

JAN 19 2024

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 the consumption of
2 fresh fruits and vegetables is an integral part of a healthy
3 diet and central to the prevention of obesity and chronic
4 disease. The legislature also finds that every community should
5 have access to fresh and healthy dietary options, but the high
6 cost of fresh produce often makes that difficult. This
7 challenge is felt acutely by participants in the federal
8 supplemental nutrition assistance program, which serves a low-
9 income population that struggles to afford healthy food.

10 The legislature further finds that the State faces an
11 estimated \$83,000,000 in annual costs related to food insecurity
12 and hunger. Due to the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and
13 rising inflation, households are facing increasing food costs.
14 Compared to the rest of the nation, households in the State
15 spend the highest percentage of their annual budgets on food.



1 The legislature further finds that, through the national
2 Double Up Food Bucks Program, Hawaii has the opportunity to
3 expand access to healthy foods for low-income residents who are
4 eligible for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits.
5 Currently implemented in more than twenty-five states, the
6 Double Up Food Bucks Program provides matching federal grant
7 moneys to state programs that incentivize the use of
8 supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits for the
9 purchase of fresh produce. Provided by both the United States
10 Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and
11 Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture food
12 insecurity nutrition incentive grants program, these federal
13 matching funds increase access to healthy dietary options while
14 also invigorating local economies and addressing food
15 insecurity.

16 Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, created the Hawaii
17 healthy food incentive program, now commonly known as the DA BUX
18 double up food bucks program. The DA BUX double up food bucks
19 program began first with a pilot program in 2012 by Kokua Kalihi
20 Valley Comprehensive Family Services on the island of Oahu and
21 The Kohala Center on the island of Hawaii. The program provides



1 a dollar-for-dollar match to supplemental nutrition assistance
2 program beneficiaries who purchase locally grown fruits,
3 vegetables, and proteins at participating farmers' markets,
4 grocery stores, and community-supported agriculture projects.
5 By the end of 2021, the pilot program was available at fifty-
6 seven food retailers across ninety-eight market sites and pick-
7 up locations, including grocery stores, farmers' markets,
8 community-supported agriculture programs, and other farm direct
9 retailers. From 2020 to 2021, DA BUX supported four hundred
10 seventy farm producers and eight distributors. Each dollar
11 reimbursed to participating DA BUX food retailers for their
12 issued discounts on local produce has an economic multiplier of
13 2.1. This means that each program dollar issued for local
14 produce incentives contributes \$2.10 to Hawaii's economy. A
15 \$3,000,000 investment by the State in this program would allow
16 for a federal funding match that will contribute at least
17 \$12,600,000 to the local economy annually. This result is a
18 triple win for the State because it supports families, farmers,
19 and the local economy. Additional funding will allow the
20 statewide program coordinator, led by The Food Basket on the



1 island of Hawaii, to obtain matching federal funds for continued
2 support of the program.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
4 funds to the department of agriculture for the continued
5 administration of the Hawaii healthy food incentive program and
6 to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in
7 the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

8 SECTION 2. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
9 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
11 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
12 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
13 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
14 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
15 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
16 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
17 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
18 ceiling are that:

19 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
20 serve the public interest; and



1 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
2 addressed by this Act.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
6 the continued administration of the Hawaii healthy food
7 incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries
8 who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance
9 program.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
11 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 2421

Report Title:

DOA; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the continued administration of the Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.

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