

JAN 24 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD SECURITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's food banks
2 have provided food to those in need for nearly forty years.
3 Food bank reserves have filled a critical need during disaster
4 situations in the State, including in the aftermath of Hurricane
5 Iniki, COVID-19, and the Lahaina wildfire. The legislature
6 further finds that people rely more heavily on Hawaii's food
7 banks during and after these disaster situations. The
8 legislature notes that following the Lahaina wildfire that
9 displaced several thousand residents on Maui, the demand placed
10 on food banks sharply increased. Within three months of the
11 wildfire, Maui Food Bank surpassed its usual annual supply of
12 three million pounds of food, demonstrating the State's need to
13 expand its food storage capacity in the event of further
14 disaster situations.

15 The legislature additionally finds that food insecurity is
16 a rising critical issue in Hawaii. As the cost of food in the
17 State has increased by more than five per cent in the last



1 twelve months, the legislature finds that addressing the ongoing
2 food security needs of the people of Hawaii is imperative. The
3 legislature further finds that purchasing food from local
4 farmers to support food banks supports Hawaii's economy and
5 support local farmers. Furthermore, funds for food banks used
6 for farm to food bank participation will benefit those needing
7 food as well as the economy.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for food
9 bank purchases from local farmers, with the funds to be
10 administered by request for proposal via the department of
11 agriculture.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for food
15 bank purchase from local farmers.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by request for
17 proposal via the department of agriculture for the purposes of
18 this Act.

19 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
20 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
21 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the



S.B. NO. 3379

1 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
 2 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
 3 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
 4 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
 5 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
 6 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
 7 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
 8 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
 9 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
 10 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
 11 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

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

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: _____




S.B. NO. 3379

Report Title:

Food Banks; Farm to Food Bank; Department of Agriculture
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Appropriates funds for food bank purchase from local farmers, to
be expended by request for proposal via the Department of
Agriculture.

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

