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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that consumption of fresh  
2 fruit and vegetables is an integral part of a healthy diet and  
3 central to the prevention of obesity and disease. Every  
4 community should have adequate access to such healthy dietary  
5 options; however, high cost and poor quality often make this  
6 difficult.

7       The legislature further finds that, to increase access to  
8 fresh fruits and vegetables for beneficiaries of the federal  
9 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, some states have  
10 enacted farmers' market matching incentive programs. Under such  
11 programs, individuals who purchase produce at local farmers'  
12 markets using their nutrition assistance benefits receive  
13 additional benefits on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to a certain  
14 amount.

15       The legislature further finds that farmers' market matching  
16 incentive programs have not only increased access to healthy  
17 dietary options, but have also helped invigorate local economies



1 and address food insecurity. Previous legislation introduced in  
2 Hawaii to establish such a program was supported by community  
3 and scientific groups. Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to  
4 require the department of agriculture to develop and administer  
5 a farmers' market matching incentive program promoting the  
6 purchase of Hawaii-grown fruits and vegetables for beneficiaries  
7 of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
10 and to read as follows:

11 "§141- Farmers market matching incentive program;  
12 special fund. (a) There is established a farmers' market  
13 matching incentive program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental  
14 Nutrition Assistance Program. The program shall be developed  
15 and administered by the department of agriculture.

16 (b) Beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
17 Program who use food stamps to make purchases at a farmers'  
18 market shall receive a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$20 to be  
19 used exclusively for purchases at a farmers' market. "Farmers'  
20 market" shall have the same meaning as in section  
21 205-2(d)(15)(D).



1        (c) There is established within the department of  
2 agriculture a farmers' market matching incentive program special  
3 fund, into which shall be deposited any legislative  
4 appropriations and any public or private grants, awards, or  
5 gifts for the purpose of the farmers' market matching incentive  
6 program. Moneys in the special fund may be expended by the  
7 department to administer the program and to provide matching  
8 funds to beneficiaries.

9        (d) The department of agriculture may cooperate with  
10 private organizations to develop rules for the farmers' market  
11 matching incentive program."

12        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to be  
15 deposited into the farmers' market matching incentive program  
16 special fund.

17        SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the farmers'  
18 market matching incentive program special fund the sum of  
19 \$300,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
20 2018-2019 for administration of the farmers' market matching



1 incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries  
2 of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
4 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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**Report Title:**

Department of Agriculture; SNAP; Farmers Markets; Matching  
Incentive Plan; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Agriculture to create a farmers'  
market dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of  
the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

