

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTHY FOOD INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State faces an
2 estimated \$83,000,000 in annual costs related to food insecurity
3 and hunger. Compared to the rest of the nation, households in
4 the State spend the highest percentage of their annual budgets
5 on food. The legislature believes that that every community
6 should have access to fresh and healthy dietary options, but the
7 high cost of fresh produce and healthy alternatives often makes
8 that difficult. This challenge is felt acutely by participants
9 in the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program, which
10 serves a low-income population that struggles to afford healthy
11 food.

12 The legislature further finds that through the national
13 double up food bucks program, now the Gus Schumacher Nutrition
14 Incentive Program, the State can expand access to healthy foods
15 for low-income residents who are eligible for supplemental
16 nutrition assistance program benefits. This program provides
17 matching federal grant moneys to state programs that incentivize



1 the use of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits
2 for the purchase of fresh produce, such as the Hawaii healthy
3 food incentive program. The Hawaii healthy food incentive
4 program, now commonly known as the DA BUX double up program, was
5 created through the enactment of Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii
6 2019, and provides a dollar-for-dollar match to supplemental
7 nutrition assistance program beneficiaries who purchase locally
8 grown fruits, vegetables, and proteins at participating farmers'
9 markets, grocery stores, and community-supported agriculture
10 projects. By the end of 2021, DA BUX double up program was
11 available at fifty-seven food retailers across ninety-eight
12 market sites and pick-up locations statewide.

13 The legislature also finds that each dollar reimbursed to
14 participating DA BUX food retailers for their issued discounts
15 on local produce has an economic multiplier of 2.1. This means
16 that each program dollar issued for local produce incentives
17 contributes \$2.10 to Hawaii's economy. DA BUX double up program
18 supports local farmers; helps low-income families who receive
19 double the purchasing power for healthy, Hawaii-grown produce;
20 and benefits the State by keeping dollars in the local economy.
21 The legislature notes that a \$3,000,000 investment by the State



1 in this program would allow the statewide program coordinator,
2 led by The Food Basket on the island of Hawaii, to apply for an
3 additional \$3,000,000 in matching federal funds, totaling
4 \$6,000,000.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
6 funds to the department of agriculture to increase the benefits
7 of the Hawaii healthy food incentive program to a wider portion
8 of the State's population and the provision of matching federal
9 funds to the Hawaii healthy food incentive program.

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



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- 1 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
2 serve the public interest; and
- 3 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
4 addressed by this Act.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
8 increase the benefits of the Hawaii healthy food incentive
9 program to a wider portion of the State's population and for the
10 purpose of matching federal funds when these funds become
11 available to the Hawaii healthy food incentive program.

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY: *David M. Beckwith* *UP*



S.B. NO. 2802

Report Title:

DOA; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program; DA BUX Double Up Program; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

Description:

Declares that the general fund expenditure is exceeded. Makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture to increase the benefits of the Hawaii healthy food incentive program to a wider portion of the State's population and the provision of matching federal funds to the Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program.

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