
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO APPLY FOR AND
IMPLEMENT THE ELDERLY SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION PROJECT IN THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, many low-income households struggle to purchase
2 food due to Hawaii's high cost of living and food prices; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
5 (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is crucial to
6 providing necessary food assistance to some of Hawaii's most
7 economically disadvantaged residents; and
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9 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, SNAP supports over one hundred thirty
10 thousand individuals, bringing more than \$630,000,000 into the
11 State's economy each year; and
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13 WHEREAS, these benefits help economically vulnerable
14 households meet their basic nutritional needs without
15 sacrificing their financial security; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP)
18 is a demonstration project designed to boost SNAP enrollment
19 among low-income older adults ages sixty years or older by
20 tackling barriers to participation in SNAP; and
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22 WHEREAS, ESAP enhances program efficiency, simplifies
23 benefit delivery by streamlining the application and
24 certification processes, waives the recertification interview
25 requirement, allows for greater flexibility in verification, and
26 extends the certification period to thirty-six months; and
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28 WHEREAS, ESAP largely applies to households made up
29 entirely of older adults with no earned income, although certain
30 projects also include adults with disabilities who have no
31 earned income or allow children to be present in the household,
32 under certain conditions; and



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2 WHEREAS, Hawaii does not participate in ESAP; and
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4 WHEREAS, if Hawaii were to participate in ESAP, older
5 adults in the State would face fewer barriers to accessing SNAP
6 benefits, which could lead to increased enrollment among low-
7 income seniors and an improvement to overall food security and
8 health outcomes; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
12 of 2025, that the Department of Human Services is requested to
13 apply for and implement the Elderly Simplified Application
14 Project in the State; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
17 Services is requested to seek any necessary federal approvals or
18 waivers to implement the Elderly Simplified Application Project
19 in the State, including amending its rules, policies, and
20 procedures; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.

