

MAR 03 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE REVISION OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS SO THAT HOUSING SUBSIDIES THROUGH THE SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM PAID DIRECTLY TO AN APPLICANT OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE CALCULATION OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture offers
2 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to provide
3 nutrition assistance to low-income individuals and families; and
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5 WHEREAS, the income of applicants to the Supplemental
6 Nutrition Assistance Program may not exceed a certain threshold
7 in order to qualify for the program; and
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9 WHEREAS, title 7 Code of Federal Regulations section 273.9
10 provides in part that housing subsidies from the United States
11 Department of Housing and Urban Development are excluded from
12 the applicant's income calculation for the Supplemental
13 Nutrition Assistance Program if the housing subsidies are paid
14 directly to the landlord or mortgagee on behalf of the
15 recipient; and
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17 WHEREAS, in some cases the office handling the distribution
18 of benefits from the United States Department of Housing and
19 Urban Development's Section 8 program is unable to make payments
20 to multiple vendors and instead relies on the program recipient
21 to administer payments to vendors; and
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23 WHEREAS, there are other instances when Section 8 program
24 payments must be made directly to recipients, who then
25 distribute their own mortgage payments, yet these recipients
26 receive the same Section 8 benefits as recipients whose mortgage
27 payments are made directly from the administering office; and
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29 WHEREAS, it is unconscionable for a recipient of the
30 Section 8 Rental Assistance or Home Ownership Program to be



1 disqualified from participating in the Supplemental Nutrition
2 Assistance Program simply because the office distributing
3 Section 8 benefits is unable to make payments directly to the
4 landlord, mortgagee, or other vendors; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
8 that the President of the United States, the United States
9 Department of Agriculture, and the United States Department of
10 Housing and Urban Development are requested to amend federal
11 regulations so that housing subsidies through the Section 8
12 Rental Assistance and Homeownership Program paid directly to an
13 applicant of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program are
14 excluded from the calculation of household income to determine
15 eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;
16 and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States;
20 the United States Secretary of Agriculture; United States
21 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Speaker of the
22 United States House of Representatives; President Pro Tempore of
23 the United States Senate; chairpersons of the United States
24 Senate Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community
25 Development, and the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Specialty Crops,
26 and Agricultural Research; chairpersons of the United States
27 House of Representatives Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance,
28 and the Subcommittee on Nutrition; congressional delegation from
29 Hawaii; and Governor of the State of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY: 

