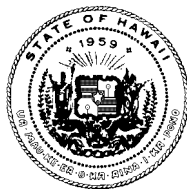


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
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

January 27, 2025

To: The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 961 – RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

Hearing: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, Time 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and provides the following comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to change access to the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) for adult members aged sixty (60) years or older and adults with disabilities.

The Department has identified that the current SNAP household count is at approximately 84,000, with the number of individuals participating totaling nearly 160,000. Individuals aged sixty (60) years of age or older comprise twenty (20) percent of the overall number of SNAP participants and are part of approximately thirty-five (35) percent of all SNAP households. More research is needed to determine the number of households that are only composed of individuals aged sixty (60) years or older and the number of households entirely composed of adults with disabilities. However, we anticipate the proposed change to the number of eligible senior households would increase the overall workload and overload the

processing capacity to process benefit eligibility determination using our current eligibility system and the present workforce.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) oversees SNAP and allows states the option to extend the certification period for SNAP households aged sixty years or older from twelve (12) months to twenty-four (24) months without a waiver. However, due to limitations of our present eligibility system, certification periods cannot be extended automatically beyond the 12 months.

If the State were to implement this option with the current system limitation, it would require the Department to manually extend and track each individual household meeting the extension criteria. Manually extending and tracking these cases would potentially increase payment issuance errors that the state could not afford as the Department's SNAP program is currently under corrective action for its high payment error rate during the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in being assessed as a liability payment owed to the federal agency. The error rates have since decreased; however, DHS has requested an emergency appropriation in HB1099 and SB1418 that describes what is necessary to address the current penalty.

The Department will be implementing a new eligibility system in the fall of 2026 that will be able to support what is proposed in this measure by having the ability to implement and automate the extended 24-month certification period. Consequently, if the measure moves forward, DHS requests an extended effective date that considers the timeline for our new eligibility system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



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

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TO: Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 29, 2025

TIME: 1pm

RE: SB961 Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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.

HFIA supports this measure. Food insecurity has reached alarming rates in our state in recent years. Current data suggests up to 30% of families in the State face food insecurity and that in some areas that number could be as high as 40%.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a vital resource to help families in need in Hawaii. It also benefits all Hawaii consumers by bringing much needed Federal funds into our food systems and acting as a stabilizing force in the food industry at large.

Ensuring that everyone who needs food assistance has access to SNAP should be a top priority for our state Government.

Setting the minimum certification period for SNAP to 12 months or 24 months for kupuna households gives families and kupuna more time to utilize these benefits and achieve financial stability. This timeline can help ensure that eligible users do not lose benefits due to having to rapidly reapply. The adjusted certification timeline may reduce the

administrative burden on the Department of Human Services if they are not having to process reapplications so frequently.

We encourage the Committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager
Sarielyn Curtis, External Affairs Specialist

Hearing: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 329

RE: **SB961 Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **SB961**. This measure requires the Department of Human Services to adjust the minimum certification periods for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits households, participate in the Elderly Simplified Application Project, and report to the Legislature.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 70,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 37 percent of our members are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare's commitment to whole person care includes addressing a variety of social determinants of health, including housing, economic stability, and nutrition among other factors. We understand that without access to affordable healthy food, the health and well-being of our members is negatively impacted. For example, researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that food insecurity is associated with obesity among US adults in Hawai'i and 11 other states.¹

From keiki to kupuna, increasing access to nutritious meals will improve overall health and decrease adverse health outcomes. Families with access to SNAP are more likely to see their doctors for routine health checkups, preventing chronic

¹ [J Acad Nutr Diet. 2012 Sep; 112\(9\): 1403–1409.](#)



ALOHA CARE

health conditions and increasing the ability to manage disease.² For our pregnant mothers and babies, maternal and early childhood access to SNAP is correlated to improved birth outcomes and long-term health outcomes as adults. For elderly populations, access to healthy food may be the difference in whether they can continue living in their communities independently, decreasing the need for medical interventions and emergency department visits.³ Investing in SNAP is a long-term solution that will support our 'ohana and most vulnerable populations' health and quality of life.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support** of **SB961**.

² [SNAP Is Linked With Improved Health Outcomes and Lower Health Care Costs | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)

³ [Hawai'i Medicaid State Plan and Demonstration](#)



HIPHI Board

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Community-Based Research &
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Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

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: January 28, 2025

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J. C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

RE: Support for SB 961 Relating To The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Hrg: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 1:00 PM, Conference Room 225

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)¹ and the Healthy Eating, Active Living² (HEAL) coalition is in **support of SB 961**, which requires the Department of Human Services to adjust the minimum certification periods for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits for households, and would participate in the Elderly Simplified Application Project.

One in three households in Hawai'i faces food insecurity. Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are a lifeline to many of these residents. Local families in need receive over \$600 million annually in SNAP benefits. Unfortunately, the state has made accessing these benefits incredibly difficult. The state needs to improve the enrollment process and ensure local SNAP-eligible residents can receive the federal benefits they need.

Short Certification Periods

Residents in Hawai'i face frequent SNAP recertification requirements, with some needing to re-certify as often as every six months. Kūpuna (60 years and over) are required to recertify annually, even though federal regulations permit them to do so only once every three years.³

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

² 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.

³ USDA - SNAP State Options Report.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/waivers/state-options-report>



Hawai'i has the opportunity to extend SNAP certification periods to the federal maximum for all recipients. This change would significantly reduce the paperwork burden on families and kūpuna, easing stress and administrative challenges.

Importantly, it would also reduce the risk of losing benefits during the recertification process, a common issue caused by paperwork difficulties and bureaucratic barriers. By adopting this policy, Hawai'i can ensure more consistent access to essential food assistance for its residents.

Decreased Workload for SNAP Staff

Hawai'i's SNAP department faces overwhelming demand for its services, yet it lacks sufficient staffing to meet that demand effectively. By reducing the frequency of recertification, the department can significantly decrease its administrative workload.

This would free up valuable resources and allow staff to focus on improving the overall efficiency and accessibility of both the SNAP application and recertification processes. Streamlining these operations would benefit not only the department but also the thousands of residents who rely on SNAP for essential food assistance.

Please pass SB 961 to ensure we're doing everything we can to make SNAP as accessible as possible. Mahalo for your consideration.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate Hix".

Nate Hix
Director of Policy and Advocacy



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health And Human Services
Wednesday, January 29, 2025
Conference Room 225, 1:00 PM

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Support for S.B.961 Relating to SNAP Certification and ESAP

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez, and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 135,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families. **AARP supports S.B. 961 which adjusts the minimum certification periods for SNAP benefits households and participate in the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP).**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides essential access to healthy food for many low-income households, including older adults. Enrolling in SNAP has been shown to improve overall well-being. However, it is crucial to simplify the SNAP application process to ensure more eligible individuals can benefit from this program.

Many older adults do not enroll in SNAP due to various reasons, such as not knowing they are eligible, stigma, and confusion regarding the application process. By reducing red tape and administrative barriers, we can help eligible kupuna access SNAP more easily.

AARP supports Hawaii's participation in the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP). This initiative allows states the flexibility to simplify the application process for local residents and extend certification periods, thereby reducing the frequent entry and exit from the program.

Maintaining an adequate and nutritious diet is vital for health, quality of life, and independence as we age. Making it easier for kupuna to obtain the nutrition they need will lead to a healthier community.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 961.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Support for S.B. 961 – Relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 1:00PM

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **S.B. 961**, which would require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to adjust the minimum certification periods for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits households, participate in the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP), and report to the Legislature.

SNAP is a critical lifeline for more than 160,000 Hawai‘i residents. Without it, many of these individuals would not have any money to pay for food at all. Since benefits are federally funded, federal rules require tedious paperwork and documentation both upon initial application and for periodic recertification.¹ Some SNAP users lose these crucial benefits during the recertification process, despite no changes to eligibility. This phenomenon, known as “churn,” adds significantly to the administrative burden of administering SNAP at the state level.

This bill would provide some relief for the churn issue. Federal rules allow states to extend the SNAP certification period to 12 months for most households, with just a six-month “interim report.” However, Hawai‘i currently requires a full recertification every six months, increasing the possibility for churn. For households with seniors or people with disabilities, Hawai‘i allows a longer 12-month certification, but for these households, it can be as long as 24 months, or even up to 36 months using what’s known as the ESAP waiver. In addition to the three-year certification period, this waiver allows those who are 60+ to waive the recertification interview and allows for a simplified application process. As of 2024, 23 other states have already implemented ESAP and there are more to follow suit.² Ta

Table 1. Hawai‘i certification periods vs. maximum federal certification periods

Group	Hawai‘i’s current certification period	Maximum allowable certification period
Kūpuna (ages 60+) or adults with disabilities	Every 12 months	Every 36 months*
All other households	Every 6 months	Every 12 months

*36 months is only allowable as part of the ESAP waiver; 24 months requires a simpler waiver application

The proposed extended certification periods for most households have twofold benefits, reducing workload for both applicants and eligibility staff. We have a unique opportunity to ease the burden on both sides of the application process. Thank you for considering these comments in your deliberation of S.B. 961.

¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, “SNAP Data Tables: National and/or State Level Monthly and/or Annual Data,” Food and Nutrition Service, 2024. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

² U.S. Department of Agriculture, “SNAP State Options Report,” Food and Nutrition Service, 2024, p. 26. <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/snap-16th-state-options-report-june24.pdf>



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, January 29, 2025; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0961, RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 0961, RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would direct the Department of Human Services (DHS) to:

- (1) Set the minimum certification periods for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to 24 months for households in which all adult members are 60 years of age or older, and 12 months for all other households;
- (2) Participate in the SNAP Elderly Simplified Application Project to adjust the benefit periods and other requirements for recipients based on age and disability status; and
- (3) Report demographic and utilization data to the 2027 and 2027 Legislatures.

This bill would take effect upon approval.

SNAP, formally known as the "Food Stamps Program", is the largest federal food assistance program that is currently in operation. It provides food-purchasing assistance for low- and no-income people. SNAP provided assistance to approximately 40 million persons in 2018, at an expenditure of \$57.1 billion. Approximately 9.2% of American households received SNAP benefits at some point during 2017, with approximately 16.7 of all children living in households receiving SNAP benefits.

Founded during the height of the Great Depression, SNAP is the cornerstone of our national social safety net. It is intended to prevent mass starvation precipitated from unemployment and homelessness. The program was also seen as a way of helping the poor while boosting the economy and ensuring that America's farmers would obtain a fair price for their labors by allowing government to purchase and distribute excess goods in time of crisis.

The COVID-19 Pandemic demonstrated how food scarcity and poverty threatened the health and welfare of our citizens in times of dire crisis. With so many people unemployed, entire families struggled to put food on the table on a consistent basis. Lines at the food bank and food drives stretched for miles and people waited for hours to receive surplus food.

While COVID-19 no longer poses the threat it did in years past, Hawaii's citizens still struggle because of stagnant wages and the rising cost of housing, food and other essentials. The lines for surplus food are still long as citizens continue to be challenged in putting food on their tables.

The HPCA has strongly endorsed this Program in previous years and we continue to urge your support. Additional SNAP benefits for a recipient can mean the difference between having to decide whether someone's last amount of cash will go for food or rent or medications or other necessities.

For these reasons, the HPCA respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



January 29, 2025

Re: Support for SB 961, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the committee,

On behalf of Hawai'i Foodbank, I express our support for SB 961 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This bill requires the Department of Human Services to adjust the minimum certification periods for SNAP benefits households, participate in the Elderly Simplified Application Project, and report to the Legislature.

For over 40 years, Hawai'i Foodbank has provided daily and emergency assistance to those facing food insecurity in Hawai'i. As the state's leading hunger-relief organization, Hawai'i Foodbank distributes food to families and individuals on O'ahu and in Kaua'i County through direct service programs and through our network of 266 agency partners and pantries. Last year, we served an average of over 150,000 people each month, distributing a total of 21 million pounds of nutritious food, including 5.9 million pounds of fresh produce.

Hawai'i Foodbank is also contracted as a SNAP outreach provider through the State. In this role, our team has seen firsthand the challenges SNAP applicants face. SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits.

Extending the certification period for all recipients would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and DHS SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone.

Food security is a critical issue in Hawai'i, where one in three households lack comprehensive access to healthy, nutritious food. The Department of Human Services SNAP department is critically understaffed and we support measures that will help address the shortage. SNAP is one of our most important anti-hunger programs, offering choice and healthy options for families who need extra support putting food on the table.

Mahalo for your consideration,

With aloha,

Amy Miller
President and CEO, Hawai'i Foodbank



SB961 SNAP Adjust Min Period and Elderly Program

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Jan 30, 2025: 1:00: Room 225 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB961:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies and recovery-oriented services.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) **plays a crucial role in supporting individuals during their recovery process** when dealing with mental health conditions and substance use disorders:

1. **Support During Recovery:** Individuals undergoing treatment for substance use disorders or mental health issues often need additional resources to stabilize their lives. SNAP provides essential support to ensure they can focus on recovery without worrying about food access.
2. **Improved Treatment Outcomes:** Studies show that food insecurity is linked to worse outcomes for people with mental health conditions. SNAP may help improve adherence to treatment plans, better medication efficacy, and greater engagement in therapy.
3. **Indirect Community Support:** SNAP also supports caregivers and families of individuals with behavioral health illnesses. When families can access healthy meals, it creates a more stable and supportive environment for everyone.
4. **Reduced Financial Stress:** Many people with behavioral health illnesses face financial instability due to employment challenges or medical costs. SNAP helps reduce food insecurity, alleviating one major source of stress, which can exacerbate mental health symptoms.

By improving nutrition, reducing food insecurity and providing critical support, SNAP benefits act as a foundation for better health and recovery for those managing behavioral health challenges.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.



Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: SB961

January 29th, 2025 at 1:00pm; Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the committee,

HAPA is testifying in support of SB961 which requires the Department of Human Services to adjust the minimum certification periods for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits households, participate in the Elderly Simplified Application Project, and report to the Legislature.

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone.

Please support SB961.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', with a stylized, cursive script.

Anne Frederick,
Executive Director



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawai'i

Tony Vera
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB961.**

By mandating the Department of Human Services to adjust the minimum certification periods for SNAP benefits, the bill not only streamlines access to much-needed nutrition assistance but also reduces bureaucratic obstacles often faced by SNAP households. This is particularly impactful for our elderly population, as participation in the Elderly Simplified Application Project will lead to more efficient processing of SNAP benefits, allowing our kupuna to secure the sustenance they need with greater ease.

SB961 is further enhanced through its relationship to the DaBux program. This initiative acts as a vital bridge, linking SNAP recipients to local farmers and producers by offering local fare at discounted rates. This symbiotic relationship fosters a more vibrant local food economy, ensuring that dollars spent on SNAP benefits recirculate within our islands, bolstering local farmers and creating a more resilient food system that benefits us all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

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Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB961, RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
JANUARY 29, 2025

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Health & Human Services Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** SB961, RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. Pursuant to the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Party supports public funding going towards affordable and accessible long-term care programs for kūpuna and their families.

This bill simplifies the eligibility determination process for elderly households through the Elderly Simplified Application Project, establishing recertification periods of at least 36 months and waiving recertification interviews for eligible households. These changes reduce administrative burdens and make it easier for elderly and disabled individuals to access and retain benefits. Furthermore, the Department of Human Services (DHS) is mandated to report on the implementation and utilization of SNAP and the Elderly Simplified Application Project, ensuring transparency and ongoing assessment. Overall, this bill enhances accessibility and management of SNAP, particularly for elderly and disabled individuals, while improving administrative efficiency and oversight.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in support of SB961, RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

PO Box 2041 • Honolulu, HI 96805 • www.hawaiidemocrats.org

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:34:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Testifying for AAUW of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The AAUW of Hawaii members support SB961 which would extend the certification period including allowing kupuna to recertify only once every 3 years. Many lose their benefits due to the complicated process. Only 3 out of 5 including just 1 out of 3 kupuna who are eligible for SNAP are enrolled. Please pass this measure to reduce the food insecurity many residents of Hawaii face. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:27:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of Committee,

The Green Party Of Hawai'i is in support of SB961. To aid in the simplification of the SNAP program would be a huge help to many of our families that rely heavily on the food that they receive through the SNAP programs. Please vote yes on SB961.

Mahalo for your time,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Susan RobertsEmery

Co Chair GPH

Paauilo

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:49:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Kennedy	Testifying for Strata Farms LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a farmer in Hawai‘i, I strongly support SB961, which extends certification periods for most SNAP households, including up to 36 months for kūpuna households.

SNAP plays a vital role in ensuring food security for families across the state, including many who depend on fresh, local produce to meet their nutritional needs. However, the current application and recertification process is unnecessarily complex and often results in eligible households losing access to their benefits. Extending certification periods will help alleviate this issue, ensuring that more individuals and families maintain consistent access to the program.

For kūpuna, the proposed change to allow recertification every three years through the Elderly Simplified Application Program is especially impactful. Many kūpuna face challenges such as limited mobility, health issues, or access to technology, which make frequent recertification burdensome. Simplifying this process will help ensure they continue receiving the support they need without unnecessary stress or barriers.

From a broader perspective, streamlining SNAP certification not only benefits recipients but also reduces the administrative burden on SNAP staff, improving efficiency and allowing resources to be better allocated. As a farmer, I see this as a way to strengthen the connection between local food producers and the communities we serve. When families have reliable access to SNAP benefits, they can support local agriculture by purchasing fresh, nutritious, Hawai‘i-grown food.

Supporting SB961 is a crucial step in addressing food insecurity and ensuring that no one in our state, especially our kūpuna, is left behind. I urge the Legislature to pass this bill and make these necessary changes to improve access to this vital program.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Ian Kennedy - Strata Farms



Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko
Family Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Tanya Aynessazian
Principal Contractor

Chamber of
Sustainable Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI 96823

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services

Wednesday, January 29, 2025
1:00 PM in Room 225

RE: **SB961** SNAP Expanding SNAP Access - **Support**

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee,

As small business owners who believe we can strengthen Hawaii's economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment, we urge this committee to vote in favor of passing SB961 which would extend the certification periods for most supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) households, and allows kupuna to re-certify only once every three years.

SNAP access and participation rates are affected by the complicated application and recertification process, which can often cause eligible recipients to lose their benefits. The changes outlined in this bill ease the burden not only on applicants, but also on SNAP staff. Extending the certification period for all recipients will increase access and ensure more people do not suffer from loss of benefits.

SNAP is the most effective anti-hunger initiative in the country. In Hawaii, 130,000 individuals are supported through this program, bringing more than \$630M into Hawaii's economy annually.

SNAP promotes economy security, health and well-being; Strengthening benefits for low-income families was the #1 legislative priority for our members this year. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 450 small businesses and entrepreneurs across the state that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:40:44 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Butel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Extending SNAP certification periods, particularly to 36 months for kūpuna (elders), is a compassionate and practical step toward ensuring food security for vulnerable populations. By reducing the frequency of re-certification, we can alleviate administrative burdens on households and streamline processes for state agencies, allowing resources to focus on expanding access and addressing food insecurity. Kūpuna, many of whom live on fixed incomes, often face mobility challenges or limited access to technology, making frequent re-certifications unnecessarily burdensome. A 36-month certification period provides stability and dignity, allowing them to prioritize their health and well-being without the constant fear of losing vital benefits. This policy adjustment would be a meaningful investment in the well-being of our communities, fostering resilience and equity for all.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 5:22:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Faccenda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 5:40:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasman Kekai Mattox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 5:48:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelia Briscoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961.

Mahalo,

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 9:50:49 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB961. SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 1:44:11 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Kimo Pestana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SNAP provides essential support to many families. The recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 5:08:14 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961.

mahalo,

Lela Kalama, Kea'au, HI

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 6:18:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961. Mahalo.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:27:12 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:51:42 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Luthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:35:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT SB961

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:54:18 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:07:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:32:53 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services,

As you likely know, Hawaii's state constitution is unique in that it directly addresses the care we must take for our citizens, including the elderly. Some may refer to it as the "[splintered paddle](#)" maxim, but in short [Section IX](#), Section 4 clearly states:

"ECONOMIC SECURITY OF THE ELDERLY Section 4. The State shall have the power to provide for the security of the elderly by establishing and promoting programs to assure their economic and social well-being. [Add Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]"

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone.

We have elected you to fulfill the obligation to uphold the state constitution, and therefore this should be moved forward with *vigilance*.

Mahalo for your kind attention.

D. Austin

Kihei, HI

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:33:06 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support SB961, which would extend the certification period for all recipients. SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone.

Thank you

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 3:55:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I know of many people who are denied SNAP benefits who go hungry because of the long wait times to even be considered, let alone actually get an appointment or get their EBT card. I personally have received letters from this office asking me to respond to the content days before the letter even reached my mailbox. Eventually I was denied and I have not tried to apply since, because the process is so complicated and arbitrarily limiting. We should be making it easier for people in need to not starve.

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961.

Mahalo,

Isis “Izzy” Usborne (they/them)

Kapahulu Ave resident (96815)

2026 JD Candidate at William S. Richardson School of Law

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 5:00:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Lindborg MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB961. The SNAP program is an important one in providing needed support to low-income, marginalized citizens. Reducing barriers to obtain and maintain SNAP access is an important improvement to the current program.

Eric Lindborg MD

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 6:05:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB961 STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Senators! I'm writing to ask you to support SB961.

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:50:30 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone. Please support SB961.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:45:34 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:21:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:11:12 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

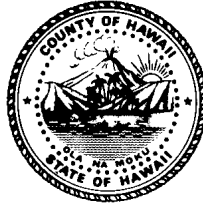
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Hatzistavrakis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and Health and Human Services Committee,

I fully support **SB961 to extend certification periods for most households, including periods of 36 months for kūpuna**. SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. By extending the certification period for all recipients, these barriers would be reduced, enabling more people to maintain their benefits. Especially for our kūpuna who may not have access to the internet or transportation to fulfill this reporting process. In addition to making the process easier for SNAP recipients, the burden on customer service representatives would also be lessened.

Thank you for your consideration of SB961 to extend certification periods for most households, including periods of 36 months for kūpuna.



HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: January 27, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2

SUBJECT: SB 961

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in strong support of SB 961, on behalf of County Council, District 2. This bill extends certification periods for most Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, (SNAP) households, including up to 36 months for kūpuna households.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP provides essential support to families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligibility issues, resulting in recipients losing their much-needed benefits.

Extending the certification period for all recipients would reduce these barriers and ensure more people are able to maintain their SNAP benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone.

I kindly ask that you **pass SB 961**.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Kagiwada".

Jenn Kagiwada

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:46:34 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Recertification multiple times a year is a strain on resources and probably costs the state more money than just letting people keep their benefits. Why are we policing food access so much?

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone.

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:37:52 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB961!

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone.

Na,

Leo Nahe

SB961 - Extends certification periods for most households, including periods of 36 months for kūpuna.

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 961, which seeks to extend certification periods for SNAP, including a 36-month period for kūpuna. This legislation is vital for addressing the challenges many applicants face when applying for this essential benefit.

The current recertification process involves complex paperwork, often resulting in beneficiaries losing their benefits due to the difficulties encountered. By extending the certification period, Hawai'i can reduce the risk of benefit loss, providing much-needed stability for families in need. For kūpuna, the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow them to recertify every three years, easing their burden significantly.

This extension would also lessen the workload on SNAP staff, improving the efficiency of the application process for everyone involved. I urge lawmakers to support SB 961, as it will enhance access to food security for our most vulnerable populations. Thank you for considering the positive impact of this legislation.

Respectfully,
Leigh Ann Lopez

SB-961

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:38:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SNAP provides essential support to many families, but the complicated application and recertification process often causes eligible recipients to lose their benefits. Extending the certification period for all recipients, would reduce these barriers and ensure more people maintain their benefits. Participating in the Elderly Simplified Application Program would allow kūpuna to recertify only once every three years. These changes would ease the burden on both applicants and SNAP staff, improving access to this vital program for everyone.