
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many low-income
2 households struggle to purchase food due to Hawaii's high cost
3 of living and food prices. The supplemental nutrition
4 assistance program, formerly known as the food stamp program, is
5 crucial to providing necessary food assistance to some of
6 Hawaii's most economically disadvantaged residents.

7 The legislature further finds that the supplemental
8 nutrition assistance program is the most effective anti-hunger
9 initiative in the country. In Hawaii, the program supports over
10 one hundred thirty thousand individuals, bringing more than
11 \$630,000,000 into the State's economy each year. These benefits
12 help economically vulnerable households meet their basic
13 nutritional needs without sacrificing their financial security.

14 The legislature additionally finds that empowering
15 supplemental nutrition assistance program recipients with
16 greater feedback in the facilitation of the program would be
17 useful in helping the department of human services with the



1 development of strategies to increase access to program benefits
2 for underserved communities, improving program participation and
3 renewal rates, and establishing budgetary priorities that
4 address the immediate concerns of food insecure populations.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish and
6 appropriate funds for a supplemental nutrition assistance
7 program recipient advisory committee to assist the department of
8 human services in strengthening the supplemental nutrition
9 assistance program for working families.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
12 designated and to read as follows:

13 "§346- Supplemental nutrition assistance program;
14 recipient advisory committee. (a) There is established a
15 supplemental nutrition assistance program recipient advisory
16 committee. The advisory committee shall be placed within the
17 department for administrative purposes only. The advisory
18 committee shall consist of the following seven members, who
19 shall be appointed by the governor:

- 20 (1) Two members from the island of Oahu;
21 (2) One member from the island of Hawaii;



1 (3) One member from the island of Maui;

2 (4) One member from the island of Kauai;

3 (5) One member from the island of Molokai; and

4 (6) One member from the island of Lanai.

5 (b) All members of the advisory committee shall be
6 recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance program
7 benefits.

8 (c) The members of the advisory committee shall be
9 compensated in the amount of \$40 per hour and shall be entitled
10 to reimbursement for necessary expenses, including travel
11 expenses, while attending meetings and in the discharge of their
12 duties.

13 (d) The advisory committee shall meet with the department
14 at least six times each year. The meetings may be held by means
15 of interactive conference technology, including any form of
16 audio and visual conference technology, such as teleconference,
17 videoconference, and voice over internet protocol, that
18 facilitates interaction between the department and members of
19 the advisory committee.

20 (e) The advisory committee's duties and responsibilities
21 shall be to:



- 1 (1) Advise the department on strategies to increase access
2 to the supplemental nutrition assistance program,
3 especially for underserved populations and remote
4 communities;
- 5 (2) Assist the department in developing community
6 partnerships to strengthen participation and renewal
7 rates for the supplemental nutrition assistance
8 program;
- 9 (3) Provide feedback to the department on budgetary
10 proposals related to the supplemental nutrition
11 assistance program;
- 12 (4) Participate in the long-term planning of the
13 supplemental nutrition assistance program; and
- 14 (5) Act as a liaison between supplemental nutrition
15 assistance program recipients and the department.
- 16 (f) Four members of the advisory committee shall
17 constitute a quorum for purposes of doing business at any
18 meeting. Each member of the advisory committee participating in
19 a meeting by interactive conference technology shall be
20 considered present at the meeting for purposes of determining
21 quorum."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$25,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
4 establish the supplemental nutrition assistance program
5 recipient advisory committee pursuant to this Act.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
7 human services for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
9 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
11 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
12 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
13 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
14 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
15 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
16 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
17 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
18 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
19 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
20 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
21 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:



H.B. NO. 2181

- 1 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
2 serve the public interest; and
3 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
4 addressed by this Act.

5 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

7

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 22 2024



H.B. NO. 2181

Report Title:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Recipient Advisory Committee; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Establishes and appropriates funds for a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipient advisory committee to assist the Department of Human Services in strengthening the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for working families.

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

