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# 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



1 purchases from local farmers and ranchers, with some having to  
2 consider scaling back operations or downsizing their workforce.

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

16       The enactment of Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,  
17 created the Hawaii healthy food incentive program, also known as  
18 the double up food bucks program. The program provides a  
19 dollar-for-dollar match to supplemental nutrition assistance  
20 program beneficiaries who purchase locally-grown fruits and  
21 vegetables at participating farmers' markets, grocery stores,



1 and community-supported agriculture projects. Funding from the  
2 legislature has allowed community groups, led by the Food Basket  
3 on Hawaii island, to obtain matching federal funds.  
4 Additionally, local funders have also stepped up to amplify the  
5 impact of this program, to ensure that it can reach communities  
6 around the State.

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

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

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



1 mobile market, community-supported agriculture site, grocery  
2 store, or other direct food retailer that participates in the  
3 supplemental nutrition assistance program."

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and  
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
8 year 2022-2023 for administration of the Hawaii healthy food  
9 incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries  
10 who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance  
11 program; provided that any funds appropriated pursuant to this  
12 section shall be included in the base budget of the department  
13 of agriculture.

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

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

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.



**Report Title:**

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

**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. Makes an appropriation to the department of agriculture to expand funding for the program. (SD1)

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