
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
INCENTIVES.

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 chronic disease. The
4 legislature also finds that every community should have access
5 to fresh and healthy dietary options, but the high cost of fresh
6 produce often makes that difficult. This challenge is felt
7 acutely by participants in the federal supplemental nutrition
8 assistance program, a low-income population that struggles to
9 afford healthy food.

10 The legislature also finds that the coronavirus disease
11 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has placed a financial strain on many
12 local families, including farmers, ranchers, and many involved
13 in Hawaii's agricultural industry. Multiple COVID-19
14 restrictions and the drop in customer sales among retailers and
15 other businesses across the State have led to decreased
16 purchases from local farmers and ranchers, with some having to
17 consider scaling back operations or downsizing their workforce.



1 The legislature further finds that through the national
2 double up food bucks program, Hawaii has the opportunity to
3 expand access to healthy foods for low-income residents who are
4 eligible for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits.
5 Currently implemented in more than twenty-eight states, the
6 double up food bucks program provides matching federal grant
7 moneys to state programs that incentivize the use of
8 supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits for the
9 purchase of fresh produce. The double up food bucks program is
10 a viable model that supports local farmers; helps low-income
11 families who receive double the purchasing power for healthy,
12 Hawaii-grown produce; and benefits Hawaii by keeping dollars in
13 the local economy.

14 The enactment of Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,
15 created the Hawaii healthy food incentive program, also known as
16 the double up food bucks program. The program provides a
17 dollar-for-dollar match to supplemental nutrition assistance
18 program beneficiaries who purchase locally-grown fruits and
19 vegetables at participating farmers' markets, grocery stores,
20 and community-supported agriculture projects. Funding from the
21 legislature has allowed community groups, led by the Food Basket



1 on Hawaii island, to obtain matching federal funds.
2 Additionally, local funders have also stepped up to amplify the
3 impact of this program to ensure that it can reach communities
4 around the State.

5 The purpose of this Act is to expand the double up food
6 bucks program administered by the Hawaii department of
7 agriculture to make fresh fruits and vegetables and healthy
8 proteins sold at farmers' markets, grocery stores, and other
9 direct food retailers accessible to families or individuals who
10 reside in this State and who receive assistance through the
11 federal supplemental nutrition assistance program.

12 SECTION 2. Section 141-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

14 "(b) Participants in the Hawaii healthy food incentive
15 program who are beneficiaries of the supplemental nutrition
16 assistance program shall receive a dollar-for-dollar match [~~of~~
17 ~~up to \$10 per visit, per day,~~] to be used exclusively for the
18 purchase of Hawaii-grown fresh fruits and vegetables, or healthy
19 proteins that are eligible for supplemental nutrition assistance
20 as determined by the program, at a farmers' market, farm stand,
21 mobile market, community-supported agriculture site, grocery



1 store, or other direct food retailer that participates in the
2 supplemental nutrition assistance program."

3 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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



Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program; Double Up Food Bucks Program

Description:

Removes the \$10 per visit per day cap on the dollar-for-dollar match received by supplemental nutrition assistance program beneficiaries under the Hawaii healthy food incentive program, also known as the double up food bucks program. Specifies that healthy proteins are eligible purchases under the program.

(CD1)

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