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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 fruits 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 fresh and healthy  
5 dietary options; however, the high cost and poor quality of  
6 nearby, fresh produce often make this 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 for participants, but have also helped



1 invigorate local economies and address food insecurity.  
2 Previous legislation introduced in Hawaii to establish a similar  
3 program was supported by community and scientific groups.

4 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
5 agriculture to develop and administer a local healthy food  
6 incentive program promoting the purchase of Hawaii-grown fruits  
7 and vegetables by beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition  
8 Assistance Program.

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

12 "§141- Local healthy food incentive program. (a) There  
13 is established a local healthy food incentive program for  
14 beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.  
15 The program shall be developed and administered by the  
16 department of agriculture.

17 (b) Under the program, beneficiaries of the Supplemental  
18 Nutrition Assistance Program who use food stamps for the  
19 purchase of Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and vegetables at a  
20 farmers' market or other direct food retailer that participates  
21 in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program shall receive a



1 dollar-for-dollar match up to \$20 per visit to be used  
2 exclusively for purchases of Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and  
3 vegetables at a farmers' market and other direct food retailers.  
4 "Farmers' market" shall have the same meaning as in section  
5 205-2(d)(15)(D).

6 (c) The department of agriculture may cooperate with  
7 private organizations to develop rules for the local healthy  
8 food incentive program."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for  
12 administration of the local healthy food incentive program and  
13 to provide matching funds to beneficiaries of the Supplemental  
14 Nutrition Assistance Program.

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

17 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



**Report Title:**

Department of Agriculture; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Local Healthy Food Incentive Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to create a local produce dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (SD1)

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

