
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAID PROVIDERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that because of Hawaii's
2 high cost of living and food prices, many low-income individuals
3 and families struggle to purchase food. The supplemental
4 nutrition assistance program, formerly known as the food stamp
5 program, is a crucial means of providing necessary assistance in
6 the purchasing of food for some of Hawaii's most disadvantaged
7 citizens. In September 2016, 173,669 people in Hawaii
8 participated in the supplemental nutrition assistance program,
9 which is 5.1 per cent less participation than in September 2015.
10 While Hawaii secures over \$500,000,000 annually in supplemental
11 nutrition assistance program moneys, a 2012 report by the United
12 States Department of Agriculture ranked Hawaii above only
13 Nevada, California, and Wyoming in the percentage of eligible
14 individuals that participate in the supplemental nutrition
15 assistance program.

16 The legislature also finds that individuals that receive
17 assistance through the state medicaid program are likely



1 eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance
2 program as eligibility for both programs is based on income. In
3 September 2016, 343,101 people in Hawaii were enrolled in
4 Medicaid. If 173,669 people in Hawaii participated in the
5 supplemental nutrition assistance program in September 2016,
6 that leaves 169,432 people enrolled in Medicaid who were likely
7 eligible to, but did not, participate in the supplemental
8 nutrition assistance program. If additional eligible
9 individuals participated in the supplemental nutrition
10 assistance program, the State could receive an estimated
11 \$247,000,000 more in federal funding, which is ultimately
12 injected into the economy without negatively impacting the state
13 budget. Moody's Analytics estimates that for every dollar given
14 in supplemental nutrition assistance program funds, one dollar
15 and seventy cents can be generated in the local economy.

16 The legislature further finds that many individuals that
17 are eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition
18 assistance program do not participate because they are unaware
19 of their eligibility or of the supplemental nutrition assistance
20 program's existence. Authorizing health care providers to
21 question those applying to receive or currently receiving



1 medicaid about their participation in the supplemental nutrition
2 assistance program may help health care providers reach out to
3 and educate clients about the benefits available through
4 participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.
5 Furthermore, authorizing health care providers to report to the
6 legislature an aggregate collection of data about state
7 supplemental nutrition assistance program participation creates
8 a mechanism in which policy makers can better establish plans to
9 maximize federal funding and fight hunger. Each of these
10 outcomes will result in the State having more supplemental
11 nutrition assistance program participants, which in turn will
12 result in heightened food security for low-income individuals
13 and families, and more money flowing into the State's economy.

14 The purpose of this Act is to authorize health care
15 providers to ask clients, and subsequently report aggregate
16 responses to the legislature, about participation in the
17 supplemental nutrition assistance program.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
20 designated and to read as follows:



1 "§346- Supplemental nutrition assistance program
2 participation. (a) Each provider of health care under the
3 state medicaid program may place on medicaid certification and
4 re-certification forms the following question: "Are you
5 currently participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
6 Program (SNAP)?"

7 (b) Each provider of health care under the state medicaid
8 program may collect and release to the department and the
9 legislature aggregate supplemental nutrition assistance program
10 participation information; provided that the release of
11 information shall not include the name of any individual and
12 shall be subject to applicable privacy standards established
13 under federal medicaid regulations and the administrative
14 simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability
15 and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191."

16 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval

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INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 1227

Report Title:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Medicaid

Description:

Authorizes health care providers under the state medicaid program to ask about supplemental nutrition assistance program (food stamp) participation on medicaid certification and re-certification forms.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

