
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD BANKS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that food security in
2 Hawaii is a significant challenge for many individuals and
3 families. Currently, one in six Hawaii residents faces food
4 insecurity, including nearly one in four children. More than
5 eighty-two thousand children in the State will struggle with
6 hunger this year, and Hawaii is projected to have the second
7 highest rate of child food insecurity in the nation.

8 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's food banks and
9 their partners ensure that those who are food insecure do not go
10 hungry by:

11 (1) Sourcing food through donations, purchases, and
12 federal programs including the emergency food
13 assistance program of the Food and Nutrition Service
14 of the United States Department of Agriculture;

15 (2) Inspecting donated food and following the highest
16 standards of food safety and strict standards of food
17 distribution and recordkeeping; 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 food insecurity
6 levels remain elevated after the coronavirus disease 2019
7 pandemic. During fiscal year 2020-2021, Hawaii's four food
8 banks operating the federal emergency food assistance program
9 with their partner network collectively distributed 36,500,000
10 pounds of food, which is more than twice as much food
11 distributed statewide prior to the pandemic. In fiscal year
12 2021-2022, these food banks and their partner network
13 distributed more than twenty-seven million pounds of food in the
14 State, representing more than a sixty per cent increase from
15 pre-pandemic distribution levels.

16 Food banks and their partners provide a critical safety net
17 in response to ongoing food insecurity caused by natural
18 disasters, economic pressures, and the high cost of living in
19 Hawaii. Rising inflation rates have driven up food prices
20 twenty-five per cent in three years, and Hawaii's food banks
21 have simultaneously experienced growing demand and decreased



1 purchasing power. The federal emergency food assistance program
2 administered in Hawaii by the department of labor and industrial
3 relations' office of community services provides food banks and
4 their partners with critical resources for purchasing food and
5 distributing it to those in need, combatting hunger on a daily
6 basis across the State.

7 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
8 supplement the emergency food assistance program to ensure that
9 Hawaii's food banks and their partners can continue to meet the
10 ongoing food security needs of the people of Hawaii.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
14 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
15 year 2024-2025 to fund the purchase, storage, and transportation
16 costs of food for distribution to the food banks in the State
17 through the office of community services; provided that no more
18 than fifteen per cent of the appropriation may be used for
19 administrative costs; provided further that the funds shall be
20 distributed using the emergency food assistance program's



1 methodology to determine the allocation to each of the four
2 counties.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
4 community services of the department of labor and industrial
5 relations for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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Report Title:

Food Banks; United States Department of Agriculture; The
Emergency Food Assistance Program; Department of Labor and
Industrial Relations; Office of Community Services;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Office of Community Services to fund
the purchase, storage, and transportation costs of food for
distribution to the food banks in the State in accordance with
The Emergency Food Assistance Program's methodology to determine
allocations to each of the four counties. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

