
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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

PART I

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

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

The legislature further finds that farmers' market matching incentive programs have not only increased access to healthy



1 dietary options for participants, but have also helped
2 invigorate local economies and address food insecurity.
3 Previous legislation introduced in Hawaii to establish such a
4 program was also supported by community and scientific groups.

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to require the
6 department of agriculture to develop and administer a local
7 health food incentive program promoting the purchase of fruits
8 and vegetables for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition
9 Assistance Program.

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

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

18 (b) Under the local health food incentive program,
19 beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
20 who use food stamps to make purchases at a farmers' market and
21 other direct food retailers who participate in the Supplemental



1 Nutrition Assistance Program shall receive a dollar-for-dollar
2 match up to \$20 per month to be used exclusively for purchases
3 of fresh fruits and vegetables at a farmers' market or other
4 direct food retailer. For the purposes of this section,
5 "farmers' market" shall have the same meaning as in section
6 205-2(d)(15)(D).

7 (c) There is established within the department of
8 agriculture a local health food incentive program special fund,
9 into which shall be deposited any legislative appropriations and
10 any public or private grants, awards, or gifts for the purpose
11 of the local health food incentive program. Moneys in the
12 special fund may be expended by the department to administer the
13 program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries.

14 (d) The department of agriculture may cooperate with
15 private organizations to develop rules for the local health food
16 incentive program."

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to be
20 deposited into the local health food incentive program special
21 fund.



SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the local health food incentive program special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for administration of the local health food incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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

PART II

SECTION 5. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§346- Supplemental nutrition assistance program participation. (a) Healthcare providers, non-profits, businesses, and faith based organizations may provide supplemental nutrition assistance program applications to prospective applicants.

(b) Healthcare providers, non-profits, businesses, and faith-based organizations that provide supplemental nutrition assistance program applications to prospective applicants shall maintain a record of the distribution of the applications and



1 upon request shall make the record available to the department
2 of human services."

3 PART III

4 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DOA; SNAP; Farmers Markets; Local Health Food Incentive Program;
Application; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to create a local health food dollar-for-dollar matching program for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Establishes and appropriates funds for the Local Health Food Incentive Program Special Fund. Authorizes healthcare providers, non-profits, businesses, and faith based organizations to provide SNAP applications to prospective applicants. (SB2398 HD1)

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