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A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding to subpart C of part II a new section to be  
3 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

4 "§302A- Summer electronic benefits transfer for children  
5 program. The department shall:

6 (1) Work with the department of human services to maximize  
7 participation in the federal summer electronic  
8 benefits transfer for children program established  
9 pursuant to the federal Consolidated Appropriations  
10 Act, 2023, P.L. 117-328;

11 (2) Share all data determined by the departments to be  
12 necessary to adhere to the requirements of title 42 of  
13 the United States Code section 1762, and section 346- ;  
14 and

15 (3) Follow the federal guidelines and regulations  
16 established pursuant to section 502 of title IV of  
17 division HH of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,

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1           2023, P.L. 117-328, to maximize flexibility to  
2           distribute summer meals through non-congregate  
3           distribution."

4           SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding to part II a new section to be appropriately  
6 designated and to read as follows:

7           "§346-           Summer electronic benefits transfer for  
8 children program. (a) Subject to the availability of funds,  
9 the department may implement the federal summer electronic  
10 benefits transfer for children program. To implement the  
11 program, the department shall work with the department of  
12 education to maximize participation in the federal summer  
13 electronic benefits transfer for children program established  
14 pursuant to the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023,  
15 P.L. 117-328.

16           (b) To the extent that appropriations or private funds are  
17 made available, the department may contract with one or more  
18 providers to administer the summer electronic benefits transfer  
19 for children program. Any contract executed pursuant to this  
20 section shall be exempt from the competitive procurement  
21 processes of chapters 103D and 103F.

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1        (c) The department may accept grants, donations, and  
2 contributions from private or public sources for the purposes of  
3 this section, which may be expended consistent with the  
4 grantors' or donors' wishes."

5            SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$53,500 or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2024-2025, and  
8 one permanent full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program specialist  
9 position SR-24 to implement the summer electronic benefits  
10 transfer for children program; provided that no funds shall be  
11 made available under this Act unless the federal government  
12 provides matching funds of \$53,500 for the purposes for which  
13 this sum is appropriated.

14            The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
15 education for the purposes of this Act, including the hiring of  
16 staff, system modifications, and operating expenses.

17            SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,050,000, or so  
19 much thereof as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2024-2025,  
20 and one permanent full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program  
21 specialist position SR-24 to implement the summer electronic  
22 benefits transfer for children program; provided that no funds

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1 shall be made available under this Act unless the federal  
2 government provides matching funds of \$2,050,000 for the  
3 purposes for which this sum is appropriated.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
5 human services for the purposes of this Act, including the  
6 hiring of staff, system modifications, and operating expenses.

7 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Ann D. Chi.*

11

BY REQUEST

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**Report Title:**

Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program; Human Services; Education

**Description:**

Establishes the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program. Makes appropriations.

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

JUSTIFICATION SHEET **SB. NO. 3119**

DEPARTMENT: Human Services

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM.

PURPOSE: To implement the federal Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT).

MEANS: Add new sections to subpart C of part II of chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and to part II of chapter 346, HRS, and make appropriations.

JUSTIFICATION: The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-328, authorized a permanent, nationwide Summer EBT beginning in 2024. Summer EBT is intended to reduce hunger and food insecurity for children who lose access to free and reduced price meals through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program during the summer when school is not in session. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics included in its September 2023 report that over the previous 12 months, food prices in Hawaii increased 5.3 percent.

Participation in the federal program requires a 50/50 match of state funds. To develop and implement this new program, the Departments of Education and Human Services will need additional general funds to modify data systems and administrative processes and funds for additional human resources.

Impact on the public: Providing additional nutrition assistance benefits to families with children when they are not in school during the summer will help reduce child hunger.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The Departments of Education and Human

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Services will need to collaborate and develop appropriate data-sharing agreements, an application portal, and communication plans to implement the new program, with the assistance of the Department of the Attorney General.

GENERAL FUND:           \$    53,500 EDN 400.  
                              \$2,050,000 HMS 903.

OTHER FUNDS:           \$    53,500 N EDN 400.  
                              \$2,050,000 N HMS 903.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION:           EDN 400; HMS 903.

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES:              Department of Education and Department of  
                              the Attorney General.

EFFECTIVE DATE:        Upon approval.