

JAN 20 2023

---

---

# 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 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 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, the four TEFAP food  
8 banks and their partner network collectively distributed  
9 36,500,000 pounds of food - more than twice as much food as  
10 prior to the pandemic. In fiscal year 2021-2022, they  
11 distributed more than 27,000,000 pounds of food, more than a  
12 sixty per cent increase from pre-pandemic distribution.

13           Food banks and their partners provide a critical safety net  
14 and responses to ongoing food insecurity caused by natural  
15 disasters, economic pressures, and the high cost of living in  
16 Hawaii. Rising inflation rates have driven up food prices  
17 twenty-five per cent in the past three years, and Hawaii's food  
18 banks have experienced growing demand and decreased purchasing  
19 power. In Hawaii, the TEFAP program is administered by the  
20 department of labor and industrial relations' office of  
21 community services and provides food banks and partners with



1 critical resources for purchasing food and distributing it to  
2 those in need, combatting hunger on a daily basis across the  
3 State.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
5 funds to ensure that Hawaii's foodbanks and their partners can  
6 continue to meet the ongoing food security needs of the people  
7 of Hawaii.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the  
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
12 2024-2025 to fund the purchase, storage, and transportation  
13 costs of food for distribution to food banks in the State.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
15 community services of the department of labor and industrial  
16 relations for the purposes of this Act; provided that of the  
17 sums appropriated:

18 (1) The sums shall be distributed pursuant to the same  
19 methodology used by The Emergency Food Assistance  
20 Program of the Food and Nutrition Service of the  
21 United States Department of Agriculture to determine





# S.B. NO. 460

**Report Title:**

Food Security; Food Banks; Office of Community Services;  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; The Emergency Food  
Assistance Program of the Food and Nutrition Service;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Office of Community Services of the  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to fund the  
purchase, storage, and transportation costs of food for  
distribution to food banks in the State.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is  
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

