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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT HAWAII'S FOOD BANKS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's food banks  
2 have provided food to those in need for nearly forty years.  
3 Currently, one in six Hawaii residents faces food insecurity,  
4 including nearly one in four children. More than eighty-two  
5 thousand children in the State will struggle with hunger this  
6 year, and Hawaii is projected to have the second highest rate of  
7 child food insecurity in the nation.

8           The legislature further finds that Hawaii's network of food  
9 banks ensures that those who are food insecure do not go hungry  
10 by:

11           (1) Sourcing food through donations, purchases, and  
12 federal programs such as The Emergency Food Assistance  
13 Program (TEFAP) of the Food and Nutrition Service of  
14 the United States Department of Agriculture;

15           (2) Inspecting donated food to ensure that it is safe to  
16 eat; and



1 (3) Distributing food to those in need through a network  
2 of food pantries, community programs, soup kitchens,  
3 homeless shelters, and other eligible recipient  
4 agencies across the State.

5 The legislature additionally finds that the State has  
6 partnered with four food banks (TEFAP food banks) to distribute  
7 food from TEFAP across the State through the department of labor  
8 and industrial relations' office of community services.  
9 Hawaii's TEFAP food banks are the Hawaii Foodbank in the city  
10 and county of Honolulu, Maui Food Bank in Maui county, Hawaii  
11 Foodbank - Kauai Branch in Kauai county, and The Food Basket in  
12 Hawaii county. All of the TEFAP food banks in Hawaii follow the  
13 highest standards of food safety and maintain strict standards  
14 of food distribution and recordkeeping.

15 The COVID-19 pandemic seriously increased food insecurity  
16 in Hawaii. During fiscal year 2018-2019, the four TEFAP food  
17 banks collectively distributed 16,800,000 pounds of food.  
18 During fiscal year 2020-2021, however, they collectively  
19 distributed 36,500,000 pounds of food -- more than twice as much  
20 food as prior to the pandemic. Food insecurity levels remain



1 significantly higher and are expected to remain elevated for at  
2 least another year after the pandemic ends.

3 Food banks were able to meet this increased need during the  
4 height of the COVID-19 pandemic due to a major increase in  
5 federal funds and philanthropy. However, both of these sources  
6 have declined considerably, and Hawaii's food banks will need  
7 additional support in order to continue to meet the needs of  
8 Hawaii residents.

9 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds  
10 to support Hawaii's four TEFAP food banks so that they can  
11 continue to meet the food security needs of the people of Hawaii  
12 during this time of unprecedented need due to the COVID-19  
13 pandemic.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ for  
16 fiscal year 2022-2023 to provide operational support for the  
17 Hawaii Foodbank, Maui Food Bank, Hawaii Foodbank - Kauai Branch,  
18 and The Food Basket; provided that one per cent of the funds  
19 shall be allocated to the office of community services of the  
20 department of labor and industrial relations to carry out the  
21 purposes of this Act; provided further that the remaining funds



1 shall be used for general operations, including staffing,  
2 transportation, food purchase, food storage, and food  
3 distribution costs.

4       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
5 community services of the department of labor and industrial  
6 relations and shall be distributed to the Hawaii Foodbank, Maui  
7 Food Bank, Hawaii Foodbank - Kauai Branch, and The Food Basket,  
8 pursuant to the same methodology used by The Emergency Food  
9 Assistance Program (TEFAP) of the Food and Nutrition Service of  
10 the United States Department of Agriculture to determine the  
11 allocation of TEFAP foods to each of the food banks.

12       SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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**Report Title:**

Hawaii's Food Banks; The Emergency Food Assistance Program;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to help Hawaii's food banks meet the significantly heightened need for food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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