 Pandemic emergency proclamations. The Summer EBT is like P-EBT, but there are additional program requirements. DHS requests similar procurement exemption from the competitive process for at least two years so that the Departments can quickly expedite the system modifications; additionally, we anticipate there may be program differences between FFY2024 and FFY2025. As the session continues, the amount requested may change as DHS is currently assessing how to implement the program this fiscal year and is looking for available SFY 2024 general funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/28/2024

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2430, HD1 RELATING TO SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

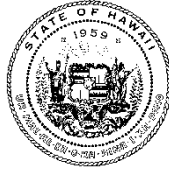
The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2430, HD1 as it is a priority for the Governor but defers to the Department of Human Services (DHS) as to the implementation of this measure.

The Department stands prepared to support DHS as the lead to carry out the Summer Electronics Benefits Transfer (EBT) Program. The Department will provide the data it has the capacity to transmit per the parameters of the Summer EBT program.

The Department stands firm in its commitment to all of its nearly 160,000 students in providing supports to nurture the development of the whole child and doing what is best for our keiki across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



BONNIE KAHAKUI  
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I**  
**STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

P.O. Box 119  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119  
Tel: (808) 586-0554  
email: [state\\_procurement\\_office@hawaii.gov](mailto:state_procurement_office@hawaii.gov)  
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY  
OF  
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
FINANCE

February 28, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

HOUSE BILL 2430 HD1  
RELATING TO SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER  
FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2430 HD1. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports establishing the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) Program in Hawaii and defers to the Department of Human Services on the implementation of this measure.

The SPO supports the HD1 version, which requires that any contract executed for this program comply with the competitive procurement processes under Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapters 103D, Hawaii Procurement Code (Code), and 103F, Purchases of Health and Human Services. Compliance with the Code provides fairness, open competition, a level playing field, government disclosure, and transparency in the procurement and contracting process vital to good government and the success of the Summer EBT Program.

Thank you.



## HIPHI Board

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For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai  
HMSA

JoAnn Tsark, MPH  
John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
Native Hawaiian Research Office

## HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a  
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &  
Evaluation

Community Health  
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free  
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &  
Community Living

Public Health Workforce  
Development

Date: February 26, 2024

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: HB 2430 HD1 Relating to Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for  
Children Program

Hrg: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 2:00 PM

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Healthy Eating + Active Living (HEAL) Coalition, convened by the Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **Support of HB2430 HD1**, which would provide Hawai'i families with the opportunity to participate in the Summer EBT program.

This measure calls for the collaboration between the Department of Education, which directly provides for the students, and the Department of Human Services, which administers SNAP. It is vital the departments have a strong working relationship and endeavor to work seamlessly together to best provide meals to our youth. Success will be achieved through collaboration.

### School ends and hunger persists.

Low-income families are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals during the school year to help with the cost of food. However, these guaranteed meals are no longer available during the summer. This loss leaves many students facing food insecurity. Fortunately, the federal government is offering to provide families with hundreds of dollars per child so they can afford healthy meals, and Hawai'i has the opportunity to provide for its students. By participating in the Summer EBT program and facilitating local families' enrollment, Hawai'i can redirect millions of federal dollars toward groceries for these families and will help end the hunger that plagues 1 in 5 children in Hawai'i.<sup>ii</sup>

### Healthy meals mean healthy keiki.

Adopting the Summer EBT Program is a pivotal step towards enhancing our children's health. Ensuring access to nutritious food during summer, we combat food insecurity and its associated health risks, like stress, depression, and other chronic diseases.<sup>iii</sup> This promotes immediate health outcomes for our keiki and creates lifelong healthy eating habits. These students and our state will feel the benefits of this program long after the summer ends.

### **Economic boost to Hawai'i.**

Implementing this program is simply the right thing to do and a strategic economic investment. By providing families with additional federal funds to purchase nutritious food, we directly inject millions of dollars into our local economies, supporting grocers, farmers, and businesses. Studies have shown that every dollar in SNAP benefits generates up to \$1.50 in economic activity.<sup>iv</sup> The summer EBT program would have a similar effect here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo to the committee for taking up such an important measure. It is imperative we all work together to end childhood hunger throughout Hawai'i.

Please consider our testimony in support of HB2430 and pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Nate Hix  
Social Impact Policy Manager  
Hawai'i Public Health Insititute

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<sup>i</sup> The Healthy Eating + Active Living (HEAL) Coalition, formerly known as the Obesity Prevention Task Force, was created by the legislature in 2012 and is comprised of over 60 statewide organizations. The HEAL Coalition works to make recommendations to reshape Hawai'i's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents.

<sup>ii</sup> <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2021/child/hawaii>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/what-are-the-implications-of-food-insecurity-for-health-and-health-care/>

<sup>iv</sup> [https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/93529/err265\\_summary.pdf](https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/93529/err265_summary.pdf)



To: House Committee on Finance  
Re: **HB 2430 HD1 – Relating to Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program**  
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference  
February 28, 2024, 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of HB 2430 HD1**. This bill establishes the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) for Children Program and makes appropriations.

In the 2022, only 7.6 percent of the low-income students who got free or reduced-price school lunch during the academic year also got free lunch at summer camps, summer schools, or other summer programs through the federal Summer Food Service Program.<sup>1</sup> While they weren't getting free or reduced-price meals during the summer, those low-income children and youth still needed to eat, stressing their families' budgets.

That's where Summer EBT comes in. This new federal program provides grocery-buying benefits to low-income families with school-aged children when schools are closed for the summer.<sup>2</sup> For the summer of 2024, eligible Hawai'i families could receive \$177 per child in Summer EBT benefits,<sup>3</sup> which goes a long way towards helping families afford to buy healthy food for their keiki.

According to the Department of Education, 55 percent of Hawai'i's 167,649 public school students are economically disadvantaged,<sup>4</sup> which means that approximately 92,000 keiki could qualify for Summer EBT. If there were all to receive those benefits, that would mean more than \$16 million in federal dollars not only helping families buy food, but also supporting our local grocery stores and other food retailers.

However, Summer EBT requires that states match 50 percent of federal administrative funds for the program with non-federal funds.<sup>5</sup> This bill would establish the Summer EBT program in Hawai'i and provide the required matching funds. This seems like a good investment, as each \$1 in state funds could leverage as much as \$8 in federal funds for keiki and their family, as well as local supermarkets.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo  
Director of Research and Economic Policy

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<sup>1</sup> <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/summer-report-2023.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sebt>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sebt/2024-benefit-levels>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2024/testimony/Info\\_Testimony\\_WAM-EDU\\_01-16-24\\_EDN.pdf](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2024/testimony/Info_Testimony_WAM-EDU_01-16-24_EDN.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sebt/implementation-toolkit>



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Support for H.B. 2430 – Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 2:00PM

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Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support for **H.B. 2430**, which would appropriate funds and establish the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) program for the state of Hawai'i.

When the school year ends, children from low income households lose access to the school meals they rely on, causing an alarming annual spike in childhood hunger. While existing summer meal programs play an important role, they reach only a fraction of the children who rely on free and reduced-price school meals during the school year. Summer EBT is a new federal program that bridges this gap, by providing cash benefits on an EBT card—similar to SNAP—for families to purchase food at retail locations.

Hawai'i is home to an estimated 100,000 children who are eligible to receive Summer EBT. ***Eligible families would receive \$177 per child for this summer—up to a total of \$17.7 million in federal dollars for the entire state.*** This is funding that would support local food businesses and retailers, while also providing significant relief to families who struggle to keep up with grocery bills while their children are not in school.

**Summer EBT benefits are entirely federally funded. However, the program requires a 50 percent match in administrative costs, which HB 2430 would provide.** Without this modest administrative investment, Hawai'i will lose out not only on the \$17.7 million in federal cash benefits, but also on the economic multiplier that EBT benefits of. In fact, the USDA estimates that every dollar in EBT benefits can generate \$1.50 in local economic impact. This means that Summer EBT could generate over \$26 million in economic activity during the summer months.

HB 2430 is a small investment that will yield big results. It achieves this by ensuring Hawai'i has the necessary capacity to administer this important federal program, which would provide cash to struggling families during the summer months, and also by bringing in millions of federal dollars that will stimulate Hawai'i's food economy. We highly encourage you to pass this bill, for the good of Hawai'i's children, families, and local businesses. Thank you for your consideration.

**HB-2430-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:39:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doris Matsunaga	Save Medicaid Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Save Medicaid Hawaii is in SUPPORT of HB2430, which would help our state implement a new federal program to feed keiki during the summer months, known as Summer EBT.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 28, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2430, HD1**  
RELATING TO SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER FOR CHILDREN  
PROGRAM

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2430, HD1**, which establishes the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program.

The Hawai'i Department of Education's School Food Services Branch serves over 100,000 nutritionally balanced, affordable meals to Hawai'i's students on any given school day. However, when schools are closed, our keiki lose access to healthy meals and are at higher risk of food and nutrition insecurity. Experiencing food insecurity as a child can have long-term impacts on academic achievement as well as mental and physical health.

The Summer EBT for Children Program will help close the summer hunger gap when keiki are on summer break and not getting nutritious school meals. This program will offer nutrition assistance to eligible, low-income students, increasing their family's food purchasing power and improving their nutrition. It also provides economic benefits to farmers participating at grocery stores, farmers' markets, and other food retailers.

We believe that access to locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables, and protein to low-income individuals and families provides benefits to both Summer EBT students and Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, February 28, 2024  
Conference Room 308**

**RE: SB3119 Relating to Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children Program**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii Supports (“The Chamber”) **supports HB2430 HD1**, which establishes and appropriates funds for the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) for Children Program.

Funding this program is critical to ensure underserved communities throughout Hawaii have access to meals during the summer when school is on break. This is especially important to our rural communities on the neighboring islands and in West and Windward Oahu. Additionally, these benefits are 100% federally funded and inject \$20 million into our local economy while also providing essential meals to keiki. The state’s required appropriation (approximately \$2 million) is minimal when compared to the many advantages for Hawaii.

The Chamber supports legislation that benefits the local community and our quality of life. Hawaii’s high cost of living is a challenge identified by the Chamber’s 2030 Blueprint Hawaii strategic plan to improve economic competitiveness. If passed, this measure would be a critical step towards ensuring the well-being of our keiki during the summer months and addressing food insecurity issues within our communities.

Additionally, by injecting federal and state funds into our local food systems this measure would help keep the whole food system stable for all consumers as well as local providers. This measure would have rippling effects for Hawaii’s overall food system which would stand to benefit local farmers, retailers and food and beverage producers. The Chamber is in alignment with the incentives and positive impacts that come with the passage of this measure.

The Chamber is Hawaii’s leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

On behalf of The Chamber, thank you for this opportunity to testify.



February 28, 2024

House Committee on Finance

**RE: Testimony in support of HB 2430, Relating to Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Foodbank, **I support HB 2430**, which would ensure that Hawai'i can participate in the federal summer electronic benefits transfer for children program. This federally funded program will provide up to \$177 per child in cash benefits while school is out for the summer to help ensure our keiki have enough to eat.

Food security is a critical issue in Hawai'i, where one in six residents lacks comprehensive access to healthy, nutritious food. Keiki hunger is even more severe, with an estimated one in four keiki in Hawaii experiencing food insecurity—the second highest rate of childhood food insecurity in the country. For many children, school might be the only place where they can reliably receive a healthy meal; school breaks mean a loss of access to those primary meals. Through the USDA S-EBT program, Hawai'i families with keiki will receive up to \$177 per child over the summer, which will both ensure they have enough to eat through the school break as well as bring millions of federal dollars to our State to be spent in local stores.

HB 2430 would support the State infrastructure needed to ensure we can participate in this important program, and we strongly support this measure.

Hawai'i Foodbank is Hawai'i's largest hunger relief organization, fiercely dedicated to our mission of nourishing our 'ohana today while working to end hunger tomorrow. We work with a network of 200 partner agencies across O'ahu and Kaua'i to provide food assistance to an average of more than 150,000 people each month. Last year, we distributed food for more than 16.2 million meals across the islands we directly serve, including 5 million pounds of fresh produce. Together with the Maui Food Bank, serving Maui County, and The Food Basket, serving Hawai'i Island, our network of food banks and partner agencies provide food assistance to all those facing hunger across the State.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

Amy Miller  
President and CEO  
Hawai'i Foodbank



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

#### Executive Officers

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**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Vice Chair*  
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**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

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TO: Committee on Finance

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 28, 2024  
TIME: 2pm  
PLACE: Room 308

RE: HB2430 HD1 Relating to Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, Members of the Committee,

HFIA is in strong support of H.B. 2430, the "Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program." This legislation is vital for addressing the pressing issue of childhood hunger, particularly during the summer months when school meal programs are unavailable.

Childhood hunger remains a significant concern in our communities, and the implementation of the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program is a crucial step in combating this issue. This program not only provides families with additional federal funds to purchase nutritious food but also injects vital resources into our local economies, supporting grocers, farmers, and small businesses.

As highlighted in the testimony from the Department of Human Services (DHS), a similar program, the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT), proved to be effective during the COVID-19 pandemic in ensuring families had the resources to address their children's food needs. DHS issued \$18,256,166 in P-EBT benefits to 122,334 students during the 2023 summer break alone. For the Summer EBT program, each child could receive a benefit of \$177 per month, which is significantly higher than other states participating in Summer EBT. These benefits are 100% federally funded and will have an economic multiplier effect while meeting students' food needs.

It is important to note that while the Summer EBT program requires a state match of 50 percent of federal administrative funds, the appropriation request is only \$2,000,050. **Using the figures provided by DHS for 2023, the state stands to pull in \$18,256,166 in federal dollars to support hungry children and an additional \$2,000,050 for the administrative match, resulting in a 10 to 1 federal match.**

H.B. 2430 represents a modest yet impactful investment that will yield significant results. By supporting struggling families during the summer months and stimulating Hawaii's food economy with millions in federal dollars, this bill aligns with our shared goal of promoting the well-being of our community's children and families.

We urge the committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.





ABC Stores  
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5391  
www.abcstores.com

Telephone: (808) 591-2550  
Fax: (808) 591-2039  
E-mail: mail@abcstores.com

**To: Committee on Finance**

**Re: HB2430 HD1 Relating to Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children**

**Date: February 28, 2024**

**Time: 2:00 p.m.**

**Place: Conference Room 308**

**Position: Support**

Good afternoon, Chairperson Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa and members of the Committee on Finance. I am Curtis Higashiyama Employee Relations and Government Affairs Manager and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

ABC Stores **Supports** HB2430 HD1. Establishes the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000 (HD1)

In the United States, according to the USDA, an estimated 13 million children in 2022 faced hunger and food insecurity, which means they lack consistent access to adequate and nutritious food for a healthy, active life. Childhood hunger can have significant and long-term impacts on children's learning, development, and overall health. It is associated with increased risk of anemia, poor general health, anxiety, depression, and behavioral challenges in school.

Working with the community, appropriating the funds, and ensuring the needs of our Keiki are met will ensure future resilience for both families and communities on all islands. Appropriating the funds needed to support food insecure children will provide access to food even when school is out but more importantly help the issue of childhood hunger. Passing this measure, appropriating funding, is a critical first step in addressing food insecurity and hunger in our Keiki.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We urge the committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo,  
Curtis Higashiyama  
ABC Stores  
Employee Relations and Government Affairs

**HB-2430-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:09:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2430 HD1. Many keiki in low-income families depend on free or reduced-price school meals as a source of critical nutrition. For some keiki, it is the only nutritious meal to which they have access. Over the summer, when school is not in session, these keiki go hungry, or are unable to access the nutrition they get during the school year. The state should look for ways to improve child nutrition and fight hunger over the summer months.

**HB-2430-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 4:57:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HB2430 HD1. Thank you.

**HB-2430-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:48:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
tia pearson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Unfortunately, childhood hunger spikes during the summer, when kids no longer have access to school breakfast and lunch. Summer EBT is a federal benefit that would give cash to families to purchase food during the summer months when they need it most.

**HB-2430-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 6:33:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chelsea Takahashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB2430, which would help our state implement a new federal program to feed keiki during the summer months, known as Summer EBT.

Unfortunately, childhood hunger spikes during the summer, when kids no longer have access to school breakfast and lunch. Summer EBT is a federal benefit that would give cash to families to purchase food during the summer months when they need it most.

HB2430 would provide support to DOE and DHS to set up this new program. This small investment would have an enormous return on investment—an estimated 18 million in federal dollars to 100,000 eligible Hawai'i children.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. It is an investment in our local economy and also our future.

**Chair Kyle Yamashita**  
**Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa**

**House Committee on Finance**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**  
**12:00 PM**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2430 HD1 RELATING TO SUMMER  
ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a union service worker as well as a labor and social justice activist, testifying as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB2430 HD1**, Relating to Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program.

Nobody should go hungry, especially kids. However when school ends for the summer, we have kids going hungry because they are no longer getting breakfast and/or lunch from school, all the while their parents/guardian figures are struggling to survive. Making sure the Department of Human Services and Department of Education are able to implement the new federal Summer EBT program, put money into people's pockets to use for food during the summer months when they need it the most.

Please **PASS House Bill 2430 House Draft 1** out of your committee in its strongest form. An estimated 18 million in federal dollars will go to 100,000 eligible Hawai'i children, a huge step in the fight to make sure that no one goes hungry in Hawai'i ever again.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,  
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12

████████████████████

██

**HB-2430-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:06:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pua Auyong-White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the committee

I am supporting HB2430 which provides keiki with access to a summer food program. To be able to provide 100,000 eligible children in Hawaii with food during the summer break will make a difference in stopping hunger in the state. This is a great investment to make by providing healthy food for growing children.

I thank you for your consideration on this bill.

**HB-2430-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:55:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anne Leake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, members of the committee,

My name is Anne Leake and I reside in Kaneohe. Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB2430, which would help our state implement a new federal program to feed keiki during the summer months, known as Summer EBT.

Unfortunately, childhood hunger spikes during the summer, when kids no longer have access to school breakfast and lunch. Summer EBT is a federal benefit that would give cash to families to purchase food during the summer months when they need it most.

HB2430 would provide support to DOE and DHS to set up this new program. This small investment would have an enormous return on investment—an estimated 18 million in federal dollars to 100,000 eligible Hawai'i children.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this bill. It is an investment in our local economy and also our future.



**HB-2430-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:57:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, members of the committee,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB2430, which would help our state implement a new federal program to feed keiki during the summer months, known as Summer EBT.

Unfortunately, childhood hunger spikes during the summer, when kids no longer have access to school breakfast and lunch. Summer EBT is a federal benefit that would give cash to families to purchase food during the summer months when they need it most.

HB2430 would provide support to DOE and DHS to set up this new program. This small investment would have an enormous return on investment—an estimated 18 million in federal dollars to 100,000 eligible Hawai'i children.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this bill. It is an investment in our local economy and also our future.

**HB-2430-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:54:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Betsy Scolnik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

YOU MUST SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Finance

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday February 28, 2024, 2:00pm

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, CR 308 & Videoconference

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong supports HB2430 Relating to Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program

Dear Chair Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair Rep Lisa Kitagawa and members of the Committee on Finance

I, Judith Ann Armstrong, support HB2430 Relating to Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program.

This program will help our state implement a new federal program to feed keiki during the summer months, known as Summer EBT.

Unfortunately, childhood hunger spikes during the summer, when kids no longer have access to school breakfast and lunch. Summer EBT is a federal benefit that would give cash to families to purchase food during the summer months when they need it most.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2430.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Armstrong

**HB-2430-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 1:34:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jordan Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support feeding our keiki during the summer! A small investment will generate millions in the local economy and reach more than 100,000 children.

Mahalo for your consideration and passing of HB2430.

**HB-2430-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:13:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) strongly supports HB 2430, HD 1, which establishes the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program.

This bill will help ensure reliable access to nutritious food by children who are in need. [This resource will be especially of use in rural areas of this state where food access may be a challenge, especially access to fresh food.](#)

HHHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those relating to substance use and underlying mental health conditions. Many of our clients and participants have been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.