
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:

- 17 (1) The sums shall be distributed pursuant to the same
18 methodology used by The Emergency Food Assistance
19 Program of the Food and Nutrition Service of the
20 United States Department of Agriculture pursuant to
21 title 7 Code of Federal Regulations section 250 to



1 determine the allocation to food banks as defined in
2 title 7 Code of Federal Regulations section 251.3(f)
3 and agencies that function as food banks; and

4 (2) Administering agencies shall use not more than fifteen
5 per cent of their allocation on administrative costs
6 of the program.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



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. Effective 1/1/2050.
(SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

