

MAR 11 2016

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE  
STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES'  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, due to Hawaii's high cost of living and food  
2 prices, many low-income individuals and families struggle to  
3 purchase food; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
6 Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is a crucial  
7 means of providing necessary assistance in the purchase of food  
8 for some of Hawaii's most disadvantaged citizens; and  
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10 WHEREAS, in October 2015, 182,226 people in Hawaii  
11 participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,  
12 which is 7.2 per cent less than the number of people who  
13 participated in October 2014; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, while Hawaii secures over \$500,000,000 annually in  
16 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funds, a 2012 report  
17 by the United States Department of Agriculture ranked Hawaii  
18 above only Nevada, California, and Wyoming in the percentage of  
19 eligible individuals who participate in the Supplemental  
20 Nutrition Assistance Program; and  
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22 WHEREAS, individuals who receive assistance through the  
23 state Medicaid program are likely eligible to participate in the  
24 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, since eligibility for  
25 both programs is based on income; and  
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1 WHEREAS, in October 2015, 341,829 people in Hawaii were  
2 enrolled in Medicaid, which means 159,603 people who were  
3 enrolled in Medicaid were likely eligible to participate, but do  
4 not participate, in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
5 Program; and  
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7 WHEREAS, if additional eligible individuals in Hawaii  
8 participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,  
9 the State could receive an estimated \$247,000,000 in additional  
10 federal funding, which could ultimately be injected into the  
11 economy without negatively impacting the state budget; and  
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13 WHEREAS, Moody's Analytics estimates that for every dollar  
14 given in supplemental nutrition assistance program funds, one  
15 dollar and seventy cents can be generated in the local economy;  
16 and  
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18 WHEREAS, many individuals who are eligible to participate  
19 in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program do not  
20 participate because they are unaware of their eligibility or of  
21 the program's existence; now, therefore,  
22

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the  
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is  
26 requested to conduct a management audit of the State of Hawaii  
27 Department of Human Services' implementation of the Supplemental  
28 Nutrition Assistance Program; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
31 examine the Department of Human Services' process for  
32 identifying and enrolling qualified persons in the Supplemental  
33 Nutrition Assistance Program; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in light of the fact that the  
36 State of Hawaii has the nation's fourth-lowest participation  
37 rate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program among  
38 individuals who qualify for the program, the Auditor is  
39 requested to identify ways to increase program participation  
40 among qualified individuals in Hawaii; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and the  
3 Director of Human Services.  
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OFFERED BY:

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